

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre Monday 6th October 2014.

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

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk, 4 members of the public also attended.
County Council Cllr. R Jenkins District Cllr. J Boswell

364/14 Apologies

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

365/14 Members Declarations of Interest - None.

366/14 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.

367/14 Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was re-opened. Minutes of the meetings held on 1st and 5th September 2014 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

368/14 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts said that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Weekend appeared to have been a huge success and was grateful that the village had been tidied up very quickly which would be appreciated by residents.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2014.

Finance Committee: In Cllr. Bradley's absence Cllr. Scurrell advised that the evening's agenda covered specific items from the Committee. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 15th September 2014.

Clerks Report:

1. Libraries- Reminder : *The consultation agreed at the Council's cabinet meeting on 17 July will run for 12 weeks from 11 August to 31 October. Customers using the mobile library service can feedback their views by:*
 - *Completing an online questionnaire - www.worcestershire.gov.uk/librariesandlearning*
 - *Completing a hard copy of the questionnaire available from the mobile library or from any library*
2. Calc Training evenings are available during the Autumn – a schedule has been circulated to Councillors – useful for new or existing members.
3. A resident request had been circulated to look at setting up an outdoor gym for Belbroughton, should any Cllr. wish to progress this please advise clerk to place on a future agenda.
4. Superfast Broadband is set for roll out – however it would appear that areas in Bell Heath are not included - a website illustrates coverage and timescale plans
www.superfastworcestershire.com/cabinet-status,

5. Procedure Record - Confirmation that clerk 10th Sept authorised after consulting with Council Chairman a request from the Scarecrow Weekend Committee to utilise The Green Belbroughton for the exhibiting of a number of scarecrows.
6. Quotes as to be sought for the Health and Safety tree work at Sylvester's Corner where the Sorbus is to be removed and the two limes crown lifted plus a large limb removed on the 2nd lime. The Tree Officer requires that a replacement tree for the Sorbus is planted. The clerk will seek his guidance on what is appropriate and refer the quotes and the planting options back to November Council.
7. Western Power wish to re locate cables at Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton and 2 cllrs are to meet with representatives of W.P. to assess the issue and refer back to Council with a motion. This work involves erecting a pole on the grassed area. A similar request was approved in July 2012 but the proposal is now different – Affected residents also would need to give a consent which W.P. have yet to obtain.
8. The grass cutting contractor has advised that he will not be quoting to renew the contract for 2015 – wishing to cut back on his commitments. He will mow the war memorial surrounds prior to Commemoration Sunday.
9. Tax Benefit Support Grant – has been retained by B.D.C. and will be split with 45 District Cllrs. £1,155 each. Cllr M Sherrie and J Boswell have informed the clerk that all of their allocations would go to Parish Council projects across the Parish areas they covered. – this means £577 from each is available. Process on how the funds are bid for is awaited. The figures compare to the £3800 TBSG received 2013/14 with the nil this year until the District Cllrs. took their individual decisions. The Parish Council will be remain £2,645 adrift on last year's receipt.
10. A resident enquiry regarding poor visibility at the Hartle Lane / Galtons Lane Belbroughton junction has been referred to W.C.Cllr. Rachael Jenkins who is in contact with Highways Dep. regarding the issue.
11. A request has been received from Worcs Archive & Archaeological Service to assist with a survey of owners of historic buildings in Belbroughton which have or could be at risk from floods – Cllrs Bradley had agreed to help co ordinate their survey.
12. Severn Trent have significant improvement works set for Belbroughton between 6th October and the end of the year so there will be regular temporary traffic lights set up throughout most of Belbroughton's main roads.

County and District Councillors:

Cllr. Boswell commented that she also felt that the Scarecrow Weekend had been a great success and good value.

Cllr. Jenkins: Confirmed the road junction at Hartle Lane and Galtons Lane Belbroughton had been referred to Highways Dept. in Worcester for a safety review.

She was also looking with Highways at possible parking restrictions on a small piece of roadway beside the Belbroughton church where residents had complained about parked vehicles impeding their access. Use of recycled bollards may be a solution.

She confirmed that Hagley Parish Council were investigating options for a community bus scheme. A local provider was felt to be too expensive and that parish council were looking at possible sponsorship. She felt the cost would be circa £7,000 p.a. to operate.

A reminder that the County Council were seeking resident responses to the consultations on the future of the mobile library service.

369/14 Grants Applications

Capital Grants: Council approved the recommendations from the Finance Committee excepting the grant to the Fairfield Villa Football Club. That grant application was not approved since the club had not provided either 'accountant' or 'club officials' signed off income and expenditure accounts and balance sheet.

Grants agreed to assist towards capital items: Fairfield Village Hall £1,150 - Resurfacing driveway tarmac ramps to slow traffic and a disability access ramp. Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,150 – New rainwater drains, water boiler for kitchen & LED Floodlights. Belbroughton Church Hall £1,150 Replacing heating boiler. Pipework and radiators. Belbroughton Cricket Club £1,150 - Artificial wicket and new nets (this will be paid only should the joint funders for the project confirm their commitments and that these are drawn).

Minor Grants: Council approved the recommendations from the Finance Committee excepting the grant to Belbroughton United Charities. That grant application was not approved, the clerk was asked to enquire of the entity the beneficiaries of their expenditure in the last accounts. Grants agreed Belbroughton F.C. under 11s £250. Fairfield Welcome Club £150.

370/14 The Green Belbroughton

The Chairman emphasised that there was no motion this evening to decide the future of the Green.

- a. Council noted the Working Group's summary of the responses to the questionnaire, plus suggested ways forward, and approved the adding of the briefing note to the minutes.

The Green Belbroughton. From Cllrs. Bradley, Roberts, Margetts, & Pawley.

Briefing note on the review meeting held 7.00pm 29th Sept 2014.

Following the public consultation 10th September the group met to review the outcome of the responses to the questionnaire and discuss the likely next steps to move forward the decision making process on the future of the Green.

The group recorded that comments received from the public from the prior consultation 26th January should continue to form part of the councillors' information base. A separate summary document was produced in March by the then 'Working Group' from 22 responses and the verbal comments made at the consultation.

Questionnaire:

There were 63 resident responses from 45 properties, all from Belbroughton:

Q1. Selected trees to be removed 27

Boundary trees to remain 36

Q2. Access to The Green from the new development

In favour 36 against 27.

There were a great variety of comments made under questions 3 & 4 with the following covering common themes. Listed here in no specific order:

If trees are removed suitable replanting should be carried out elsewhere on the Green.

Replace boundary trees with a hedge

The open space should remain a quiet recreational area.

Additional seating. Less signage.

*No play area.
Leave alone completely. Disabled access required.
Flower beds.
Lighting improvements.
Adequate maintenance of the space.
Any access from the development to be for all, and legally secured.*

The Green is an appreciated space whether visited or viewed whilst passing. In general greater use was to be encouraged.

The Group felt that councillors require further information on the following before considering the issues:

The Developers agreement to and the subsequent legal requirements to guarantee access to all to the Green via the development.

The 'tree officer's' opinion on the condition of the boundary trees both currently and in the future with a development insitu.

Clarification of Severn Trent requirements for services to the new development detailing whether there are differing options available.

The Group suggests that provided Council has the necessary information it should aim to consider in principle the removal or not of boundary trees, and the access or not, at the November Council. The Severn Trent issue may not be clear by that stage.

Future improvements if any to The Green for consideration would await Spring 2015 at the earliest and probably not until the next Council after May 2015.

- b.** Council approved that the following four issues should aimed to be clarified by the November Council to assist with giving councillors necessary further information upon which to base decisions on the future of the Green. The clerk and two councillors would liaise with the Developer, Severn Trent and the Parish Council's legal advisors as appropriate.
1. Obtain confirmation that full access to the Green can be obtained for both public and new residents both onto and exiting from the new development and that this if sought by the Council it could be legally secured.
 2. Request the opinion of the Bromsgrove District Tree Officer as to the both the current health of the trees on the boundary and their likely condition in five and ten years time.
 3. Ascertain that if the boundary trees remain whether or not the new residents adjacent acquire a right to have a certain degree of natural light.
 4. Clarify the position with Severn Trent regarding the potential requirement for a sewer link from the new development through the Green onto the High Street and as to whether this would be a technical requirement or purely a desired route.

371/14 Co-option of a councillor for Fairfield Ward.

Council noted that the vacancy is now being advertised and applicants would be asked to present at the November Council. The clerk advised that there had been no applications so far.

372/14 Bell Heath Speed Warning sign.

Council deferred a decision on paying for the repair of this County Council owned sign. The clerk was asked to enquire of the head of W.C.C. Highways Department why they felt its repair was a parish council's responsibility. The enquiry to be copied into W.C.C. Cllrs. R. Jenkins and J Smith.

373/14 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Cllr. Green detailed the proposal and Council approved the sum of £500 to purchase and plant up to 5 fruit trees and commissioning of a plaque and its installation to commemorate those who gave their lives in the First World War.

374/14 Financial Regulations

Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee to adopt a new set of Financial Regulations which were based on the NALC model.

375/14 Chadwich Quarry

Council declined to fund an independent assessor to ensure that the quarry owners comply with planning conditions. The clerk was asked to write to the County Council seeking details of their monitoring processes of the planning conditions at the quarry.

376/14 Fairfield Villa Football Club

Council noted the report from the Liaison Group which met with representatives of the football club on 26th September. Cllr. Green informed the Council that she was standing down from the Liaison Group. A proposal was approved to cease the Liaison Group with immediate effect. The clerk was asked to inform the football club and advise the officials that future communications would be in writing.

377/14 Communication

- a. Council approved the issue of a monthly e mail to the database of residents. This will include formal notices of Council business and minutes of meetings and, clearly noted as ‘informal’, items of general public information. The clerk was asked to release such information as he felt appropriate, Council would review the content periodically.
- b. Council decided not to change the number of newsletters issued from the current two per annum.

378/14 Councilor Items

Cllr. Pawley requested that at future meetings councillors should introduce themselves to the public. Cllr. Dalziel felt that a full review of the activities of the gardeners across the parish should be undertaken.

Cllr. Green advised that one quote had so far been received for the proposed drainage works at Fairfield Recreation Ground. The clerk was asked to chase up the others.

Cllr. Scurrrell reminded Cllrs. to be aware of the Worcester Calc training courses available during this Autumn. The clerk had circulated these previously.

Cllr. Scurrrell advised that the Chief Executive of the County Council had agreed to place Worcestershire Calc on the list of organisations requiring budget consideration for 2015/16. This followed the receipt by the chief executive of some 40 letters of support for the necessary future funding to assist Worcestershire Calc.

The Meeting Closed at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman.....