

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in The Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall on Monday 2nd June 2014.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chair), J Bradley, I Dalziel, K Green, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, R Morgan and, C Scurrall.

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk, six members of the public also attended.

District Councillors J Boswell and B Lewis.

199/14 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Shotton who was on holiday.

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Rachel Jenkins.

200/14 Members Declarations of Interest

None.

201/14 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.](#)

202/14 Minutes of previous meeting

Ref minute 159/14 Cllr. Green requested that she wished to record that she would sit on the Planning Committee for a trial period of three months. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 12th May 2014 were then approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

203/14 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts thanked Mr Scott MacDonald for his contribution to the Parish Council and to the community during his time as a member of the Parish Council.

Planning Committee: Cllr. Ince advised that agenda items 10 related to a 'referral' from the Committee. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 19th May 2014.

Finance Committee: Cllr. Bradley advised that the Committee had instructed the clerk to proceed with the 2 year fixed term investment with the State Bank of India who were presently offering a rate of 2.1%. The bank was part of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme although acknowledging that Councils were not able to participate in the protection of that scheme. The Grants assessment process for 2014 has been set up with a meeting scheduled for Thursday 12th June. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 19th May 2014.

Clerks Report:

Speed limit consultations are available for public to respond to :-

- a. Hartle Lane from A491 right through the Belbroughton village via High Street to Drayton Road. Confirmation of existing limits. Comments require to be submitted to W.C.C. by 25th June.
- b. Heath End Road Bell Heath – new limits - public consultation comments to be submitted by 9th July.

Both formal notifications from W.C.C. would be displayed on the Councils notice boards, the Parish magazine, and the 'My Parish' website.

2. The four Bell Heath place name signs have now been installed.

3. The unsafe stench pipe on High Street, Belbroughton has been cut down by Severn Trent contractors to just a metre high.
4. A Calc training evening takes place on July 2nd for 'Effective Meetings and Chairmanship' cost is £10 per person to be held at County Hall Worcs.
5. A thank you letter has been received from Nexus Housing in respect of the donation of £160.
6. The Calc Bromsgrove area quarterly meeting takes place on Weds 11th June at B.D.C. Burcot House Bromsgrove.
7. Cllrs. Margetts, Bradley, and & clerk will be meeting Kirsten Huizer of North Worcestershire Water Management on Thursday 5th June to discuss the trash screen options for the brook at Dark Lane Belbroughton.

204/14 Annual Return

The internal auditor's report on the 2013/14 accounts was noted. The Council formally approved the accounting statements and the governance statement on the Annual Return. The Chairman and the clerk signed the Return which would be forwarded to the external auditors Grant Thornton.

205/14 Co-option of new Councillors.

Mr Conrad Palmer was co-opted for the Fairfield ward. There had been no applications for the Belbroughton ward vacancy, the position would be advertised again and should applications be received these would be considered at the council meeting in July.

206/14 The Green Belbroughton

The clerk advised :-

Boundary Issue.

1. Markers have been installed by the Council to clearly identify positions a set distance from the existing concrete posts.
2. Cllr Roberts was invited by a local group of residents to attend a meeting they had arranged on the Green 19th May which District Cllr. M. Sherrie also attended plus Bromsgrove District Planning officers Jeremy Eaton and David Kelly. The planning officers felt they could not comment on the boundary issue as that was not their role.
3. The 7 day letter had been sent by Council 15th May to the developer requesting that a meeting was arranged within that time period, or that the alleged trespass was remedied otherwise a 'Letter Before Action' would be issued and court proceedings progressed. This did produce a response and a meeting on The Green with the developer was held on 22nd May. Cllrs. Bradley, Dalziel and Roberts and the clerk attended the meeting. However, the boundary dispute was not resolved at that meeting.
4. The Council's valuer has been asked to proceed with the valuation work referring back to the Council's solicitor and the Council as required. The valuer has been apprised of the Developer's stated wishes for certain trees to be removed from The Green and access to The Green to potentially put a drainage link from the development, through The Green onto the High Street. (No consents have been given by the Council to any of the requests).
5. Cllrs Roberts and Bradley have reviewed Council minutes 1997/98 on previous issues with the boundary.

Council agreed to meet with its solicitors as soon as possible to review the situation and as necessary an extraordinary Council meeting will be called to report on that meeting and seek approval for further actions.

207/14 Communication

Council approved the issue of a flier, to be issued alongside the Annual Parish Report during July, to request residents' preferences on the method of receiving of future Parish Council news and community information. The aim being to acquire e mail addresses and for electronic media to be used for 'newsletters' and also new monthly bulletins. It was acknowledged that the database would take time to build and that no change to the current delivered paper based system would occur this year.

Discussion on the future use of the Council's own website was deferred.

208/14 Ballast Phoenix Ltd Permit Application

The Council listened to input from District Councillor Brian Lewis and Mrs Jan Spooner, resident and representative of Wildmoor Residents Association who both advised of reasons to object to the application. Council acknowledged both these comments and those from the Planning Committee meeting on 19th May and approved the writing of a letter to the Environment Agency strongly objecting to the application. Cllr. Hood and the clerk would prepare the letter and Council decided to also incorporate the appropriate details from the letter dated 3rd July 2013 addressed to Economic Development and Planning Worcester County Council.

The letter would be copied to other interested stakeholders including the M.P., County Councillor Sheila Blagg, District Councillors, adjacent Parish Councils and Wildmoor Residents Association.

The clerk was asked to seek information from Worcestershire County Council on the present position regarding the Veolia planning application at Sandy Lane, Wildmoor.

209/14 Time Limit

Council approved a further three month trial period where Council meetings should run for a maximum of 2 hours. It was acknowledged that exceptionally there may be agenda items of such importance that this limit may be breached.

210/14 Footpath Wardens

Council approved the request from the wardens that the agreed gratuity should be forwarded to the Macmillan Nurses charity.

211/14 Council's Annual Report

The draft report will be brought to the July Council, members were requested to advise the clerk of items they wished to see included.

212/14 War Memorials

Resident Mrs Kay Stone detailed to Council the investigations she had undertaken for the cleaning and refurbishment of the Fairfield war memorial. This included the obtaining of three quotes for the works and advising of possible grant support for up to 50% of the cost. Council thanked her for her endeavours.

Council deferred a decision wishing to have sight of work carried out by Croft Building & Conservation Ltd on similarly constructed memorials to that at Fairfield. Mrs Stone offered to find out from the company where such memorials stood and Fairfield councillors would then visit the site. Councillors would also view the new Bromsgrove war memorial.

213/14 Councillor Items

District Councillor Boswell commented that the new kitchens grant funded by the Parish Council at Fairfield Village Hall were excellent and congratulated the Council on assisting with the improvements.

Cllr. Bradley advised that the surplus sandstone from the wall in Belbroughton could not now be stored at the Church and that the Rec. requested that it was removed from their site before the advent of the Scarecrow Weekend. Options for its removal to be discussed and approved at the July Council.

Cllr. Margetts informed Council that advertising banners were prolific on the High Street railings opposite the Talbot public house. The planning committee would discuss the issue at its next meeting.

Cllr. Green advised of litter issues at the spinney adjacent to Fairfield Recreation Ground and would liaise with the clerk regarding its tidying. She also advised that grass cuttings were being spread. The clerk would again inform the contractor that cuttings were to be removed from site.

Cllr. Hood enquired as to whom owned a small piece of land adjacent to his property.

Cllr. Scurrrell requested that the bench was now purchased for the Yew Tree Lane / Stourbridge Road junction. The clerk would progress this.

Cllr Scurrrell queried the early cutting of grass from a bank in Fairfield which was normally was left to allow wild flowers to grow. The clerk would investigate as it was not known if the area had been cut by the District Council or the Parish contractor.

Meeting Closed at 9.40 p.m.

Chairman.....