

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Jubilee Meeting Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 8th April 2013

Present: Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, I Dalziel, N Hartill, C Hine, A Hood, T Jones, J Kitson, S MacDonald, D Roberts, and C Scurrall.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk; District Councillors Janice Boswell and Brian Lewis, and 3 members of the public also attended.

0930/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Ince, Mabbett and Shotton.

094/13 Declarations of Interest

Re the item about Little Bell Hall pool, Cllr Bradley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the discussion relating to the land on Drayton Road adjacent to his house. Cllr MacDonald declared an Other Disclosable interest in the discussion relating to the letting of the meeting room since one of the interested parties, Richard Bartram, was a friend of his.

095/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2013 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

096/13 Reports

Planning Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 18th March.

Finance Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 18th March.

Clerk's report

- The Clerk updated the Council on payment by the District Council of the parish grant that central Government had provided to offset the reduction in the Council tax base and to mitigate the impact on local council tax payers. The District had notified parish councils of the amount that they would receive but the District was now reconsidering this.
- A meeting had been held with Mr Paul Mason about the impact on Belbroughton village green of building work on the old jewellery factory site. Ideas to improve the green had been discussed and Mr Mason had offered to have a design drawn up for the Council to consider.
- Both Belbroughton Rec. and Fairfield Village Hall were interested in having furniture from the meeting room. This was delegated to the Finance Committee to consider.
- A meeting had been arranged for the following day with members of Bromsgrove planning department and involving Cllrs Hartill, Scurrall and the Clerk to discuss the business activities at Wildmoor quarry.

097/13 Wall at Sylvesters Corner, Belbroughton

The plans for restoration work on the wall were discussed. The Conservation Officer's comments had not yet been received. However, Belbroughton Councillors had discussed the plans with local residents. Two had supported the rebuilding of the wall to its former height. Detailed comments had also been received from Mr Ian Pemberton. The Council was generally content with the proposals and thought a lower wall would be more attractive. It

agreed that the surveyor should be asked to comment on and take on board Ian Pemberton's comments if possible. However the cost of the work proposed in the plans and of the amendments suggested should be taken into account. The Clerk was also asked to check that the slope behind the wall would be reduced to about 30 degrees. Subject to these points and to the Conservation Officer's views the plans could be agreed by the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Green, Kitson and Roberts for submission to the District Council. Any major issues should be brought back to the Council for consideration.

098/13 Boundary Commission Proposals

The Clerk had circulated a draft response to the revised proposals for District Ward Boundaries. The Council agreed that the response should be expanded to include any additional points relevant to Fairfield's position made in the responses by Bournheath and Dodford Parish Councils. It was also agreed that Belbroughton's response should make clear that in opposing the new proposals the Council did not want to return to the original proposal to include Bell Heath in Romsley District ward. The Clerk was asked to make these amendments and respond to the Commission.

099/13 Veolia Planning Application

The Clerk had circulated a series of documents prepared by the County Council setting out what should be included by Veolia in their Environmental Impact Assessment to accompany their planning application for an Incinerator Bottom Ash facility. Cllr Hartill said that the requirements appeared to be thorough and to cover all the main issues, but it would be important to examine the documents produced by Veolia carefully to ensure that they did.

The Council concluded that at this stage it was difficult to identify additional information that the Council could commission that would add value to consideration of this application. However it agreed in principle to allocate up to £2,000 initially to be used to buy any advice or information required to help the Council to respond to the application. If possible this should be discussed by the Council, but if necessary because of the need to obtain advice or information quickly this funding could be authorised by the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Green and Cllr Kitson.

100/13 Little Bell Hall Pool

The Council considered a report from Cllr Bradley.

It agreed that any work needed for safety reasons because of potential danger to the public highway should be arranged as soon as practicable - the details of work required to be agreed with the Bromsgrove tree officer.

Other optional work to manage the area should be considered at the June Council meeting. In the meantime it was agreed that Cllrs Hartill and Bradley should meet Wayne Muggleton from the County Council again to scope the work that should be done if the Council wanted to adopt a management plan. The Clerk was also asked to write to the possible owner of the land adjacent to the pool to try to establish ownership.

101/13 Council Committees

The Council decided to adopt a new approach to membership of Committees. The following arrangements were agreed.

The number of members on each Committee would be fixed, in general there should be an agreed allocation of members between the two villages as follows:

- Planning Committee – 7 members (4 from Belbroughton and 3 from Fairfield)

- Finance Committee - 9 members (5 from Belbroughton and 4 from Fairfield)
- Agricultural Holdings – 6 members (no specific allocation)

Councillors should be asked to let the Clerk know which Committee(s) they would like to join. If the numbers coincided with the number of places available then the membership would be confirmed. If interested parties exceeded places then there would be a paper ballot of the whole Council to elect members to the Committee in question. There should be no requirement for Councillors to stand down after a set period of time to achieve some turnover on Committees, but Councillors should bear in mind the need for this.

102/13 Annual Parish Meeting

The arrangements for the meeting on 15th April were noted.

103/13 Commemorative Tree

The Council agreed that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman could agree the arrangements for the planting of a commemorative tree at Fairfield Recreation Ground by Claire Dunlop in memory of her husband.

104/13 Councillors' Items

- The speed sign at the Fairfield village entrance from the A491 was still not working
- The Clerk was asked to contact the planning enforcement section about work on 28, Queens Hill, Belbroughton
- Belbroughton PTA was interested in using the container purchased by the Council to store the stones from the Queens Hill wall – noted for future consideration

105/13 Agricultural Land

The Council resolved to exclude the public and the press for the discussion relating to the tenancy agreements because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Cllr Hood outlined the Agricultural Holdings Committee's recommendations that:

- there was no case at present for the Council to change its policy of not allowing livestock on its land
- the purchase of additional land as an investment should not be actively pursued at present.
- the Council should seek to update the tenancy agreements to reflect the appropriate legislation

The Council endorsed these recommendations. In relation to the purchase of additional land this was with the caveat that it always be open to the Council to consider the purchase of a specific site or piece of land if this would protect the amenity of the parish.

In relation to the tenancy agreements the Council agreed that the Council's solicitor should be asked to draw up generic documents so that the Clerk could consult the tenants. The rent review should be dealt with at the same time.

106/13 Parish Council Meeting Room

The Council resolved to exclude the public and the press for this item because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

Two expressions of interest in renting the meeting room had been received. Unfortunately it had only been possible to circulate the details on the day of the meeting. The agent had indicated that there had been six viewings of the room and that it was possible that other offers would come forward. In the circumstances the Council decided to leave the meeting room on the market for a few more weeks and to defer a decision until the May Council meeting.

There was discussion of whether it would be appropriate to consider giving a tenant a right to buy or a right of first refusal to purchase the room if the Council ever wanted to sell it. As a point of principle Cllr Green proposed that the Council should agree that, whilst at this stage it was not committed to selling the room, if and when it was sold this would be on the open market to the highest bidder. This proposal was carried.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Signed.....Chairman