

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Fairfield First School Monday 3rd October 2016.

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, G Ingram, T Jones, S MacDonald, A Mabbett, P Margetts, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 7 members of the public also attended.

294/16 Apologies - Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs Hood and Roberts.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for the 'Open Surgery' and also to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening's agenda.

The meeting re-opened.

295/16 Declarations of Interest None.

296/16 Dispensations: None requested.

297/16 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of Council 5th September 2016 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

298/16 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Bradley felt that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Weekend 24/25th Sept. had been a great success with numbers attending matching those of 2015. He advised that the 2017 proposed date now clashed with the first Birmingham Velo Cycle 100 mile event which is set to pass through Belbroughton and thus a change of dates for Scarecrow 2017 would need to be considered.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 17th September 2016

Finance Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 17th September 2016. Cllr. Bradley confirmed that the meeting had elected Cllr. Mabbett as its new Chairman.

Clerk's Report:

1. Grant Thornton the external auditors have signed off the March 2016 accounts and the statutory notice has been put onto the website. The last three years income and expenditure accounts together with balance sheets at 31st March and the current budget are now also loaded onto the website.
2. The second of the two precept payments of £30k has been received via the District Council.
3. The Worcestershire Area Calc AGM is being held at County Hall 7.00pm on 26th October Chairman and Cllrs. are invited to attend. Cllrs. Bradley, Morgan and, Scurrrell would attend.
4. Notice of the rent review process has been issued to the farm tenants. A farm walk has been undertaken by members of the Agricultural Holdings Committee which will shortly hold a formal committee meeting to discuss items raised during the walk and other issues.
5. The Woodland Trust have agreed the siting of a dog waste bin at Pepperwood and Central England site Manager Jane Ward thanks the Parish Council for funding the item and its ongoing administration.
6. The annual insurance review has been undertaken by the two members appointed by the Finance Committee with an uplift in the cover being arranged for the parish room and a number of parish street furniture assets.

7. The Welcome Club has thanked the council for its minor grant of £250.
8. Two residents have contacted me to thank the council for its work in achieving a speed limit reduction on Hartle Lane, Belbroughton.
9. 35 residents attended the Defibrillator and C.P.R. training events last month at Belbroughton Rec. The unit is now registered with the ambulance service.
10. District Cllr. Chris Allen-Jones rarely attends meetings due to B.D.C. planning meetings often held the same evening. He is though happy to meet myself and the Chairman to listen to and take back issues that the council or individual cllrs. might raise.
11. The volunteer footpath warden Paul Hardcastle will attend the November Council to listen to members requirements for footpath maintenance over the autumn and winter seasons.
12. The November council will consider dates and venues for the 2017 Council and Committee meetings and members may wish to give this thought in the coming month.

299/16 Parish Room Belbroughton

Cllr. Pawley from the 'Working Group' advised that the applicants had met with members of the group and they were satisfied with the application subject to the due diligence processes of the letting agent. The drawing up of the lease was now with solicitors who would be moving to complete matters as quickly as possible. The new tenants hoped to open their business by 1st December after carrying out shop fitting. The 'Working Group' would provide an update to the December Council.

The clerk confirmed that he and Cllr. Scurrall had met briefly with a planning officer to discuss the likelihood of residential planning permission being granted on the site. While such permission was not discounted the council was advised to submit a pre application for change of use or replacement. However since the premises were now expected to shortly have a tenant then Council agreed that no further action at this point would be taken regarding planning matters.

300/16 Inconsiderate Parking

Cllr. Mabbett detailed residents' concerns over parking, primarily along the Stourbridge Rd. While the Council had sympathy with the issue if did not feel that it was its role to issue letters to drivers. Council was aware that both the Police and the County Council along with the school and football club knew of the issues and it was they and the community generally who should be urging drivers to be more considerate.

301/16 Council Assets – Farmland

Council deferred a decision to review its reasons for holding the farmland asset. Should a 'Neighbourhood Plan' be produced then its policy would be reviewed as part of the consultation processes involved in such a plan. The farmland therefore continues to be held as part of the council's 'Financial Strategy' being an asset which generates an income which is used to contribute to the Council's 'Other Income'.

302/16 Veolia ES Ltd – Sandy Lane Planning application Ref: 13/000027/CM

Council approved sending a councillor representative to the County Council Planning Committee meeting when this application was to be considered, which was anticipated to be before the end of the year. Council further approved requesting permission to speak at that meeting, to confirm the information previously sent in the council's letter of objection and, Cllr. Hood was nominated to speak, should he not be available then Cllr. Scurrall would speak.

Action: the clerk to seek permission from WCC.

68.

303/16 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Cllr. Mabbett detailed the options and initial costings for increasing the numbers of car parking spaces on the car park following requests by a number of Fairfield residents. The District Council had advised that planning permission would be required and that a tarmac scheme would not be approved but a concrete/green matted surface would be given due consideration. The proposed increased area was 280 sq. metres.

Council approved by 9 votes in favour, 2 votes against and, 1 abstention to the principle of the car park extension. Quotations would be obtained and brought back to a future council for consideration.

Action: Fairfield Cllrs. and the clerk to progress.

Council also noted the collapse of part of a fence on the perimeter adjacent to the farmer's access lane. This fencing now lying on the council owned land and was a potential hazard to the public.

Action: the clerk to write the farmer requesting repair or removal asap.

304/16 Little Bell Hall Pool – Belne Brook

Cllr. Margetts on behalf of the 'Working Group' advised that the further report from the surveying engineer had just arrived and that the Group would meet shortly to assess its contents, consider further options & bring back recommendations for council's consideration on the future of the site.

He also advised that a meeting had been held on site with the North Worcestershire Water Management team to discuss the siting of the necessary new trash screen. The representatives had agreed to assist with drawing of a suitable design which would satisfy legal requirements. The design would have to form part of a formal application to them for the screen, this application may then take 8 weeks to be approved. N.W.W.M. also advised that the W.C.C. should be contacted regarding any possible degradation to the bank supporting the Drayton Rd. following the loss of water pressure against the bank. Additional tree planting may be required as support.

Council approved the sum of up to £3,000 towards the costs of the design, build and installation of the proposed trash screen.

Action: The Working Group to meet, clerk to liaise with NWWM on the trash screen application.

A letter of complaint had been received from a resident regarding the levels of silt now apparently present in his pool. Receipt had been acknowledged and the letter referred to Council's insurers for initial comment without any admission of liability being made by the council.

Action: the clerk to await the insurer's response and along with the Chairman and 'Working Group' arrange contact with the resident to discuss the matter.

305/16 Working Groups

Council approved the points itemised in the Council minute 261/16. The 'Working Groups' may wish to formalise their terms of reference and if so should bring these back to Council.

Action: the groups should ensure they appoint their coordinator if they have yet to do so.

Cllr. MacDonald left the meeting.

306/16 Communication

Cllr. Morgan on behalf of the 'Working Group' felt that the issuing of paper newsletters and annual parish reports to each residence should be discussed.

Council approved a motion that electronic only distribution should **not** be adopted.

Council approved a motion by 8 votes to 4 votes to move to phase out the issue of paper copies but to retain this option for those residents who opted into having such.

Action: the Working Group to assess appropriate adoption methods and timescales.

69.

307/16 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Jones advised council that in view of an imminent review of the Green Belt by the District Council it could be beneficial to now reconsider the production of a Neighbourhood Plan. He also advised of a meeting at Hagley Parish Council offices later this month where six local parish councils’ representatives had been invited to informally discuss the pros and cons of such plans.

Council approved the setting up of a ‘Working Group’ to assess the benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan and Cllrs. Pawley, Jones, Morgan, Scurrrell, Bradley and, Ingram agreed to join this group.

Action: The new group would aim to send a member to the Hagley meeting and begin the assessment process.

308/16 Parish Council Logo

Due to time constraints the item was deferred until a future council.

309/16 Councillor Items

Cllr. Boswell advised that Rob Underwood who undertook the training on CPR and the defibrillator was very thankful for the council’s donation to his charity.

Cllr. Pawley requested that a future council considers tree work on both the Green and Sylvester’s Corner, Belbroughton.

Cllr. Margetts advised that there appeared to be water leaks behind the allotments in Belbroughton and also a leak some 50 metres along Hartle Lane from its junction with the A491.

Action: the clerk would contact Severn Trent.

Cllr. Margetts advised that there was a great deal of mud on the Highway on Sandy Lane from the entrance to the Wildmoor Quarry up to the Stoneybridge roundabout.

Action: The clerk to inform WCC hub for attention.

Cllr. Margetts advised that there had been an accident at Dark Lane, Belbroughton which may have damaged the footbridge – he would investigate and report to the clerk.

Cllr. Ingram advised that the Lottery Grant application for the Fairfield defibrillator had been submitted by the Fairfield Community Association.

The Meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed **Chairman**