

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in Fairfield School, Fairfield on Monday 11th June 2012

Present: Cllrs D Roberts (Chair), J Bradley, I Dalziel, N Hartill, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, and C Scurrall

In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk. District Cllr Janice Boswell, County Councillor Ed Moore, and two residents also attended.

165/12 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Karen Green and Paul Shotton.

166/12 Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

167/12 Minutes of the meeting on 14th May 2012

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

168/12 Reports

Chairman's report

Cllr Roberts

- welcomed Alan Mabbett to the Council.
- reported that the new meeting room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre was open and already had some commercial lettings.

Planning meeting on 21st May

Cllr Ince reported briefly on the Planning meeting. Minutes had been circulated. She thanked Cllrs Hartill and Scurrall for attending a site meeting at Wildmoor Quarry with Ruth Bamford, head of planning at the District Council. Cllr Hartill said that it had been a helpful meeting and that the District Council had subsequently provided a lot of background information about the quarry's planning history. This needed to be examined and gaps identified. Cllr Hartill would report progress and suggest any further action required to the Planning Committee.

Finance meeting on 21st May

Cllr Kitson reported briefly on the Finance meeting. Minutes had been circulated.

Clerk's report

- The Clerk had been approached by a contractor on behalf of Severn Trent about plans to put the pumping station in Drayton Road underground and to construct a new layby. This work might encroach slightly on to Parish Council land. The contractor was sending further details and was ready to meet the Council on site to discuss the proposals.
- The working group on splitting the Council had met once and would be holding a second meeting on 26th June to discuss a draft consultation document. Depending on other items on the July Council agenda, a separate Council meeting might be arranged to discuss this.
- One of the Bromsgrove District Council Conservation Officers had offered a meeting to discuss the current appraisal of the Conservation Area in Belbroughton. Date to be arranged.
- Hagley Parish Council had copied to other PCs a letter to Sheila Blagg raising concerns about the reduction in community policing and engagement. Belbroughton and Fairfield Councillors noted that, although local police representatives no longer routinely attended Council meetings, this had not caused any particular concern.

Crime statistics for the area were available on the police website and a police representative could be invited to meetings to discuss specific items if appropriate.

169/12 Adoption of telephone kiosk

The Council considered the request from Mr Stephenson for the Council to adopt the telephone kiosk on Yew Tree Avenue, Belbroughton on his behalf. The Council decided that adopting the kiosk for someone who was not a resident of the parish and who intended to remove it from the village would not be appropriate or a good use of Council time.

170/12 Annual Accounts and Annual Return

The Council

- noted the internal auditor's report for 2011/12
- formally approved the Accounts for 2011/12, and
- approved the Annual Return to the external auditors

171//12 Footpath improvements

The Clerk reported on further discussions with the County Council about the path from Belbroughton Recreation Ground to the school. A Community Payback team had recently cleared the path but this was a temporary improvement and clearance work would need to be repeated unless a more permanent solution was found. There were two options to explore- having the path re-designated as a proper footway which would be maintained to a higher standard or reinforcing the bank next to the path, for example with netting and planting. The Clerk was asked to pursue these and report back at the July meeting.

172/12 New Code of Conduct

The Council agreed to

- adopt the Worcestershire model code of conduct with effect from 1st July and to delegate to the Clerk the ability to amend the document as needed when a final version was available
- delegate to the Clerk the ability to make any changes needed to standing orders to allow the Council to comply with procedural changes resulting from adopting the new Code

173/12 Localism

The Council discussed the Worcestershire County Council's consultation document 'Think Local'. The Council supported the proposals in principle and agreed that it should be ready to identify services and projects on which it could work with the County Council or to respond to proposals from the County. Community transport was suggested as one issue for future consideration. Councillors were asked to bear this suggestion in mind and to take every opportunity to find out what services local residents needed.

174/12 Complaints procedure

The Council agreed to adopt the CALC model complaints procedure subject to a couple of amendments to clarify the role played in the process by the person about whom a complaint had been made. The Clerk was asked to provide a revised draft for the Council's approval.

175/12 Councillors Items

Cllr Boswell commended the organisers of the Belbroughton Jubilee celebrations which had been excellent. She also asked the Council to consider raising concerns about the running of Chadwich quarry- the height of the rubbish, the seagulls this attracted, foam/debris deposited on the road, and an overgrown hedge which was pushing vehicles into the road were particular concerns. The Environment Agency had a duty to regulate the quarry and they should be asked about their inspection procedures. Cllr Moore undertook to raise this with Cllr Blagg and the County Council in the first instance.

Cllr Moore said that further substantial cuts would have to be made in County Council spending. Services would have to be delivered differently and the localism agenda would be an important part of this. He also informed the Council that Haybridge High School now had Academy status which meant that it could adopt its own admissions policy. This should be borne in mind if the housing proposals from Cala homes were resubmitted.

Parish Councillors reported the following items of information and items for a future agenda:

Cllr Hartill said that there were currently parking problems at the junction of Nash Lane/High Street, Belbroughton.

Cllr Kitson suggested that the Finance Committee should consider selling the Council's portable ramp.

Cllr MacDonald asked if the lengthsman could trim the trees around the road signs in Hartle Lane. He suggested a Finance agenda item to discuss paying Councillors printing expenses. He also reported on the current trial of a skate park at Belbroughton Rec. There was support for the facility from parents and children but there had been 3 complaints about noise. Work to modify the ramp to reduce the noise was in hand.

Cllr Roberts said that the Rec. Committee was interested in using the tables in the parish room. Could the Council consider letting the Rec. use them at least in the short term.

Cllr Mabbett asked if the Council could write to thank Lisa Horton for organising the Jubilee celebration in Fairfield. This was agreed. He also suggested future agenda items for the Council to consider 1) how the Council could engage with younger people, for example through a blog or Facebook link, and 2) speeding in Fairfield. Re 2 - Clerk to check when the most recent speeding survey was done in Fairfield and the results.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)