

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Barton Room Fairfield Village Hall Monday 2nd September 2013

Present: Cllrs K Green (Chair), J Bradley, I Dalziel, C Hine, A Hood, A Ince, T Jones, J Kitson, A Mabbett, P Margetts, S MacDonald, D Roberts.

In attendance: John Farrell Clerk; District Councillor Janice Boswell.

251/13 Cllr Green formally welcomed the new Parish Councillor Paul Margetts and new Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer John Farrell.

252/13 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Scurrell, and Shotton. Also, from District Councillor Brian Lewis.

253/13 Declarations of Interest

Cllr MacDonald declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to the discussion of the appointment of a Councillor to speak on behalf of the Council at the Bromsgrove District Planning meeting on 9th September re application 13/0543.

Cllr Ince declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to the discussions under the Agricultural Holdings agenda item 9, the Council had granted a dispensation to enable her to take part in discussions regarding the allotments.

254/13 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the meetings held on 1st July 2013 and 22nd July 2013 were approved. The minute book was signed by the Chairman.

255/13 Reports

Chairman's report : Cllr Green had no items to record.

Planning Committee: The Council noted the Minutes of the meetings on 15th and 22nd July and 19th August .

Finance Committee; The Council noted the Minutes of the meetings on 15th July and 19th August.

Clerk's report :

1. External auditors Grant Thornton have signed off 2012/13 annual return, the Notice of Conclusion of the audit will be displayed on the notice boards for 14 days.
2. Footpath work at Hill farm completed and paid for by the County Council. The Clerk is to thank the County Council and the footpath wardens for organising the work.
3. Reminder that the Calc local area quarterly meeting is to be held Weds 4th Sept. at Bromsgrove District Council offices and the Calc networking event 24th Sept at County Hall.
4. The Scarecrow Committee confirmed that they wished to use the Green at Belbroughton for a BBQ over the festival weekend 28/29th September 2013. The Council had agreed previously to use of the village green in principle (minute 200/13) - subject to the use being covered by the Scarecrow Committee's insurance and to any litter, etc being cleared away afterwards. A request was made for the use of Sylvester's corner - however the Clerk has advised that even if work hasn't started on

the wall repairs it would not be a good idea for the public to have access to the site - as the top of the bank is unprotected at the moment.

4a.

The Scarecrow Committee hope to close Church Road 28/29 Sept (for pedestrian safety). They have applied to Bromsgrove Council and they, as well as Worcester County Council and the police support this action. The proposed diversion will be via Queens Hill and Church Hill

5. A request has been received to hold a Blues Festival in Belbroughton May 2014, the organiser asked to speak to Parish Council October meeting, the Clerk will investigate further and assess if the Belbroughton Recreation Centre and Church Hall committees are more relevant for such discussions initially.

6. A request has been received from a Mr Parton to divert a footpath at Wildmore Quarry onto Parish Council land – the Agricultural Holdings Committee is to consider this, and report back to council.

7. Road closure: Worcestershire County Council advise that of an Order to close that part of the C2017 Drayton Rd Belbroughton from its junction with B4188 Hackmans Gate Lane for a distance of 450 metres in a south westerly direction in order to facilitate Severn Trent works. Anticipated duration 65 days within a 14 week period commencing 7th October 2013.

256/13 Finance Committee Recommendations

Cllr Kitson outlined the Finance Committee's recommendations.

Council approved the recommendation that income from letting the Belbroughton Meeting Room would initially be used to cover the agents and legal costs incurred and thereafter such income would be allocated as 'Other Income' and be available for Grants and Projects.

Council approved the opening of a 100 day notice savings account with Shawbrook Bank.

257/13 Council Representatives

Cllr Bradley agreed to become the Council's representative to the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Management Committee. This to take effect after Cllr MacDonald steps down from the role in October.

Cllr Roberts was appointed to speak on behalf of the Council at the Bromsgrove District Planning meeting on 9th September regarding application 13/0543.

258/13 Queens Hill Wall

The Clerk advised Council of the 4 tenders received for the repair of the collapsed wall and of the recommendation letter received from the Parish Council's appointed surveyors David Symonds Associates to accept the offer from P J Read Ltd. The Clerk also advised that the surveyors had informed that the work could be commenced within 3 weeks.

Council approved the acceptance of the tender from P J Read Ltd in the sum of £23,102.00 + VAT and requested that the Clerk inform the surveyors.

Council agreed that the works should commence subject to planning permission but not prior to the Scarecrow Festival weekend 28/29 September.

259/13 Agricultural Holdings

Minutes of the Agricultural Holdings Committee meeting 2nd July 2013 were noted.

Council approved the Clerk writing to the tenants informing them both of the intention to offer new Farm Business Tenancies effective from September 2014 and that the initial rental for the new tenancies would be £85 per acre. The letter will include a copy of the proposed Farm Business Tenancy. It will also request comments from the tenants and as appropriate these comments may be referred to the Parish Council's legal advisers for advice and response.

Council approved the use of MFG Solicitors Llp for producing the new FBTs on the basis of the e mail quote stating that "as the same template will be used for each of the 13 new FBTs, with just the individual tenants personal information to be inputted, producing the 13 new FBTs would involve approximately 2 hours work at my hourly rate of £155.00 plus VAT (£310.00 plus VAT"

260/13 Bell Heath

Council approved the principle of providing place name signs in Bell Heath.

Proposed number of signs and sites to be assessed by Cllrs Hood and Ince and recommendations brought back to the October Council meeting.

Cllrs Green, Hood and Roberts will document a proposal on a speed limit reduction request on Heath End Road which will be brought back to Council.

The Clerk is to approach the Police to request that the road is considered for periodic mobile speed camera operation.

261/13 Tree Work

Council acknowledged the survey with details of safety works required and approved that the Finance Committee may consider quotes and approve a contractor.

Cllrs Green and Bradley and The Clerk are to meet to assess the options for the management of the Little Bell Hall Pool site.

262/13 Grit Bins

The Clerk advised that Wildmoor Quarry, Mr Bob Pearson, for Salop Sand & Gravel have adequate supplies of English rock salt which they would sell to the Parish Council at £2 per 20kg bag. They would permit call off of stock as needed and thus effectively store the salt at no charge.

Councillors wish to see all bins full and ready for use prior to the winter. The Clerk is to contact our Lengthsman and Gardeners to assess whether this initial activity can be added to their job roles and the costs of such. Thereafter the checking and as required refilling of the bins requires a process which is to be discussed again at the October meeting following individual Councillors investigations.

Councillors will defer to the October meeting proposals for any additional bins and their proposed siting.

263/13 Councillor Items

Cllr Green welcomed District Councillor Boswell and her return to good health.

District Councillor Boswell advised the Council that Bill Longmore Police Commissioner had informed her that it was likely that Hagley Police Station would be closing and substituted with a range of mobile vans in the areas covered.

She also advised the The Veolia planning application is expected to be heard by the County Council early in 2014.

Cllr Hine requested an October Agenda item to look at the replacement of a wooden bench previously sited at Yew Tree Lane.

Cllr Macdonald informed the council of loose masonry at the Talbot Public House.

He has received a resident request to ascertain the process for erecting street name signs at Waystone Lane Belbroughton, the Clerk was asked to assess the process required.

He also has a resident uncertain as to the precise activities undertaken at the Belbroughton Meeting Room, councillors agreed informally to keep a watching brief and assess if any terms of the lease are being breached. The potential breach being retail use as a cafeteria.

Cllr Roberts advised that the refurbished street signs are due to be re-hung.

Cllr Green advised she would be attending a performance of Winston on the Run byFol Espoir Theatreat Park Hall, Wythall Community Association on Sunday 06 October arranged by Shindig which is a network of over 40 community-run village halls and other voluntary organisations across the county who bring high quality professional performances to their local community.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....Chairman