

Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in Fairfield School on 5th March 2012

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

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. County Councillor Ed Moore, District Councillors Janice Boswell and Brian Lewis, and 6 residents also attended.

068/12 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Kitson and Hood.

069/12 Declarations of interest: No interests were declared.

070/12 Minutes of the meeting on 6th February 2012: The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

071/12 Reports

Chairman's report

Cllr Green commented on the good attendance by Fairfield residents at the last Council meeting and that this confirmed the importance of continuing to hold some meetings in Fairfield.

She informed the Council that Cllr Sue Wright had resigned from the Council because of ill health. The Council asked the Clerk to write to thank her for her many years service to the parish.

Planning meeting on 20th February

Cllr Ince reported briefly. Minutes had been circulated.

Finance meeting on 20th February

Cllr Scurrall said that the Committee's recommendations were on the agenda for discussion. Minutes had been circulated.

Clerk's report

- There was a PACT meeting in Bournheath Village Hall on 21st March. This would cover Fairfield issues.
- Parish Conference at County Hall on 25th April – localism and the new community infrastructure levy from developers were on the agenda.
- Bromsgrove DC had offered a meeting, to take place once building work had started, to discuss using S106 funding negotiated for the housing development in Hartle Lane for play facilities at Belbroughton Rec.
- A notice had been posted about the Councillor vacancy in Belbroughton- the aim would be to co-opt a new Councillor at the April meeting.
- The County Council's contractor Ringway had agreed to cast a new concrete base for and install the bus shelter in Hartle Lane. The Clerk was asked to thank the County Council.

072/12 Parking in Stourbridge Road, Fairfield

The final proposals for parking restrictions outside the village shop and post office had not yet been received from the County Council.

073/12 Grant applications

The Council considered the Finance Committee's recommendations about grants for Belbroughton Recreation Centre to create a new meeting room and for Fairfield Village Hall to help with various improvements, including heating and insulation. The Council agreed to offer both organisations a grant of £10,000 subject to the provision of the information requested by the Council and to be paid on receipt of invoices for the work. It was agreed that these would be grants from the capital reserves and that there would be no intention to replace the funds.

In offering these funds the Council noted that these were exceptional grants because of special circumstances. Both organisations were part of the essential fabric of their respective villages and needed help to improve their facilities. The Council had been gradually reducing Belbroughton Rec.'s external maintenance grant and the Rec. had made a convincing case for creating a new meeting room to increase its income as well as improving the facilities available in the village. Fairfield Village Hall needed to update its heating and other facilities in order to increase lettings, particularly at weekends. The Council agreed that these special grants would enable the Council to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by helping two key village organisations to improve their facilities and thereby help to secure their long term viability.

074/12 Parish Council meeting room

The Council's working group had met to consider the use of the meeting room after April 2012. The Council agreed the following recommendations:

- a) the room should be closed at the end of April 2012. The electricity and water supplies should be disconnected.
- b) the Caretaker's contract should end at this time. He should be offered the task (on the same basis as the gardening work) of checking the room every week at a rate of £20 per month.
- c) no firm decisions should be made about the future of the room until the Council is sure that it has suitable alternative venue(s) for meetings. Until then the room should remain available for the Council's use.
- d) Mr Bartram should be thanked for the interest he had expressed in using the room, initially by renting it but with the option for him to purchase the property in the future. He should be informed that, until the Council has made satisfactory arrangements for its own needs, it is too soon for the Council to consider the disposal of the room. In addition, the Council should make clear that if and when it was ready to consider the sale of the site this would have to be on the open market.
- e) the Council should complete the sorting of its own papers (Cllrs Bradley, Hartill and Shotton volunteered to help with this; Lyz Harvey was also willing to continue to assist); the Clerk should find out from County Archives how papers could be lodged

with them; the Council should donate any unwanted papers to the History Society for them to consider and retain any they consider of value.

- f) the History Society should be allowed to continue to store its documents in the room until the end of August subject to any insurance issues. It was also agreed to ask the Society to advise on the retention of Council photographs.

It was also agreed that the Council should consider its future meeting arrangements as soon as practicable.

075/12 Annual Parish Meeting

Arrangements for the proposed new format for Annual Parish Meeting were agreed, including presentations by several parish organisations as well as District and County Councillors. The evening would start at 7.00pm with refreshments. Belbroughton WI had kindly agreed to organise these. It was agreed that the Council presentation would be very brief highlighting only the key points. The draft Annual Report should be available for people to take away. It was agreed that if people did not have time to ask all the questions they wanted to ask the Council should provide some means of capturing these.

076/12 Damaged bus shelter, Wildmoor

The Clerk reported that the Council's insurers had settled the claim for the damaged shelter on the basis of the quote from Sean Phelan. The Council agreed that he should be asked to undertake the repair.

077/12 Queen's Jubilee Celebrations

The Council approved a grant of £500 for the Belbroughton Jubilee Celebrations. The Council asked to see a budget for the event in due course.

078/12 Quality Parish and Worcestershire agreement

i. This item was for information at this stage in order to brief Councillors on the Quality Parish scheme and its requirements. Applying for re-accreditation would need to be considered alongside other priorities at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to quantify the work involved and also to find out what would happen if the Council obtained QP status in September 2012 and then split into two before the end of the qualifying period.

ii. The Council agreed to sign up to the Worcestershire Agreement and to include an item for County and District Councillors' reports on future agendas.

079/12 Councillors items

None on this occasion.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed(Chairman)