

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in The Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall Monday 1st December 2014.

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

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk. 3 members of the public also attended.
County Council Cllr. R Jenkins, District Cllr. J Boswell

447/14 Apologies None.

448/14 Members Declarations of Interest. None.

449/14 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.

450/14 Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was re-opened. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2014 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

451/14 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts advised that the Christmas tree lights were now illuminated on the Green in Belbroughton. He felt that upgrading of the lights would need to be considered for 2015. He and Cllr. Scurrrell had attended the A.G.M. of Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils (Calc) and the speaker Jonathan Owen Chief Executive of the National Association has emphasised the 'Localism' concept and what that could mean for the provision of services.

The District Council were that evening debating the allocation of funds under the New Homes Bonus scheme and awaited the result with interest.

He also advised that he would be available to hold personal discussions with residents regarding the Green, Belbroughton.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd and 17th November 2014.

Finance Committee: Cllr. Bradley's advised that the Committee had discussed the tenancy of the Parish Room Belbroughton and had recommended that the tenant was given time to produce the funds to provide the required increase to the 'rent deposit'. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 17th November 2014.

Clerks Report:

1. E mail correspondence had been received from 6 residents referring to the residents petition and expressing concern over the Councils decisions on 3rd November regarding The Green Belbroughton – these e mails had been circulated to councillors.
2. Belbroughton Recreation Centre have written thanking PC for the capital grant of £1150 – invoices are awaited before funds are released.
3. The Rec. also had sent a sounding out e mail via Cllr. Bradley for a loan of 50% of the costs of installing solar panels. The item was too late for this Council agenda, and Annette Adey at the Rec. advised of this. Council would need to undertake a full financial appraisal to assess if a loan was justified but initially would need to consider the concept of loans to parish bodies and the terms for such.

4. The Calc Bromsgrove area meeting is due on 10th December where the District Council Electoral Services will advise more formally on the costs to the parishes of the May 2015 elections. Ruth Bamford - Senior Planning Officer will also be available for questions on planning processes and be able to give an update on the Local Plan.
5. Fairfield Stores - At their request I met with the owners of the freehold business which incorporates a post office. The owners are under financial stress due to less use of post office services and general reduction in footfall. They were asking if a loan or grant would be available to assist with their aims to diversify the business by putting in a small café facility. They are not offering to discuss entering into any formal joint venture and thus the PC may not wish consider assisting a commercial enterprise with parish residents funds. It is open of course for any councillor should they wish to invite the owners to present at a future Council meeting for specific details to be discussed.
6. Speed warning sign – Bell Heath – both myself and Cllr. Hood are pressing for this repair to actually happen following the verbal confirmation made to myself and Cllr Surrell by Mr John Fraser of W.C.C. in October.
7. Fisher German agents for the Frankley Alternative Water Supply scheme have requested details of the Parish Council lands at Stoneybridge which are of course occupied by tenants.
8. Work on the drain on Hackmans Gate Lane is promised by the contractor ‘any day’.
9. M5 Junction 4 works continue and an update has come through from regarding lane closures on the roundabout which will be distributed.
10. Ballast Phoenix Ltd - permit application at the Veolia site on Sandy Lane - The next meeting of the liaison group with W.C.C. and Environment Agency is set for Friday 9th Jan - Cllrs Green, and Hood will be attending.

County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Boswell: Commented that the proposed ‘Dial - a - Ride’ bus service would be a worthwhile facility for some qualifying residents in the parish.

452/14 Councillor for Fairfield Ward.

Council noted that due to family commitments Susan Wilkes would not now be able to take up her position on the council. In view of the relative proximity of the elections in 2015 the vacancy would not be re-advertised.

453/14 Community Bus Scheme

The clerk had circulated brief details of the scheme which had been received from the Hagley Parish Council clerk along with a note and promotional letter from County Councillor Rachel Jenkins. Cllr. Jenkins provided more details confirming that only residents within the Clent County Council ward would be able to use the scheme.

Council approved endorsing the scheme and would issue the promotional letter to relevant residents along with the winter newsletter. The clerk was asked to write to County Councillor Sheila Blagg enquiring as to whether she would support an expansion of the scheme to cover the remainder of the parish with a proportion of her ‘Divisional Fund’.

454/14 Sylvester’s Corner, Belbroughton - Trees

Cllr. Pawley advised the Council that 6 residents had responded to the invitations for the suggested tree replacement. An Acer or Hawthorne variety was preferred. Council approved the purchase and planting of a Hawthorne ‘Paul’s Scarlet’ and would liaise with the tree officer to obtain confirmation that this was acceptable and also to seek advice on the size of tree and planting position. Council noted comments made by the residents requesting adequate ongoing maintenance of the site.

455/14 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Council noted the three quotes that had been received for drainage improvements. However there was no clarity on whether there was a suitable gully, surface water drain or watercourse into which the excess water would discharge. The clerk was asked to enquire from Severn Trent and the County Council as to what options were available. The clerk was also asked to seek comments from North Worcestershire Water Management on the three quotes as to whether they were acceptable solutions. Council approved the forming of a Working Group of the 'Fairfield Councillors' and Cllr. Margetts to progress the drainage issue and report back to a future Council.

466/14 Minor Grants

Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee not to offer a minor grant to the Belbroughton United Charities. The Committee felt that the organisation had adequate resources of its own to carry out the works for which a grant was requested.

467/14 District Councillors Ward Members Funds

Council approved the Finance Committee recommendation that bids are put in for each of the District Cllrs. funds. Council approved that a bid should be put to Cllr. Brian Lewis for the cost (£385) of a new 'strimmer' which would be used by the volunteer footpath wardens and Cllr. Margaret Sherrie would be asked to support the costs of the First World War commemoration fruit trees (£225) which are to be planted at the Fairfield Recreation Ground. A future Council would consider further items to utilise the remaining funds available from the three District Cllrs.

468/14 The Green Belbroughton

Council noted the recommendation from the Council's solicitor that the Council should aim to enter into one overall agreement with the Developer to cover all issues.

Council noted the costs supplied by the Developer for the two options for the drainage from the new development and discussed at length the request from the Developer to place a link across the Green under the existing pathway. It was noted that the Developer sought this as an option and that it would not necessarily be the Developers preferred route but may be the route required by Severn Trent.

Council approved a motion to permit in principle the Developer being granted access to the Green to enable the him to put the drainage link through the Green from the development onto High Street, voting: in favour 7, against 4, abstentions 2. Council further approved that this agreement to the drainage link is to be a part of the legally binding overall agreement dealing with the trees removal and the replacement tree planting, and access approvals given at the previous Council, and, also under advice from the Council's solicitor and negotiated compensation payments.

469/14 The Parish Council Budget 2015/16

Due to time constraints this item was deferred until the January Council.

470/14 Fairfield Recreation Ground – First World War Commemoration – Wording for the plaque

Due to time constraints this item was until a future Council.

471/14 Parish Winter Newsletter

The clerk had circulated a draft newsletter, Council approved delegating the completion of the final document to the Chairman and clerk, and Council would aim to distribute this prior to Christmas.

472/14 Parish Agricultural Lands – installation of new gates

Due to time this item was deferred until a future Council.

473/14 Fairfield Recreation Ground – Play Area Review.

Due to time this item was deferred until a future Council.

474/14 Royal British Legion

Council decided not to make a donation to the Royal British Legion, as this was not a local organisation.

475/14 Worcestershire Calc

Cllr. Scurrell advised Council of the shortfall in the organisation’s income due to the ceasing of their County Council grant and it was likely that a significant increase in subscriptions would need to be considered next year.

476/14 Councillors Items

Cllr. Pawley requested the clerk chase the District Council which had previously agreed to install a new road place name at the cul-de-sac Pinchers Close Belbroughton.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the maintenance of Sylvester’s Corner, Belbroughton was discussed at a future Council.

Cllr. Mabbett agreed to take forward the sourcing of the commemoration plaque for the First World War trees which will be planted at Fairfield Recreation Ground.

Cllr. Roberts advised that permission had been sought for a carol service on the Green Belbroughton on 14th December 2014 at 4.00pm, Council agreed the request.

Cllr. Roberts requested that the District and County Council were advised of fly tipping at land adjacent to Wood Lane Belbroughton, appreciating that the powers may be limited if the tipping was on private land.

477/14 Parish Council Dinner

Council agreed to invite the County and District Councillors, the Lengthsman, and their partners plus the footpath wardens to the January dinner.

The meeting was closed at 9.55 p.m.

Chairman.....