

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Jubilee Meeting Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 3rd June 2013

Present: Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, I Dalziel, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, A Mabbett, D Roberts, and P Shotton.

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk; District Councillor Janice Boswell also attended.

159/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Scurrrell and MacDonald.

160/13 Declarations of Interest

i. Cllr Kitson declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to discussion of the Henderson investment; the Council had granted a dispensation to enable him to take part in discussions.

Cllr Bradley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the discussion relating to Little Bell Hall Pool and the land on Drayton Road adjacent to his house.

ii. The Council considered Cllr Bradley's request for a dispensation to enable him to take part in discussions concerning the management of Little Bell Hall pool and adjacent land. Cllr Bradley left the meeting whilst this request was discussed. The Council agreed to grant a dispensation in view of Cllr Bradley's knowledge of this area. The dispensation was to enable him to take part in discussions but not to vote on decisions relating to this issue.

161/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2013 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

162/13 Reports

Planning Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 20th May.

Finance Committee

The Council noted the Minutes of the meeting on 20th May.

Clerk's report

163/13 Appointment of new Clerk

The Council agreed the arrangements for the appointment of a new Clerk. An appointment on scale LC2 for 25 hours per week was approved. Cllrs Green, Hine, Kitson and Roberts were appointed to act as the interview panel and to make recommendations to the Council. The aim was to hold interviews in week beginning 15 July, or sooner if possible, and to have a month's overlap with the current Clerk.

It was agreed that the Council should not make an appointment if there was no suitable candidate but would seek to employ a temporary Clerk whilst the post was re-advertised.

164/13 Casual Vacancy

The Council agreed that since there had not been a request for an election it would now seek to co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy in Belbroughton ward. The aim would be to agree the co-option by secret ballot at the July Council meeting.

The co-option would take place in public but it was agreed that the candidates should be given the option of leaving the room whilst the vote was taken.

165/13 Finance Issues

i. The internal auditor's report on the 2012/13 accounts was noted. The Council formally approved the accounting statements and the annual governance statement on the annual audit return.

ii. The Council agreed the Finance Committee's recommendation that it should set up a new short term (30 day) notice account with Cambridge and Counties Bank. This was currently paying 1.75% interest. £25,000 was already invested with Cambridge and Counties in a one year bond. The Council therefore decided that no more than £25,000 should be held in the new account so that not more than £50,000 of the reserves in total was invested with any one provider.

iii. The Council agreed the Finance Committee's recommendation that it should move the Henderson investment from Skandia to Lansdowne Hargreaves. In doing so the Council would lose ongoing advice from Prosperity so would need to keep an eye on the value of the fund. However the Council would gain about £250 per year via a loyalty bonus.

166/13 Veolia Planning application

The arrangements for the public meeting on 19th June were agreed. A handout for the meeting would be prepared with information about responding to the application and setting out some suggested points for inclusion. The Clerk confirmed that the County Council would accept comments from residents after the 19th June but would like them to be submitted as soon as possible. The Council could send its formal response after its next meeting on 1st July.

Veolia had offered to attend a private meeting with the Parish Council but did not want to attend a public meeting. The Council agreed that a private meeting would not be appropriate and that the Clerk should inform Veolia that the public meeting, which they were welcome to attend, would be held as planned.

The Council agreed that it should seek professional support in analysing the planning application and preparing its response to the County Council. Up to £2,000 had been earmarked for this. The Clerk had discussed the support they could offer with two local planning consultants. Their details and scale of charges had been circulated. The Council agreed to appoint Elizabeth Mitchell and that the Chairman and Clerk should meet her as soon as possible to instruct her on what was required.

167/13 Wall at Sylvesters Corner, Belbroughton

The planning application for the restoration work on the wall had been submitted to the District Council. The Parish Council agreed that the surveyor should now be asked to work up the technical specifications and to tender for the work.

168/13 Street lights

Cllr Kitson outlined the final recommendations of the lighting working group for replacement lights following consultation with residents.

- Point 14 Mearse Lane – objections had been received based on the assumptions that the new location would provide less effective illumination of the bend and that it would be cheaper to install a new light in its current position using the existing power supply. Concerns had also been raised by residents that the new light would be intrusive in nearby houses. Illustrations of the lighting levels given by the existing and planned lantern positions provided by the County Council demonstrated that the new position would provide better

lighting of the bend in both directions. A new light could be installed in its present position but overhead power could no longer be used so this would involve taking cabling under Hartle Lane - the total estimated cost for installing a new light in the present location was £4,000 (against £1,300 for the new location). The lighting working group had therefore recommended that the proposal to install a new light on the other side of the road should be confirmed. This would improve lighting of the bend in the most cost effective way.

- Point 10 High Street/Church Road – the working group had also recommended that this proposal to remove the light on No. 2 High Street and install a new light on Sylvesters Corner should be implemented. Lighting illustrations demonstrated that lighting of the corner would be improved significantly. The current light could not be sustained permanently because when the lamp fails it cannot be safely replaced (the asbestos seal is safe in the meantime). The aim would be to reduce clutter on Sylvesters Corner by installing the new light and other signage on a new pole. The householders could be assured that the Council would arrange to repair the damage to their house as carefully as possible, but if they would prefer not to have the light removed the contractors could simply disconnect the power and leave the structure in place.
- Point 9 Church Hill – a new light was proposed outside the church hall with removal of the light on the opposite side of the road. No objections had been raised. The working group suggested that the householder at no. 19 Church Hill could retain the existing light after its removal as he had requested. The exact location of the new light would need to be agreed with the Church Hall Committee.

The Council agreed that replacement of the lights at points 9 and 10 should be commissioned as proposed by the working group. Replacement of point 14 in Hartle Lane was also approved in principle provided that the issue of light pollution could be dealt with. The working group was asked to explore this with the County Council.

169/13 Council's Annual Report

The draft report was not yet available.

170/13 Councillors Items

Cllr Hood asked for the erection of 'Bell Heath' signs to be considered at a future meeting.

171/13 Village Green, Belbroughton

The Council agreed that the outline proposals circulated by the working group for development of the village green should be developed further. These should now be sent Paul Mason's agent so that a detailed plan could be drawn up for further consideration.

172/13 Little Bell Hall Pool

This item was deferred.

173/13 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.

Arrangements for the letting were proceeding. The Council agreed that Cllr Kitson should discuss the arrangements for financial guarantees with the estate agent. Any issues arising could be dealt with at the June Finance meeting or by arranging a full Council meeting if necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm. Signed.....Chairman