

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 13th April 2015.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chair), A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. District Cllr. J Boswell. 5 members of the public also attended.

131/15 Apologies Cllrs. Bradley, Dalziel, Green and, Shotton.

132/15 Members Declarations of Interest. Cllr. Margetts declared a disclosable interest in item 13b and would thus leave the room during discussion of the item.

133/15 Dispensations. None requested.

[The Meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.](#)

134/15 The meeting was re-opened and the minutes of the Council meeting 2nd March 2015 were approved and signed by the chairman.

135/15 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts felt that the Annual Parish Meeting had been successful although he was disappointed at the numbers attending.

He was pleased to hear that Cllr. Karen Green was making good progress after her recent operation and hoped that hospital visits would be possible shortly. As this was the final meeting of this Council he thanked those councillors leaving the Council for their service over the years and notably Cllr. Ann Ince for her over 20 years of service.

Planning Committee: Cllr. Ince emphasised that the Environment Agency decision on the Ballast Phoenix Ltd permit application had been postponed until after the elections. Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings on 2nd and 16th March 2015

Finance Committee: Cllr. Scurrall advised that recommendations from the committee would be addressed on later agenda items. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 16th March 2015.

Clerk's Report:

1. First half of the precept had been received of £32,500. Plus £2,849 being the Council Tax Support Grant allocation from the total of £30k pledged by BDC for all parishes. This additional sum is not in the budget as at the time of budget setting there was no clarity on whether any of the C.T.S.G. would be paid over.

2. Notice received from Bromsgrove District Council that the Parish Council elections for both wards will be uncontested. With 8 and 5 councillors duly elected. The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be summoned for Monday 18th May and will take place in Fairfield. This meeting will elect members to officers and committee positions.

3. John Benner the parish council internal auditor will be visiting on 24th April to undertake his audit requirements. I would thus anticipate the Annual Return to 31st March 2015 which goes to Grant Thornton the external auditor on behalf of the Audit Commission being available for signing off by the Council Chairman at the May Council.

4. The drain cover has at last been moved by the contractors at Hackmans Gate Lane, which should ensure a better flow of rain water into the drain.

36.

5. The new Hawthorn tree has been planted at Sylvester's Corner. The contractor has now pruned the far lime tree as required under the Tree Decision Notice and has also taken three small branches off the middle tree to assist with giving the adjacent resident more daylight into their conservatory.

6. Following a meeting with Amey PLC, contractors for Severn Trent, they have promised to repair verges in Belbroughton. They also passed on information on the expected road closures for the next phases of their pipe replacement works.

7. A 'Low Carbon' fuel depot to include compressed natural gas (CNG) is potentially being discussed by B'ham Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership under www.greencity.birmingham.gov.uk It refers to the requirement to reduce carbon emissions and suggests possible fuel alternatives for public service vehicle fleets. A possible siting could be in Wildmoor / Fairfield as this location appears to conform to criteria.

8. Parish Room Tenant: Both the insurance premium and the rent deposit funds have now been paid in as required to end of April.

9. Ruth Bamford head of the planning department at Bromsgrove District Council has agreed to attend the 15th June Planning Committee meeting and answer questions members may have regarding planning processes.

10. Cllr. Morgan and I attended a Parish Council liaison meeting at Rubery Police Station – resulting in Sgt Richard Field agreeing to attend the Annual Parish Meeting last month. He wishes to engage more with the community – attending high footfall events - and I have put him in touch with the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee as that w/end would give the police an excellent opportunity to meet the community.

11. Dog fouling : e mail received from a resident regarding pathway at the rear of the Glebe.

12. The New Homes Bonus Community grants scheme has £87k available to bid for to assist with community projects – web link advised and the expiry date for applications is 29th May 2015 www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/business/tax,-funding-finance/grants-funding/new-homes-bonus-community-grants-scheme.aspx

13. The Belbroughton Recreation Centre had supplied an invoice for drainage works, however this was received after the due date. It had been forwarded to the District Council who may be able to still process it due to present hold on action due to the elections.

District Cllr. Boswell: Confirmed that she had instructed that the BDC place her remaining Ward Members Fund monies of £577 to assist the parish council with the request it had received from the Belbroughton Recreation Centre for drainage improvement works. She felt that the recent Annual Parish Meeting had been very successful.

136/15 Parish Lengthsman

Council approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to renew the contract with the lengthsman for a further 12 months and increase the hourly rate paid to him by 2%.

Action: The clerk would write to Mr Aldridge confirming the contract.

37.

137/15 Parish Grants

Council approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to renew the existing terms conditions for both the applicants for the parish capital and minor grants and, the payment of maintenance grants. Applications for the capital and minor grants would be required this year by 30th June. The Finance Committee would require to make its recommendations at its 20th July meeting.

Action: The clerk will invite applications from parish bodies for capital grants.

138/15 Investments

Council delegated to the Finance Committee the setting up of an investment of £20,000 under the terms of the Council's Financial Regulations and Investment Strategy.

Actions: The clerk would source options for consideration by the Finance Committee.

139/15 Sylvester's Corner – Request by Western Power to relocate an electricity pole onto the parish council land.

Cllr. Pawley informed the council of the results of the consultation with residents in the immediate vicinity. There were a mix of views both for and against, although only 5 residents out of the 20 contacted had responded. Council declined the request from Western Power as it did not wish to see an additional item on the conservation site nor the felling of a tree that would be necessary.

Actions: The clerk would write to Western Power advising of the Council decision.

140/15 Fairfield Vila F.C.

Cllr. Jones detailed the requests from the football club.

Council Approved the requests: to site a defibulator on the outside wall of the clubhouse, to delay the taking down of the posts and railings until 6th May 2015 and, the holding of a charity 5 a side tournament along with a requirement for perimeter car parking on Sunday 19th July.

Cllr. Jones also advised that the football club would site keys for the defibulator at the clubhouse, the primary school and the local shop. In addition it would offer training courses for residents.

Actions: The clerk to advise the football club of the decisions.

141/15 Traffic Calming

Cllr. Mabbett advised the Council of concerns over speeding on the Stourbridge Rd Fairfield, but commented that to implement any calming measures was a logistic minefield. Council also acknowledged that a resident requested that a 20 M.P.H. zone was investigated for parts of Belbroughton village. Council also acknowledged concerns raised at the meeting regarding possible weight limit restrictions being exceeded by vehicles driving through Belbroughton and also driving on pavements. Cllr. Mabbett was aware that Sgt. Richard Field was now to set up traffic surveys in Fairfield and the clerk advised that the Police were still considering enforcement actions along Hartle Lane Belbroughton.

Council agreed that despite traffic issues being regularly raised and discussed that the new Council should progress investigations and aim to get some forms of traffic calming set up with ongoing discussions with the Police and the County Council.

Action: The clerk to place the item onto a future Council agenda.

142/15 The Green Belbroughton

a. Cllr. Roberts advised that the Deed of Easement based upon Heads of Terms previously agreed by both parties had been sent to the Developer's solicitor on 10th March but had not been responded to by the Developer's legal advisors until 9th April. The response received has a number of requested variances and the council's legal advisors are currently assessing these and will advise the Council officers shortly of how these relate to the agreed Heads of Terms.

Council noted therefore that the Deed of Easement had not been completed and would not be signed by the Council officers if it altered significantly and it would have to await the advice of its legal advisors on how to proceed following the Developer's response.

Cllr. Margetts suggested that the Council ask the Council's solicitors to send an invoice for the legal work relating to the Green up to April 2015, in order that this could be dealt with prior to the enrolment of the new council following the 7 May election. He also raised concern regarding the payment of the fees should the developer decide not to proceed with the Deed of Easement.

b. Council noted that the oak tree required pruning and approved seeking permission from the Tree Officer to carry out the work.

Action: The clerk to contact the Tree Officer at BDC.

c. Council noted residents' concerns at dog fouling on the site and at other pathways in Belbroughton, notably the path behind The Glebe. Signage would be put in notice boards requesting dog owners to act responsibly.

Action: the clerk to produce and display posters.

d. Council approved granting permission for a 'metal detector' survey of The Green and other parish council owned areas to assess if there were any interesting historical items.

Action: The clerk will draw up a letter of permission and terms under which the survey would be conducted.

143/15 Village Tidy Up

a. Following the recommendation from the Finance Committee Cllr. Roberts confirmed that Ringway PLC had offered to spend a day in Belbroughton to undertake improvements to pathways, and other structures. Council approved the date of 6th June for these works and would as was legally permissible set up volunteer groups across the parish for litter collection and other tidying. Council noted that it would also consider organising a winter tidy up day.

Action: Cllr. Chairman to liaise with Ringway PLC on the precise works. Next council meeting to set up volunteer groupings being minded as to the limits to what works can be carried out by volunteers.

b. Cllr. Margetts left the room during the consideration of this item. Cllr. Pawley detailed the proposal to purchase 10 flower holding troughs to be sited on the railings in Belbroughton. The troughs would have seasonal flowers and bring added colour to this part of the parish. The Parish gardener would be able to maintain their appearance. The estimated cost would be £1,500. Council deferred a decision on the purchase since it was not known if the County Council would agree to their placement due the overhanging leading to possible danger to passing traffic and parked vehicles. In addition it wished to seek advice from Bromsgrove Parks Dept. on the design of troughs.

Action: The clerk to contact W.C.C. to seek guidance and permission to site troughs on the railings, and to contact the parks dept.

Cllr. Margetts re-joined the meeting.

c. Council approved investigating improvements to the site of the former B.T. phonebox on Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton. The vacant space requires tidying and a bus shelter and or a bench could potentially be placed on the site.

Action: the clerk to contact W.C.C. to assess if the pathway was of sufficient size to incorporate a bus shelter and to contact B.T. to seek funds towards improving the empty space.

144/15 Parish Council –Change of Name

Council noted that previous minutes and parish magazine entries had advised of the intention to change the name and sought comments from residents. No comments had been received but it would still welcome these and will detail the below reasons for the change in the Annual Parish Report welcoming further comment by 31st July 2015.

Council confirmed its previously approved decision to change the name of the parish council which will be 'Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council'. It approved the reasons for this decision: to give transparency of the administration of the area, that the name would reflect the area and, it matches the two wards of the parish.

Action: a future Council will note any comments from residents and request the District Council enact the change.

145/15 Councillor Items

Cllr. Pawley requested that the maintenance of Sylvester's Corner is placed on a future agenda.

Cllr. Ince requested that a request from the W Midlands Air Ambulance to site a clothing recycling bank on Parish council land is placed on a future agenda.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that consideration of the Council's Code of Conduct is placed on the next Council agenda.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the plaque for the WW1 commemoration at Fairfield Recreation Ground had been delivered and he and the clerk were organising its placement.

Cllr. Scurrall requested that grass cuttings were removed from the bank at the junction of Yew Tree Lane and Stourbridge Rd.

Cllr. Scurrall advised that following a meeting with W.C.C. they had agreed to supply soil to support the bank behind properties at Orchard Villas Fairfield. It would be prudent to move the bench forward on the site to enable this work to take place.

Cllr. Scurrall advised that W.C.C. would again investigate if a dropped kerb could be sited on Stourbridge Rd this depending upon whether a B.T. man hole cover could be moved.

The Meeting was closed at 9.25 p.m.

Signed Chairman