

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall on Monday 5th October 2015.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, J McFarling, S Nock, Dr R Morgan, G Parsons and S Pawley.

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 5 members of the public also attended.

329/15 Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. J Boswell, J Bradley. S MacDonald and C Scurrell.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr. R Jenkins and District Cllr. M. Sherry.

330/15 Declarations of Interest: Cllrs. Pawley and Roberts declared an 'Other Disclosable Interest' in agenda item 8 as they were members of the History Society,

331/15 Dispensations: No written requests had been received.

The Meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.

Mr Simon Hinsley from P.P.S. – consultants to Severn Trent with regard to the pipeline route for the Birmingham Resilience Project informed the meeting of three information sessions being held within the Parish to explain the project including the anticipated direction of the pipeline : Belbroughton Church Hall Bradford Lane 22nd and 23rd October and at the Bell Inn Bromsgrove Rd Belbroughton 9th November. All sessions commence at 2.00p.m. and close at 7.30p.m.

332/15 The meeting was re-opened and the minutes of the Parish Council meeting 7th September 2015 were approved by council and signed by the Chairman.

333/15 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts commenced the report offering the Council's sincerest condolences to Cllr. Scott MacDonald his sons and the wider families following the sad death of Scott's wife Lindsay. He advised that the family would accept donations to Cancer Relief or the R.N.L.I.

He requested that cllrs. assess the recent request by the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (B.A.R.N.) for leads into organisations in the parish who required support for training, help identifying funding, and organisational advice. B.A.R.N. can also help groups to develop and support social enterprises, whether start-ups or established ventures along with assisting with networking between organisations.

Planning Committee:

Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings of 7th and 21st September 2015.

Finance Committee:

Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 21st September 2015.

Digital Engagement Cllr. Morgan reported on an training event :

Slides of the session had been circulated previously – in summary – Digital engagement forms an integral part of any effective communication strategy. A blended approach is the most effective to achieve engagement with all of the electorate. The council should develop and adopt a digital media policy and protocol. The time, personnel and their responsibilities should be carefully considered. Different age groups use different types of social media, e.g. Facebook is mostly used by 35-60 year olds, Instagram by 20-25 year olds. Traditional written communication should be retained. He recommended adoption of a non-interactive Facebook page, with other types of digital media to be considered in due course.

Clerk's Report:

A complaint had been received from a resident regarding parking difficulties in Woodgate Way Belbroughton during the Scarecrow Weekend. This had been forwarded to the Chairman of the Scarecrow Committee who had responded to the resident.

Minor Grants – The Fairfield Social Club £250. The club has no bank a/c and thus a substitute cheque would be sent payable to Mrs B Clarke the chairperson who would pass the funds to the club.

Letters of thanks had been received from the Bromsgrove Citizens Advice Bureau and, More the Merrier Club following the donation and the minor grant payments.

The Council's 'Investec' five year investment of £50,000 had matured with the sum of £65,072 received and placed temporarily in the council's Scottish Widows bank account pending a future investment decision.

The Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee has agreed to pass funds to the Parish Council to enable the purchase and installation of the defibrillator. The clerk will ascertain from the suppliers list that the promised £500 discount remains available when it is purchased via the British Heart Foundation. The Scarecrow Committee have £1500 available. The Talbot public house had agreed to the siting of the cabinet and to fund the nominal electric current feed needed.

A Volunteers training event was attended key points:

Role specification. – clarify skill sets desired – why the task is needed – where based – when and for how long – supervision by whom.

Recruiting – open day – papers – volunteer database – social media – libraries – church groups – parish mags.

It is key to motivate, consider health and safety issues, recognise achievements and, obtain feedback from your volunteers.

334/15 Financial and Investment Strategy

- i. Council approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee of the revised strategy.

Action: the clerk to upload the strategy document to the 'My Parish' website.

- ii. Council noted that three I.F.A.s contacted to review the council's 'liquid assets' had all agreed to offer initial consultations at no cost. Council delegated to the Finance Committee the assessment of each of these I.F.A.s recommendations and requested a report back to a future council meeting.

Action: the clerk will seek the IFAs availability to attend a future Finance Committee.

335/15 Planning Committee

Cllr. Margetts was appointed to this Committee to bring its member numbers to seven which was felt to be a suitable number to ensure a quorum at future Planning Committee meetings

336/15 Belbroughton History Society

Council approved Cllr. Allan Hood taking the Chair for this item.

Cllrs. Pawley and Roberts left the room during the consideration of this item.

Council deferred a decision on the request from the Society for a grant to assist with tree works. It requested sight of the report on the condition of the trees, a copy of the financial position of the society and would not consider the request anyway until the 2016 grants applications were opened in April next year.

Action: the clerk will request the information and advise the society this should be linked to a grant application should they wish to apply next year.

337/15 Parish Room Belbroughton

Cllrs. Pawley and Roberts re-joined the meeting and Cllr. Roberts assumed chairing the meeting.

Council noted that the rental payments due for July, August and September had now been made. The October rent was now due and the clerk would monitor its receipt. No further action was approved.

Action: the clerk to advise the next Finance Committee the status of the October rent payment.

338/15 New Website

Cllr. Roberts praised Cllrs. Margetts and Morgan on the time spent and the appearance and content to date of the new site.

Council approved the use of the 'administration rights' by Cllrs. Margetts and Morgan for a further month whilst the site continues to be built. Cllrs. were requested to pass pictures and any other content for uploading to the clerk who would liaise with Cllrs. Margetts and Morgan. The clerk would also supply agenda and minutes information for uploading.

Council deferred approving the use of social media on the site.

339/15 Sylvester's Corner

Council approved the purchase and planting of spring flowering bulbs on this site, the funds being taken from the previously approved £300.

Action: Cllr. Pawley will liaise with the Belbroughton parish gardener.

340/15 Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall

Cllr. Jones declared an 'Other Disclosable Interest' in this item as he was a member of the Fairfield Village Hall Committee.

Council approved writing to the hall committee requesting improvements are made to the soundproofing between the Barton Room and the main hall.

341/15 Belbroughton United Charities

Council declined to assist financially or otherwise with the ground maintenance costs at the charity's allotments.

342/15 County Councillors' Divisional Funds

Council approved approaching the County Councillor for Fairfield for a donation from such funds when a relevant Parish Project was identified. It was recognised that this would need to be for the 2016/17 County Council financial year since this year's funds had already been allocated by cllr. Blagg. Also, it was noted that the current scheme may not be renewed in its present form.

343/15 Councillor Items.

Cllr. Margetts commented on how well he felt the Scarecrow Weekend had gone and the Committee should be congratulated.

Action: the clerk will write to the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee.

Cllr. Margetts felt the fence at Sylvester’s corner was not of sufficient standard and the Council should seek advice on whether it was a safe structure, and if not consider appropriate action.

Action: the clerk to investigate and arrange a risk assessment.

Cllrs. Nock and Mabbett requested that the proposed ‘Incinerator Bottom Ash’ facility in Sandy Lane Wildmoor be placed on all future council agendas to consider any ongoing matters relating to the permit application with the Environment Agency and the planning permission application with the County Council.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the ‘Traffic Calming Group’ had now met and would report to the November council.

Cllr. Morgan advised that trees on Hartle Lane adjacent to Bell Heath Farm required trimming.

Action: the clerk to contact the land owner and request pruning.

Cllr. Roberts requested that the next council considers a village tidy up day to assist with autumn leaf collecting.

The Meeting was closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed Chairman.