

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Barton Room, Fairfield Village Hall on Monday 1st February 2016.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons and, C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk.

District Cllr. C Allen-Jones 6 members of the public also attended.

031/16 Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. Bradley, Cllr. McFarling and, Cllr. Pawley - work commitments.

032/16 Declarations of Interest: None.

033/16 Dispensations: None requested.

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

The meeting was re-opened.

034/16 Minutes

The minutes of the council meeting held 4th January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

035/16 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts advised that a further survey was being undertaken for further 'superfast broadband' to be installed in two areas of Belbroughton.

The Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee was presently considering which entity it should use for its activities as it reviewed its charitable status. He felt that the Council would want to work closely with the committee on future events.

The recent clearing of leaves from footways in parts of Belbroughton by the council contractor had been completed successfully.

Planning Committee:

Cllr. Scurrall detailed the items in the previously circulated minutes and Council noted those minutes of the committee meeting on 4th January 2016.

Finance Committee:

Cllr. Scurrall emphasised that the Committee had spent a great deal of time considering the use of Independent Financial Advisors Council before arriving at its recommended decision not to use their services. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting of 18th January 2016.

Clerk's Report:

Belbroughton.com website: Mr I Pemberton has offered to take over this website which Council was ceasing to support from February 2016.

Parish Lengthsman: The vacant post has been advertised and 5 application forms have been sent out. The closing date for the return of applications is Feb 22nd. The 'Working Group' Cllrs. Roberts, Mabbett and, Pawley will assess the applications and conduct the interview process.

Smartwater: A meeting is to be held at 2.00 p.m. Friday 5th Feb meeting by request of P.C. Tim Burling at Rubery Police station to run through the police proposals for delivering marking kits to residents. Cllr. Roberts will attend.

The Green Belbroughton: The drainage surveyor has almost completed his report regarding the two routes and this should be received shortly.

Wildmoor Quarry: The District Council invites the council to attend a stakeholder meeting to discuss the future of this quarry and in particular possible alternative uses of the site. Two dates are proposed 9th February at 13:30 or 23 February at 13:30 - Cllrs. Hood, Nock and, Scurrrell will be available to attend.

.Jobsfair: Sajid Javid M.P. has written to the Council informing of his Jobsfair on Friday 5th Nov at Parkside, Bromsgrove with posters to display if Council wishes. 40 employers are said to be attending.

Grit bins: These are being checked by Cllrs. who will advise the clerk of any refills needed.

Defibrillator: Ian Pemberton, Chair Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee is seeking British Heart Foundation 2016 grant funds as they had been turned down in 2015. He will then be able to decide whether to use a grant or 'Scarecrow' funds to purchase the kit and cabinet.

P.A.C.T. (Police and Communities Together).

Cllr. Scurrrell reported on the 8th January meeting which was attended by himself and Cllrs. Jones Mabbett and Parsons.

Current police priorities were dealing with burglaries.

They are also aware of issues relating to speeding motorists and anti-social parking.

P.C Kelso will be in contact with Ian Connolly, Traffic Officer regarding Community Speed Schemes.

Traffic calming measures suggested: wheelie bin stickers. Speed camera signs above speed limit signs

Keeping safe: information is on the Safer Neighbourhood Team's website.

No plans for CCTV on minor roads.

District Cllr. C Allen-Jones

Advised of the sad death on the previous Saturday of former District Council leader Cllr. Roger Hollingworth.

The reduction in the Government Grant to the District Council amounted to £3.5m over the next 3 years with a sum of £700k due to be paid back to the government in year 4.

He confirmed that the new Parkside premises were now open.

036/16 I.T. Courses

Council approved providing to the Bromsgrove District Housing Trust promotional support and up to £200 contribution towards the costs of room hire to hold computer training sessions in Belbroughton and Fairfield for individuals with nil or minimal computer skills. The courses are to be available for all local residents.

037/16 Parish Investments

Council approved by ten votes to one vote the recommendations from the Finance Committee not to use the services of an Independent Financial Advisor but to invest in future in a mix of one to three year fixed rate investments directly with institutions which must be part of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Action: the Finance Committee to seek appropriate investments

038/16 Parish Gardeners

Council approved the renewing of the existing arrangements with the present two gardeners.

Action: the clerk to confirm the 2016 terms to the contractors.

039/16 Parish Room Belbroughton

Council deferred a decision on whether to re-let the Parish Room from 1st July, approving a motion to seek a market appraisal of both the freehold and rental values of the premises from the agent who advised the Council in 2013.

Action: The Clerk to obtain the market appraisal.

040/16 Speed Limits

Council agreed to endorse the proposals from the County Council to reduce the speed limit from 50 mph to 40 mph on Hartle Lane Belbroughton and to introduce a 30 mph limit on parts of Top Road and Wildmoor Road, Wildmoor. It also approved pressing for a reduction on Quantry Lane, Bell Heath from 40 mph to 30 mph.

Action: The clerk to contact W.C.C. to endorse the two proposed limit reductions.
Cllr. Hood and the clerk to action processes to request the Quantry Lane reduction.

041/16 Ballast Phoenix Ltd / Veolia PLC – Incinerator Bottom Ash facility

Council noted comments from Cllr. Jones that once the fresh planning application from Veolia was published by the County Council then representatives from adjacent parish councils and the Wildmoor Residents Association were willing to meet the council to discuss the application.

042/16 Finance

a. Council approved the resourcing of a new internal auditor as the present auditor had been re-appointed for many years and whilst the quality of his work and advice was excellent Council felt it was best practise to vary the post holder from time to time.

Action: The Chairman of the Finance Committee to seek a new internal auditor for recommendation to Council.

b. Council decided by nine votes to two votes to not implement an electronic payment system with its present bankers, since it was not able to confirm satisfactory dual control over the process and was also not convinced that any cost savings were significant.

043/16 Highways

a. Council noted that 'memorial flowers' were placed at a layby on the A491. Whilst it was sensitive to the reasons for these it was concerned at the extent of time that these were left in place.

Action: District Cllr. C Allen-Jones committed to addressing the issue from the District Council's perspective and would report back to the parish council.

b. Council noted a request from the resident of the property adjacent to The Green, Belbroughton whom wished to remove soils and vegetation temporarily to enable damp proofing to be input to the wall of the property. Council approved asking the resident for consideration, written proposals, substantiated by an engineer's report, for the works. Such works if later approved would need to be carried out at the residents cost.

044/16 Community Engagement

Council noted the report from the 'Working Group' and approved the actions recommended including holding, for a three month trial period, prior to the commencement of Council meetings an 'Open Surgery' for 15 minutes to enable residents to discuss issues with their councillors.

045/16 Parish Logo

Council decided that it should produce a logo that reflected the recently confirmed combined name of the parish council. It noted a design suggestion from a district resident but decided to request that further designs were sought from local graphic designers.

Action: Cllr. Margetts to seek designs for consideration by a future council.

046/16 Flower Troughs

A decision was deferred to a future Council since the sponsoring cllr. was unable to attend the meeting. Council requested that the clerk seek an opinion from the County Council on whether troughs would be permitted.

Action: The clerk to contact W.C.C. Highways Dept.

047/16 Clock

Council deferred a decision on the provision of a clock in Fairfield until further information had been received on the potential project.

048/16 Councillor items

Cllr. Boswell advised that Rich Bartram and his family were very pleased to have received the get well card from the parish council. Mr Bartram was now at home and making good progress.

Cllrs. Mabbett and Parsons requested that a future agenda consider seeking the provision of a pedestrian crossing close to the school on the Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield.

Cllr. Roberts advised that the local M.P. had arranged a Jobsfair for Friday 5th February in Parkside, Bromsgrove and had requested that the parish council promote this by displaying posters. Council approved by six votes to five votes the displaying of the posters in the parish notice boards.

The Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed Chairman.