

**Minutes of the BELBROUGHTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>  
April 2009 in Fairfield Village Hall**

**Present**

**Parish Councillors**, James Bradley, Peter Bridge, Karen Green, Ian Hadley, Lynn Hardcastle, Ann Ince, Trevor Jones, P Peacock, Chris Scurrall, John Westley.

Clerk: Katie Limm

**District Councillors** Janice Boswell, Brian Lewis  
**County Councillors** Ed Moore

Pam Bridge (Parish footpaths warden); Marjorie Rees (Wildmoor Residents Association), and six other residents who recorded their names on the attendance list and Mr K Pearson.

**1. Apologies**

Parish Councillors Tim Cherry, Linda Deeley, Paul Shotton, and Sue Wright; County Councillor Sheila Blagg.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2008**

The Minutes were agreed as a fair record subject to a correction to the references in section 5 to extra funds allocated for highways maintenance which should read £15 million and £5 million.

**3. Parish Council Annual Report 2008-09**

***Chairman's Report***

The Parish Council Chairman, James Bradley, said that copies of the Council's Annual report would be sent to every household in the parish. He picked out the highlights of the year, including the Council's achievement of 'Quality Parish' status.

The Chairman said that it was impossible to review the year without mentioning the events at Fairfield Stores and he recorded the Council's admiration for Craig Hodson Walker's family. The Council had been pleased to provide some practical help with the reopening of the stores and were supporting the memorial concert (discussed later on the agenda).

***Committee Reports***

Reports were presented by Cllr Bridge, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr Hadley, Chairman of the Planning Committee, and Cllr Ince, Chairman of the Allotments Committee on the Committees work during the year and the main issues arising.

**4. Footpaths**

Pam Bridge, the Parish footpaths warden, reported on the footpaths within the parish. All paths had been inspected over the year and all were in a useable state. However, a particular concern was the state of some bridleways which were overused by horses. The difficulty of maintaining the bridleways for all users was discussed. It was noted that there was a combination of issues and responsibilities - enforcement action re riding schools which did not have permission for commercial use, adequate maintenance of the bridleways, and education of users to encourage them to use bridleways responsibly. Cllr Moore said

that he would make enquiries about whether there was a specific allocation in the WCC budget for maintenance of bridleways. Thanks were recorded to Pam and Peter Bridge for all their hard work to keep the footpaths in such a good state.

## **5. Fairfield Recreation Ground**

Cllr Green said that the Council was currently consulting residents about the future of Fairfield Recreation Ground and in particular whether residents supported its use by a football club. Residents were encouraged to respond. Improvements at the Rec were also planned including a new hedge at the entrance and money was in the Council's budget for this. It was suggested by one resident that raised beds should be considered for the millennium garden to help solve the drainage problems there.

Mr Kevin Pearson spoke briefly about the Fairfield Festival planned for 5<sup>th</sup> July in memory of Craig Hodson Walker. He was looking for volunteers to help on the day and hoped that the village would support the event. Entertainers were giving their services free of charge and the proceeds would go to the RSPCA and a breast cancer charity. The Parish Council thanked Mr Pearson for his hard work in organising this event.

## **6. Parish projects and priorities**

Possibilities for the coming year were a safer route for walkers along Hackman's Gate Lane and improvements to the parish meeting room. The Chairman said that the Council would like to see improvements to the room if these could be done at a sensible price and would like to encourage more use by groups in the parish. The Council's other priority was to keep the parish looking good and improve green areas where possible.

Cllr Lewis mentioned the Stoneybridge island and the layby on the A491 as areas needing improvement. Neither of these was within the Parish Council's care, but could be pursued with the County Council.

## **7. Reports from County and District Councillors**

County and District Councillors commented briefly on issues arising during the year. Cllr Janice Boswell congratulated the Parish Council on gaining Quality Status and thanked them for their support for Fairfield Stores. She said that the police had also done sterling work following the dreadful events at the post office. Cllr Brian Lewis said that he was pursuing planning issues at Williams Quarry and had been pressing the County Council to remove the unauthorised signs. Cllr Moore mentioned extra highways funds available for urban unclassified roads and footpaths. Cllr Bradley thanked the District and County Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the parish.

## **8. Questions/Matters of Interest to Residents**

Residents mentioned the noise caused by motorbike events at Williams Quarry which tended to increase during the summer months. Marjorie Rees said that Wildmoor residents were monitoring this and that she had been in touch with Environmental Health officers at BDC about it. The Parish Council said that in general in relation to planning and enforcement issues it was important for residents to register concerns direct with the District Council (or County if appropriate) and to record the information so that supporting evidence was available if required. It was helpful if the Parish Council was also kept informed of planning concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.