

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the meeting room Belbroughton on Monday 16th May 2011

Present : Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, L Harvey, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, S MacDonald, D Roberts, P Shotton, C Scurrall, and S Wright (*items 135-140 only*).

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. District Councillor Janice Boswell attended from item 144; two residents also attended for parts of the meeting.

135/11 Election of Chairman and Chairman's Declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Bradley chaired the meeting for this item. Cllr Ince proposed Cllr Green as Chairman of the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Harvey. Cllr Roberts proposed Cllr Bradley, seconded by Cllr Kitson. A vote was taken and Cllr Green was elected as Chairman. Cllr Green signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair. Cllr Shotton proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Bradley for his hard work as Chairman for the whole of the previous Council's term of office and this was unanimously endorsed.

136/11 Election of Vice Chairman and Declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr Shotton was elected as Vice Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

137/11 Apologies

There were no apologies from Parish Councillors. County Councillor Ed Moore and PC Lord sent their apologies since they both had another commitments.

138/11 Declarations of interest

Councillor Bradley declared a personal interest in the Hartle Lane development since he might have a possible future interest in purchasing a property there.

139/11 Minutes of the meeting on 4th April 2011

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and the Minute book was signed by the Chairman.

140/11 Membership of Committees and appointment of members to outside bodies

Membership of Committees and working groups and Council representatives to outside bodies were agreed as set out in the schedule attached to these Minutes.

The Council agreed the Finance Committee's recommendation that a working group should be set up to review the Council's street lighting policy and maintenance programme and to report back with recommendations to the Council. Members appointed to the Committee were Councillors Kitson, Hood, Roberts and Jones.

141/11 Co-option of Councillor for Belbroughton ward

The Council agreed that the vacancy should be advertised on the Council's notice boards and applications invited for a Councillor for Belbroughton ward. The Council would aim to make an appointment at its June meeting.

142/11 Training

It was agreed that all Councillors, particularly new members of the Council, should be encouraged to attend the training being provided by CALC. The Council agreed to fund the training and to vire additional money into the training budget if necessary.

143/11 Reports

Police matters

PC Lord had indicated that changes in police priorities and work patterns meant that he would not be able to attend meetings as frequently as hitherto. Councillors thought that, whilst it was helpful to keep in touch with the local police, it might be better to have less frequent meetings with police representatives but higher level, more strategic discussions. It was agreed to raise this with PC Lord at the June meeting. Cllr MacDonald said that information about crime in the parish was available on line and he suggested asking PC Lord whether this information was the same as that included in his regular verbal reports to the Council.

Chairman's report

As outgoing Chairman, Cllr Bradley suggested that the Council should have an early discussion about the Council's priorities, particularly the handling of the large issues relating to a possible Council split and the meeting room. It was agreed that this should be on the June agenda.

Planning meetings on 4th and 18th April

Cllr Ince reported on these two meetings. The Minutes had been circulated. In relation to the proposal to change the use of the Nash Works site from commercial to residential, Cllr Bradley suggested that the Council should take a view on the desirability of retaining employment opportunities in the parish. It was agreed that this issue, both in principle and specifically in relation to the Nash Works site, should be included for discussion on a future agenda.

Finance meeting on 18th April

Cllr Green reported on the Finance Committee meeting. The Minutes had been circulated. Cllr MacDonald suggested that a volunteer could be sought to look after the meeting room. This suggestion was noted for consideration if an appointment could not be made.

144/11 Planning application Hartle Lane, Belbroughton

The Council considered the revised planning application ref. 11/0345 for the conversion of industrial buildings to 12 dwellings. The Council had been closely consulted by the applicants as the design of this conversion has been developed and confirmed that it was content with the new design for the north boundary of the site facing the village green. This fitted well with the local context. The applicants had also consulted the Council about a landscaping scheme for the village green – and had agreed to the Council's request to provide two new benches for the green. However, the Council had some concerns about two issues. First that the increase in dwellings proposed from 10 to 12 would result in a very dense development. The Council would prefer a reduction to 10 dwellings and a higher proportion of 3 bedroom houses. Linked to this was a concern about whether the proposed number of parking places for the development would be adequate for residents and visitors given the density of the housing. This was in the context of the heavy traffic flows in this part of the village and the limited opportunities for on road parking in this area.

The Council would also like consideration to be given to the imposition of some restrictions, if possible, on construction traffic movements for the site during peak hours in the mornings and evenings whilst the building work is being done.

It was agreed that Cllr Bradley should attend the District's Planning Committee meeting to put forward the Parish Council's views on the application.

145/11 Council's Insurance and Annual Risk Assessment

The Council noted and approved the completed risk assessment for the Council's activities. It was agreed that regular (six monthly) inspections of Little Bell Hall pool should be undertaken and recorded in addition to the lengthsman's regular oversight of this area. The

Council also agreed Cllr Bradley's suggestion that a one off inspection by a suitably qualified engineer should be undertaken. The Clerk was asked to explore this and to obtain an estimate of the cost.

The Council delegated a decision about the Council's insurance provider to the Finance Committee. The Council agreed that it was not necessary to have Fidelity cover of £100,000 and that the minimum level of cover as provided by Allianz would suffice.

146/11 Roads and traffic issues

The Council had no further comments on the revised proposals from the County Council re subsidies to local bus services, but asked the Clerk to find out what the reference to community transport opportunities meant.

The Council welcomed the proposed reductions in speed limits on the B4188 following the County wide review. However, a reduction to a 40 mph limit along Hartle Lane would be preferable. The proposed measures to enhance the entrance to Belbroughton in Hartle Lane were also welcomed. The Council noted that these could be supplemented by planting at the village entrance and confirmed that it would develop proposals for this once the County Council had produced its implementation plans for signage and new entrance gates.

147/11 Council's Annual Report

An outline of items to be included in the report was agreed. Cllr Bradley agreed to write the Chairman's overview. A draft of the report would be circulated for the June Council meeting.

148/11 Correspondence received

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting was noted.

149/11 Councillors Items for information/future discussion

- Cllr MacDonald informed the Council that since a sharp edge on the footpath gate near Belbroughton school had caused several minor injuries he would be removing the offending bolt. He also mentioned that the footpath from Belbroughton cricket club into the village needed to be cleared and that foliage was overhanging signs near the school.
- Cllr Scurrrell asked the Council to consider paying for the hire of Fairfield Village Hall for a PACT meeting.
- Cllr Shotton said that the 'Give Way' sign from Church Road towards Queens Hill was too high to be properly visible and needed to be lowered.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....Chairman

BELBROUGHTON PC : MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES 2011/12

Planning Committee	Finance Committee	Allotments Committee
Lyz Harvey	James Bradley	Karen Green
Carol Hine	Karen Green	Allan Hood
Ann Ince	Carol Hine	Ann Ince
Paul Shotton	Trevor Jones	Trevor Jones
Chris Scurrrell	John Kitson	Scott MacDonald
Sue Wright	Scott MacDonald	Marjorie Rees (co-opted member)
	Dave Roberts	
	Chris Scurrrell	
	Paul Shotton	

Representatives on outside bodies

Worcs. CALC and PC Forum	Karen Green and Chris Scurrrell
Fairfield Village Hall Management Cmttee	Ann Ince
Belbroughton Rec. Committee	Scott MacDonald
Belbroughton United Charities	Paul Shotton
Wildmoor Residents Association	Ann Ince
Bromsgrove Police & Community Consultative Cmttee	Chris Scurrrell

Groups meeting as and when required

- Belbroughton traffic group – John Kitson, Scott MacDonald, Dave Roberts
- FVFC Liaison Group – James Bradley, Karen Green, Ann Ince, Chris Scurrrell, Trevor Jones
- Fairfield Recreation Ground Review Group – Fairfield Councillors
- Street lighting working group – John Kitson, Allan Hood, Trevor Jones and Dave Roberts