

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the meeting room Belbroughton on Monday 4th October 2010

Present : Cllrs J Bradley, T Cherry, L Deeley, K Green, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson (from the Reports item), P Peacock, C Scurrrell, and J Westley

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. County Cllr Ed Moore and two members of the public also attended.

300/10 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Hadley, Hardcastle, and Wright.

301/10 Declarations of interest : There were no declarations of interest.

302/10 Police Matters

PC Lord was unable to attend but the Clerk read a short report that he had provided on recent incidents in the parish.

303/10 Minutes of the meeting on 6th September 2010 – the minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

304/10 Reports

Chairman

Cllr Bradley said that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Weekend at the end of September had generally gone well and was likely to generate a good profit for village organisations. However there were some concerns locally about the disruption to the village and it had been suggested by one resident that the Council should organise a referendum on whether the Scarecrow Weekend should continue. Cllr Bradley suggested that it would be preferable for the Scarecrow Committee to hold a well-publicised consultative meeting to consider the issues, including whether and how often the Weekend should be held in future. This approach was supported by the Council.

Planning meetings

Cllr Ince reported on the meetings held on 6th and 20st September. The Minutes had been circulated.

Finance meeting

Cllr Kitson reported on the meeting held on 20th September. The Minutes were noted.

Clerk's report

The Clerk said that the new footpath gates near the Swan and new fencing at Fairfield Rec. had now been installed.

305/10 Splitting the Parish Council

The Clerk had circulated a note setting out what would be involved in splitting the Council into two – one for Fairfield and one for Belbroughton – and the issues that would need to be considered. It was agreed that a small working group should be set up to explore the proposition further. The aim should be for the Council to agree a report which could be

considered by the new Council after the May 2011 elections. Councillors Bradley, Kitson, Deeley, Green, Jones and Ince agreed to serve on the working group. Cllr Green suggested that examining whether there was a case for setting up two Councils should be seen as a positive, mature move not as a negative one.

306/10 Parish Meeting Room

The Council agreed the wording of the consultation document which had been amended in the light of discussion at the July Council meeting. It was agreed that the document should be sent to every household with the autumn newsletter. A consultation evening would be held on 22nd November to give residents an opportunity to visit the meeting room and discuss the issues with members of the Council.

307/10 Parish Projects

i. Cllr Bradley outlined proposals for a new route which had been suggested by the tenant farmer for a permissive footpath along Hackman's Gate Lane to provide a safer route for walkers. Following a meeting on site the footpath wardens had agreed that the route proposed was suitable. The landowner's agent had suggested a second stage whereby the new route would become the formal footpath and the existing path, which passes near the farm, would be extinguished. The Council agreed that the Clerk should pursue the establishment of the new footpath with the agent but that the Council would not wish to seek the closure of the existing path. However, it would not oppose the closure if the landowner subsequently sought it.

ii. Purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign for locations around the parish had been discussed several times. The Council had agreed to put forward potential sites to the County Council to inform their decision making. However, County Cllr Sheila Blagg had queried whether the sites had been discussed with residents likely to be affected by the sign. There was further discussion about whether the Council had sufficient locations to justify the cost of purchasing and running a VAS and whether the problem for many village roads was volume rather than speed. However, the Council concluded that the best way forward was to put the potential sites to the County Council as agreed and then to decide about purchase of a sign in the light of their response.

iii. The Clerk said that the County Council had approved the site for a new bus shelter in Hartle Lane in principle and would shortly be making a site visit to measure up for the hard standing. The Council agreed that the shelter should be ordered as proposed provided that it had feet or similar to raise it off the ground. It was also agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the bus shelter opposite the Talbot in Hartle Lane to be refurbished at the same time.

308/10 Autumn newsletter

Cllr Peacock was thanked for producing the first draft of the autumn newsletter. Comments should be sent to him or the Clerk. The aim was to circulate the newsletter with the meeting room consultation document at the end of October.

309/10 Maintenance and Improvements

The tree work to be done at Sylvesters Corner was taking some time to resolve. The Clerk had submitted another application for approval to the District Council and was hoping then to

meet the tree officer on site to discuss the work. Cllrs Bradley, Deeley, and Westley agreed to take part in any discussions and to report back to the Council with recommendations

A decision on the replacement of the rabbit springy at Fairfield Recreation Ground was delegated to the Finance Committee. The Clerk was asked to arrange installation of a sign showing the age limit for the play equipment.

310/10 Community Payback Scheme

The Council agreed that use of offenders on community projects should be pursued. The suggestions for suitable work put forward by the footpath wardens were agreed. Other possible tasks were cleaning Sling Pool (this was owned by the National Trust so would need their approval) and clearance of the footpath from the Bell Inn to Fiveways.

311/10 Parish Footpath Wardens

Pam and Pete Bridge had written to say that they intended to resign as footpath wardens from end of December. Lynn and Paul Hardcastle were willing to serve as the new footpath wardens and the Council was very pleased to endorse their nomination to the post.

The Clerk was asked to write to Pam and Peter Bridge to thank them for all their work on behalf of the parish and to invite them as guests to the Council's dinner in the New Year.

312/10 Correspondence received

A note of correspondence received since the last meeting was circulated for information.

313/10 Councillors Items

Councillor Scurrell said that he had been informed that the footway in Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield would shortly be resurfaced.

Cllr Westley suggested that a 'pedestrians in road' sign should be installed in Hackman's Gate Lane. This would be raised at the next traffic meeting with County Highways.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

