

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the meeting room Belbroughton on Monday 6th June 2011

Present : Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, L Harvey, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, S MacDonald, D Roberts, C Scurrrell, and S Wright.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. District Cllr B Lewis attended for part of the meeting; one resident also attended.

173/11 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Shotton; County Councillor Ed Moore also sent his apologies.

174/11 Declarations of interest – No interests were declared.

175/11 Police Matters

PC Lord attended and gave a report on recent incidents in the parish and on current police priorities, which currently included prevention of vehicle crime. Cllr MacDonald asked why crime statistics available on the police website did not tally with those presented to the Council. PC Lord explained that the figures on the website lagged 3 months behind the statistics he gave to the Council. It was agreed that PC Lord or a colleague should attend Council meetings every three months and that the discussion should cover strategic issues and priorities as well as significant events.

176/11 Minutes of the meeting on 16th May 2011

The Minutes were agreed and the Minute book was signed by the Chairman.

177/11 Co-option of Councillor for Belbroughton ward

There were two candidates for the vacancy- Dr John Lloyd and Mr Nick Hartill. Both were given the opportunity to say a few words about their interest in joining the Council. Nick Hartill was elected to fill the vacancy.

178/11 Reports

Planning meetings on 16th and 23rd May

Cllr Ince reported briefly on these meetings. The Minutes had been circulated.

Finance meeting on 23rd May

Cllr Kitson reported on this meeting. Cllr Scurrrell said that, following the Committee's agreement to pay for hire of the hall, the village hall in Fairfield had been booked for a PACT meeting on 22nd September.

Clerk's report

- The Hartle Lane planning application was being considered by the District Council on 20th June. Cllr Harvey was now attending to speak for the Council.

- There had been two applicants for the meeting room post. The Chairman and Clerk would be interviewing them on 13th June.

- The footpath wardens had passed on complaints about recent excessive motorbike noise in a field off Dark Lane. Councillors were asked to keep a note of any further complaints made to them about this.
- The Council's solicitor had produced the first draft of a new lease for the use of Fairfield Recreation Ground by the football club. The Council had also been notified of a new planning application by the Club for improvements to the club house. A liaison meeting would be arranged for July.

179/11 Annual Return for 2010/11

The internal auditor's report had been circulated and was noted by the Council. The Council approved the Accounts for 2010/11 and also approved the Annual Return statements to be submitted to the external auditor. The Chairman signed the accounting and annual governance statements.

180/11 Council priorities

A note outlining projects and one-off items of business for the Council for the period until March 2012 had been circulated. The Chairman invited comments. The Council agreed the proposed work programme and timetable for discussions subject to having a discussion in the Finance Committee of the objectives for and treatment of the capital fund before the Council discussed these issues. A discussion of parish projects should be scheduled for the autumn. This should include improvements to green spaces.

Other items suggested for future consideration were the Council's communication strategy (Cllr MacDonald agreed to produce a discussion paper on this) and traffic speeds along Heath End Road and Quantry Lane.

181/11 Splitting the Council

The previous Council's report had been circulated. This had concluded that a split into two Councils was desirable and should be pursued. Cllr Green explained that a key question was whether the proposals arrived at for dealing with the Council's assets would be implemented if a split occurred. The Council was not being asked to endorse a split at this stage but to agree to pursue the idea further. It was agreed that the proposal to split the Council should be taken forward and that the next step was to open discussions with the District Council to clarify the process and particularly to explore the financial arrangements. Councillors Green and Kitson and the Clerk were nominated to meet the District Council's officers.

182/11 Roads and traffic issues

Information was circulated about the planned works in Belbroughton. The Council agreed to fund repairs to the footpath along Forge Lane which would be carried out by the County Council at the same time.

183/11 Parish Gardener

The Council agreed to the Finance Committee's recommendation that a part time gardener should be employed for 6 and 4 hours in Belbroughton and Fairfield respectively. The Finance Committee was asked to agree the appointment and the detailed arrangements.

184/11 Scarecrow weekend

Cllr MacDonald suggested that there should be more formal liaison arrangements between the Council and the Scarecrow Committee since the Scarecrow weekend was such a big event for Belbroughton. The Council did not support more formal arrangements but was content for Cllr MacDonald to adopt an informal liaison role. It was agreed that the Council would consult the Scarecrow Committee before letting the meeting room during the Scarecrow weekend.

185/11 Council’s Annual Report

The report was approved in principle but the Clerk would circulate a final draft taking on board comments received as far as possible. It was agreed that the photograph of the new Council should be included. Distribution arrangements would be in line with previous reports.

186/11 Correspondence received

Correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

187/11 Councillors Items

Councillors’ items of information

Request for the lengthsman to work on Holy Cross Lane, which was very overgrown

The Horseshoes public house was empty and looking shabby – Cllr MacDonald would pursue privately with the owners

The report on the Fairfield War Memorial was now available – copies would be provided to the Clerk, the Church and the History Society

Questions for police strategy meetings could be raised with Cllr Scurrall.

Issues for next agenda

Mr John Penlington was willing to take on the management of Belbroughton.com from Peter Bridge. Council to confirm this formally.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....Chairman