

**Minutes of the BELBROUGHTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in  
Fairfield Village Hall**

**Present : Parish Councillors** Karen Green (Chairman), Ian Dalziel, Nick Hartill, Carol Hine, Allan Hood, Ann Ince, Trevor Jones, John Kitson, Alan Mabbett, Scott MacDonald, Dave Roberts, Chris Scurrall, and Paul Shotton Clerk: Katie Limm

**District Councillors** Janice Boswell, Brian Lewis.  
**County Councillor** Ed Moore

**Residents/other attendees** Paul and Lynn Hardcastle (Parish footpaths wardens); District Councillor John Ruck; and members of the public who recorded their names on the attendance list.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor James Bradley, District Councillor Margaret Sherrey, and County Councillor Sheila Blagg. Annette Adey (Chair of Belbroughton Recreation Centre) and Undine Yates (Belbroughton WI) also sent apologies.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were agreed as a fair record.

### **3. Parish Council Annual Report 2012-13**

The Parish Council Chairman, Karen Green, said that copies of the Council's draft Annual Report would be sent to every household in the parish. She gave a brief summary of the Council's main activities and achievements during the year. Looking ahead Cllr Green said that the Council would need to respond quickly to the imminent planning application from Veolia for an Incinerator Bottom Ash facility at their Sandy Lane site. The Council would be organising a public meeting which it hoped Veolia would agree to attend.

Cllr Green also thanked the WI for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Cllr Kitson, Chairman of the Finance Committee, gave an overview of the Council's finances, its sources of income, capital and other assets. Cllr Kitson explained the distinction made by the Council between routine spending funded by the precept and projects and grants funded by rents and income from investments. The Council was currently exploring letting the old parish meeting room which should increase its rental income. Cllr Kitson also outlined the grants available from the Council including a new category of grant being offered for the current financial year to help fund small items that would enhance parish life.

Cllr Ince (Chair of the Planning Committee) and Cllr Hood (Chair of the Agricultural Holdings Committee) each gave a brief outline of the work of their respective Committees.

### **4. Footpaths – report by the Parish Footpath wardens**

Paul Hardcastle presented a report on the footpath wardens' activities during the previous year. The main feature of the year was that their activities were largely dictated by the adverse weather conditions. These had resulted in excessive growth of hedges and trees around the parish footpaths and the wardens had undertaken a concentrated brushcutting programme – spending 55 hours in all on this. In addition repairs were made to stiles and waymark posts and fallen trees were removed.

A successful new development was assistance from a student on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In the current financial year the footpath wardens were planning further use of the DoE Scheme and Community Payback (work by offenders undertaking community service) for improvement projects.

Cllr Green thanked the footpath wardens for the many hours of voluntary work they put in on behalf of the parish.

## 5. Reports by District and County Councillors

District Councillors commented briefly on issues arising during the year. Cllr Boswell stressed the importance of volunteers as illustrated by the footpath wardens. Cllr Lewis said that the major forthcoming issue for the parish was the Veolia application. The Boundary Commission review of District ward boundaries was also a matter of concern.

A written report from Cllr Sheila Blagg was available at the meeting.

## 6. Parish Organisations

Representatives of the following parish organisations spoke briefly and answered questions about their organisation's activities and plans for the coming year.

- **Belbroughton Cricket Club**- Robert Hawk said that it was the Club's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that several celebration events were planned. He outlined the Club's achievements which included playing in the top division of the Worcester County league and having 120 junior members and 14 accredited English Cricket Board coaches,
- **Fairfield WI**- Mary Fairbairn said that the WI had met in Fairfield for 80 years. She outlined the national and County structure of the WI and explained what the WI offered at its monthly meetings.
- **Belbroughton Tennis Club** – Paul Dickens outlined the facilities offered by the Club and the coaching offered to young players- the Club had 240 members of whom 123 were under 18. He said that the Club welcomed new members.
- **Wildmoor Residents Association**- Hugh Norris explained that the association had been set up about 20 years ago in response to the threat from the Western Orbital Road proposals. It had continued to tackle threats to the area over the years. The local quarries and landfill site had been the main issues. The proposed IBA facility was the current concern.
- **Belbroughton Horticultural Society** – Peter Jones talked about the regular meetings and programme of talks held by the Society and the arrangements for the Annual show in August. He also mentioned that there was currently no waiting list for the Belbroughton United Charities allotments.

## 7. Open Forum

Issues raised were:

- Queries about the District Council's attitude to parish councils. District Councillors present said that the leader of the Council's view that parish councils were not useful was not generally shared.
- How much is spent on maintaining Little Bell Hall pool? The Parish Council explained that as landowners the Council must do a certain amount of maintenance to deal with trees impinging on the highway or obstructing the stream. Future management of the area was currently under review. An important consideration would be the cost of managing the area more proactively.
- It was suggested that the Council should conduct a survey to identify the needs of young people and use this to produce a development plan. Richard Bartram for Belbroughton Recreation Centre said that the Rec. had conducted various surveys- the new skatepark was one recent outcome. Cllr Hartill said that the Council needed to start thinking about developing a Neighbourhood Plan – this could review and capture the needs of different groups in the community and how these might be met through future community developments.
- The need for affordable housing in Fairfield was raised. The Parish Council said that a Neighbourhood Plan would also enable the local community to identify where it would like any development to take place. A review of the Green Belt was planned by the District and it was important that the Parish Council could influence this.
- The receipt of Section 106 money from the 2 housing developments in Belbroughton was raised. The Clerk said that none was specifically allocated for play facilities in Belbroughton,

but the District had agreed to discuss use of the funds with the Parish Council once work began on the Hartle Lane site.

- Future plans for Wildmoor Quarry – Cllr Scurrrell explained that the District was trying to establish what businesses were currently operating there. This had been prompted by requests from the Parish Council for a baseline survey. The District would then consider how best take this forward. The Parish Council had no information about any other developments at the Quarry.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm