

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in Fairfield School, Fairfield on Monday 6th February 2012

Present: Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, N Hartill, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, S MacDonald, C Scurrall, and P Shotton

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. County Councillors Sheila Blagg and Ed Moore, Richard Clewer for Worcestershire County Council Highways, and 9 residents also attended.

041/12 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hine, Kitson, Roberts, and Wright.

042/12 Declarations of interest: Cllr MacDonald declared a personal interest as a resident of Nash Lane in the discussion about the Nash Works development.

043/12 Minutes of the meeting on 9th January 2012: The Minutes were agreed.

044/12 Parking in Stourbridge Road, Fairfield

County Councillor Sheila Blagg outlined the background to the current consideration being given to the introduction of timed parking restrictions in the centre of Fairfield. This had been prompted by complaints from some residents about parking, particularly at school dropping off and pick-up times, and the perception of the County Council's officers that there was a safety issue for the school crossing warden. Firm proposals had not yet been developed but consideration was being given to timed parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school and shop during the working week.

Parish Councillors made the point that parking problems were not new, although they had been exacerbated by the recent decision of the village hall committee to close its car park to parents and carers dropping off and picking up children who attend Fairfield school. The offer of parking at the Swan public house was noted and it was suggested that the school should do as much as possible to encourage parents to use this facility.

Richard Clewer confirmed that parking restrictions would no longer be enforced by the police but that the District Council could use traffic wardens to issue fines. Parish Councillors were concerned about the potential impact of parking restrictions on trade at the village shop. Richard Clewer said that the Parish Council would be consulted when the proposals for restrictions had been finalised.

The Council considered that consultation with residents about any new measures was also essential and that a meeting should be held in the village so that residents could see and comment on the proposals when these had been finalised. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council to register the Parish Council's grave concerns about any proposals for parking restrictions in the centre of the village and to request that there should be a consultation meeting in the village.

Problems caused by inconsiderate parking when the Fairfield Villa has home matches were also discussed- residents further along the Stourbridge Road towards the football ground tended to experience these. It was agreed that the possibility of having temporary cones on these occasions should be pursued with the police.

045/12 Reports

Planning meetings on 9th and 23rd January

The Minutes had been circulated. Cllr Ince drew the Council's attention to the fact that the Committee had decided to hold only one meeting per month- before the Finance Committee

meeting on the third Monday of the month. This would be for a trial period of about 6 months.

Finance meeting on 23rd January

The Minutes had been circulated.

Clerk's report

Grit Bins

One bin for Madeley Road had not been delivered and a second bin for that road had been placed at an angle. WCC had now undertaken to deliver the missing bin and to relocate the badly placed bin.

Bus shelters

The shelter at the end of Top Road, Wildmoor had been hit by a vehicle. The Clerk was arranging for an estimate to repair it.

In relation to the new shelter for Hartle Lane, the hard-standing arranged by WCC was not suitable for fixing the wooden shelter made by the Hartle Lane sawmill. An added complication was that WCC must issue a licence before the shelter could be installed and this requires the contractor to meet certain requirements. Meeting arranged to try to sort this out.

Unauthorised gate Stourbridge Road

A resident has erected a gate across the slip road alongside the Stourbridge Road towards the Stoneybridge roundabout. He closes it at night to prevent anti-social behaviour. WCC is sending a formal letter requesting removal of the gate.

Natwest investment

£25,000 had been invested in the new Natwest higher interest account.

046/12 Councillor vacancy

The Council noted with regret that Lyz Harvey had resigned from the Council. The Clerk was asked to write to thank her for her contribution to the Council and the parish.

A notice had been posted inviting residents to call for an election. If this produced no response, it was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the vacancy with a view to the Council co-opting a new Councillor at its April meeting.

047/12 Belbroughton Recreation Centre

The Council agreed the Finance Committee's recommendation that the Clerk should write to the District Council to explore the scope for a bid from Belbroughton Rec. for use of some of the S106 contribution (funding for play facilities) negotiated for the Hartle Lane housing development.

The Council had received an application from the Recreation Centre Committee to fund the creation of a new meeting room. The Council thought that this was a good proposal which in principle should be supported. However, the Council asked the Finance Committee to consider this in more detail including any further information needed from the Recreation Centre Committee.

048/12 Parish Council meeting room and Council meetings

It was agreed that the Council should book Fairfield School for its meetings up to the end of July. The meeting room working group was asked to meet again to consider the future of the meeting room beyond the end of April – which was the deadline given to current users of the room. The group should include storage issues in their deliberations.

049/12 Nash Lane Development, Belbroughton

It was noted that the consultation meeting held by the developers had been reasonably well attended. No issues had been raised that had not been identified at the Council’s discussion in January. Cllr Hartill was nominated to speak for the Council when the District’s planning committee considered the application.

050/12 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that the meeting should be more inclusive this year with parish organisations invited to take part. The Chairman and the Clerk were asked to work up detailed proposals.

051/12 Queens Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Bradley outlined the plans being developed for a fun day in Belbroughton on 4th June. The Council agreed in principle to offer some financial support and suggested that the organising committee should write to the Council about this as soon as possible. Any committee or group in Fairfield organising a Jubilee celebration should also be encouraged to submit a letter seeking support.

052/12 Councillors items

Cllr MacDonald flagged the need to consider whether to buy more grit bins before the next winter.

Cllr Hartill noted that the recycling bins had been removed from the Talbot car park in Belbroughton.

The Clerk was asked to explore whether the Council should consider commenting on proposals for traveller sites put forward by Wyre Forest DC.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....Chairman