

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 5th January 2015.

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

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk. 3 members of the public also attended.
District Cllr. J Boswell

007/15 Apologies Cllr. R Morgan due to illness. County Cllr. R Jenkins

008/15 Members Declarations of Interest. None.

009/15 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.

010/15 Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was re-opened. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2014 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

011/15 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts advised that he had met informally four residents who had been involved with the petition regarding the future of the Green, Belbroughton. He had acknowledged their views and clarified to them how the council was dealing with the issues and that it had been fully aware of the petitioners views prior to the November council meeting.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the meetings held on 1st & 15th December 2014.

Finance Committee: Cllr. Bradley advised that the Committee had discussed the Council's financial strategy and had recommended that no changes are made to it but that the new Council, to be elected in May 2015, should review it again within three months. He further advised that the Committee had decided to re-invest the Bank of Cyprus bond. Council noted the minutes of the meeting on 15th December 2014.

Clerks Report:

1. Confirmed that the Bank of Cyprus bond £26,089 was re –invested at a fixed rate of 1.85% until 29th June 2016.
2. The tree works at Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton had been delayed due to the contractors operatives having flu and a new date was yet to be re-arranged. Planting of the new tree is awaiting Cllrs. being happy with space available – and will need to get tree officer's confirmation on the positioning.
3. Fairfield Recreation Ground drainage – The County Council comments on access to their surface water drains are awaited with regard to availability, and the costs of obtaining a connection.
4. District Cllr Lewis had been sent a request for funds under the Ward Members Scheme to pay for the 'Strimmer' used by the volunteer footpath wardens. Cllr. Lewis has a further £144.42 remaining to allocate to the Parish Council for a qualifying need.

5. Street lighting : We await costings from the County Council for the potential replacement of two lights in Belbroughton. However there is now an issue raised by W.C.C. regarding the current mercury lanterns, which are no longer replaced when they fail. The County are to let me know shortly how many of these the parish has and their replacement costs with modern LEDs. The LEDs use 20% of the current power needed for the old mercury lanterns. Thus it may be cost effective to replace all now rather than await replacement as they fail.
6. The District Council has advised of the likely costs of the 7th May Parish Council election at £2 per elector (£4,110) Bromsgrove area Calc. are challenging the costs that the District Council seek to charge parish councils since this it feels they should be commensurate with the fact that there are 3 elections taking place on the same day.
7. The Calc Guide to Elections is now available giving detail on nominations processes and timetables to be adhered to.

County and District Councillors:

District Cllr. Boswell: Commented that the 'Dial - a - Ride' bus service should be promoted. She congratulated local residents whom had raised £1,400 for charities from singing carols in Belbroughton.

012/15 Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2015/16

The Chair of Finance outlined the Finance Committee's recommendations, also thanking the 'Working Group' which with the clerk had produced the figures. The Budget had been circulated previously to councillors and was approved by the Council.

Council approved the Precept at the unchanged figure of £65,000 for 2015/16.

013/15 Frankley Alternative Water Supply Scheme

Council approved a request from Severn Trent agents Fisher German to access on foot Parish Council agricultural land at Stoneybridge for the purposes only of surveying for the potential routing of the proposed water pipeline. The clerk would advise the tenants of this permission and would also seek a clarification of the future dates of the pipeline workings and their impact on the land should the route over parish land be requested and subsequently approved. No permission has been granted for any actual workings on the land.

014/15 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Council approved the investigation of remedial work and costs to the playground area. Cllrs. Trevor Jones and Dave Roberts and the clerk would meet on site with the original contractors and take advice from the District Council on seeking other suppliers assessment of the works required.

016/15 Fairfield Recreation Ground – First World War Commemoration

Council approved the wording for the Parish Council plaque - *'Lest We Forget 1914-1918 - These trees were planted on behalf of the residents of the Parish in memory of those in the Parish who gave their lives during the First World War. January 2015. The Parish Council.'*

017/15 Sylvester's Corner Ground Maintenance

Cllrs. James Bradley and Sue Pawley would speak to local residents to assess if they would be prepared to tend the area as volunteers and utilise financial assistance from the council towards the purchase of plants and shrubs. Council approved in principle financial support of up to £300.

018/15 Communication

Council deferred to a future council any changes to the existing methods of communicating with residents. It recommended the item was considered again in three months.

019/15 Annual Parish Meeting

Council noted that the meeting would be held on Monday 30th March 2015 in Fairfield Village Hall. The Fairfield W.I. would be requested to provide refreshments. Various parish bodies, organisations and businesses were suggested as formal invitees to speak briefly to inform residents of their activities. Council agreed to leave the choice of these to the Chairman and clerk.

020/15 Parish Agricultural Land – provision of farm gates.

Cllrs. Ann Ince and Allan Hood would speak with the relevant tenants to discuss whether the placing of gates on open parts of the land that are adjacent to the A491 would be a workable security measure to deter trespass.

021/15 Parish Council Name

Council noted that it had previously on 3rd Oct 2011 approved a change of name of the Council. –

(‘Minute 300/10 Advice from the District Council had suggested that it would be relatively straightforward to change the current Council’s name to Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council. It was agreed in principle that this should be done, but the timing would depend on the practicalities and other priorities.’).

The clerk was asked to investigate the processes and costs involved.

022/15 The Green Belbroughton – Heads of Terms with the Developer.

Council approved a motion to exclude the public from this item on the recommendation of its legal advisors since it involved matters of commercial sensitivity which were yet to be referred to the Developer’s solicitors. The Chairman advised that when the agreement had been concluded it would be made public.

Council noted the draft Heads of Terms produced by its solicitor and approved the council officers suggested amendments to these terms. Council also noted the Developer’s response to the solicitors draft and approved its stance on how to reply to the Developer which would be after taking further legal advice. The Council officers were asked to refer back to the Council’s solicitor to move matters forward to obtain a final Heads of Terms which would be brought back to Council for approval. This would then be the basis for the binding contract to be drawn up by the solicitor.

023/15 Councillor Items

Cllr. Roberts advised that he had a number of 30 MPH speed warning stickers remaining following the initial delivery to households.

Cllr. Pawley and Roberts would investigate an upgrade of the Belbroughton Christmas lights display since the current lights were now aged, and had failed temporally this festive period. They were felt to be energy inefficient.

The Meeting was closed at 10.00 p.m.

SignedChairman