

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 2nd November 2015.

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

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 2 members of the public also attended.

373/15 Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. J McFarling and S MacDonald. Apologies were also received from District Cllrs. C Allen-Jones and M. Sherry.

374/15 Declarations of Interest: None

375/15 Dispensations: No written requests had been received.

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

376/15 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts had attended one of the presentation events by the Birmingham Resilience Project. He was impressed with the water pipeline project planning and efforts that would be made to minimise disruption. He reminded cllrs. that a further presentation was to be held at the Bell Inn, Bell Heath on 9th November.

Congratulations were recorded for Cllr. James McFarling and wife Charlotte on the birth of their third daughter.

He noted that the Belbroughton Recreation Centre and Belbroughton Cricket Club had been successful with their applications for grants from the District Council New Homes Bonus funds.

Planning Committee:

Council noted the minutes of the committee meetings of 5th and 19th October 2015. Cllr. Scurrall advised that the District Council had confirmed that they had not been required to seek comment from the parish council when considering an application for solar panels from Wildmoor Clean Water Production Works, Mill Lane Wildmoor. This was because the application was a 'Permitted Development'. The Planning Committee would consider this response at its next meeting.

Finance Committee:

Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 19th October 2015. Cllr. Bradley confirmed that the council should achieve a surplus in the current financial year (to 31/3/2016). He also emphasised that the five year investment with Investec had returned the capital sum of £50,000 plus a yield of £15,072 when it matured in September 2015.

He confirmed that the budget setting working group would meet on evening of 9th November and requested that should cllrs. have specific inputs to be placed with the group for consideration that they are sent to the group via the clerk.

Clerk's Report:

Road gritting run: Fairfield - Despite the Parish Council requesting an adjustment to the route back in August the County Council has this week advised that there will be no consideration of any changes to routes until the 'summer' of 2016.

Bournheath Parish Council is arranging a PACT meeting on Friday 8th January 2016 at Bournheath Village Community Centre, starting at 7pm. Belbroughton and Fairfield parish councillors and residents are invited to attend to discuss Police and Community matters relevant to the 'Bromsgrove North and Rural' policing area.

The Green Belbroughton: The Parish Council solicitor confirmed that she has received a formal undertaking from the Developer's solicitor to pay legal costs of £8k.

MFG solicitors also recommend that council now forward the two costings for the drainage options to a surveyor for comment. A £250 sum will be paid by the Developer towards the cost of this. The documentation submitted for review by the Developer is brief and the engineer will be asked by Council to examine carefully the geography of the site to assess if a pumping facility would be required if using the Hartle Lane exit route.

Bromsgrove Council have updated their website for advice on unlawful encampments. The page is accessed from 'My Place-Encampments of Gypsies and Travellers'.

The initial introduction page is the same with the link to the Joint Policy and the contact link box to PSH contact page to 'Enquire about an encampment'.

There is a box to link to Worcestershire County Council relevant pages. Plus a link to a separate page of summary advice on protective measures for private land 'How Can I Protect my Land' with a contact link to the Police for more advice.

There is a link to a page called 'A Legal Summary' This summarises the Police Powers and the legal position in relation to public and private land and waste.

Defibrillator: The Scarecrow Committee and the Council are assessing the best option for the purchase. – there are now offers via British Heart Foundation which may give significant savings on the kit and cabinet purchase.

Correspondence addressed to the local M.P. from resident Ms Jackson requesting that her MP presses for more activities for youngsters in Belbroughton had been distributed to councillors who will consider its contents.

377/15 Traffic Calming.

Council noted the contents of the working groups report. Council approved three short term measures:

- a) An education campaign for drivers in the parish on the dangers of excess speed and risk to other road users, via websites/newsletter. To include raising the awareness in the communities about reporting traffic incidents/concerns to the police and Parish Council so that evidence can be gathered.
- b) Ensure that all existing road speed signage is clear to road users. This will probably involve a request to county for the re-painting of road surfaces, if thought appropriate.
- c) Consideration to be given to the need for new signage or road markings e.g. horses, elderly crossing, farm vehicles, dragon teeth etc.

Action: the working group to liaise with the clerk on implementation.

378/15 Investment Strategy

Council approved the minuting of a 'Personal Statement' from Cllr. Bradley the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and further approved the request in that statement for the clerk to write to the Councillor and resident mentioned in the statement :

"I have no intention of dwelling on the past, but I wish to state that I have always acted with complete propriety in all my dealings with the Parish Council's investments."

"I therefore take seriously amiss the continued insinuations to the contrary in messages circulated recently by Councillor MacDonald, and latterly by a resident. They are baseless, and in my opinion could be seen as libellous."

"Further, the messages have been seriously misleading in a number of ways, in particular in failing to mention the other investment recommended by the Independent Financial Adviser in question, which has recently matured very successfully. The Chairman of the Council has already noted this point."

"I ask that this personal statement be formally minuted, and made public accordingly. I also ask that the Clerk be requested to write to both Cllr MacDonald and the resident drawing attention to this statement."

Action: the clerk to correspond as requested.

Council deferred a decision on utilising the services of an Independent Financial Advisor to review part of the council's Capital fund and thus has not made any commitment to using a financial advisor. Of the two expected quotations for such work only one had been received from a Mr Ian Lloyd of Origin Financial Limited. A Mr Mark Pritchard of Unity Financial Planning Ltd had informed the Council that he did not wish to quote.

Council approved a motion to seek at least a further two quotations for consideration. Cllr. Margetts requested that his abstention in the vote is recorded.

Cllr. Pawley requested that all councillors refresh their knowledge of the Code of Conduct for dealing with council business, specifically to ensure that matters are handled with dignity and respect for colleagues.

Action: the clerk to source at least two IFAs to present a breakdown of their costs for their services to a future Finance Committee.

379/15 Ballast Phoenix Ltd / Veolia PLC.

Council noted that the Environment Agency are expected to release their decision on the permit application in the week beginning 9th November.

Cllr. Hood advised that the M.P. has written to the E.A. requesting that they explain fully to him their reasoning for the decision.

380/15 Parish Projects

Council noted the quotations received and approved the purchase and installation of new Christmas lights which will replace the aged lights on the tree on the Green Belbroughton. Contractors will be used for the installation. The cost of the project is within the previously approved budget.

Action: Cllrs. Roberts, Pawley and Margetts and the clerk to progress the logistics.

381/15 Traveller Incursions

Council noted that there were a number of Parish Council owned sites that were felt to be vulnerable. Council approved contacting the farm tenants to discuss possible options. Council further approved contacting Fairfield School and Fairfield Villa F.C. to seek their written comments again on possible solutions.

Action: the clerk to contact as above.

382/15 Website

Following the initial setting up of the new website Council approved the transfer of the 'administration rights' from Cllr. Margetts to the clerk. Council requested that cllrs. wishing to have community information uploaded should have developed the content themselves to reduce the time spent on this by the clerk.

Council approved not continuing with 'Belbroughton.com' and would offer the website to the Belbroughton History Society or other local community organisation wishing to take it on.

Council thanked Mr John Penlington for his administration of the Belbroughton.com website over the past years.

Action: Cllr. Margetts and the clerk to deal with the administration rights transfer.

The clerk to liaise with Mr Pennington regarding Belbroughton.com and also write to him expressing the councils thanks for his work.

383/15 Digital Inclusion

Council approved working with the Bromsgrove District Housing Trust who are aiming to set up Information Technology courses in the area to educate and promote the using of computers.

Action: Cllr. Roberts and the clerk to commence discussions with B.D.H.T. and report back to Council.

384/15 Parish Room Belbroughton

Council noted that the October and November tenant rental payments had not been received. The clerk was requested to continue chasing for the funds and the Finance Committee should review the position at its November meeting.

Action: the clerk to make further contact with the tenant.

385/15 Remembrance Sunday

Council noted the two services on the 8th November, the Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be laying the wreaths in Belbroughton and Fairfield respectively.

386/15 Meetings venues and dates 2016

Council approved the dates for 2016. Meetings will be held in Belbroughton and Fairfield on a similar pro-rata basis as in prior years. The venues currently will remain as for 2015 – The Jubilee Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre and The Barton Room at Fairfield Village Hall. The Council approved that the Fairfield venue may be changed during the year.

Full Council Meeting	Finance Committee	Planning Committee
4th January		
	18th January	18th January
1st February		
	15th February	15th February
7th March		
	21st March	21st March
4th April		
	18th April	18th April
9th May (Annual Meeting)		
	16th May	16th May
6th June		
	20th June	20th June
4th July		
	18th July	18th July
1st August		
	1st August	1st August
5th September		
	19th September	19th September
3rd October		
	17th October	17th October
7th November		
	21st November	21st November
5th December		
	12th December	12th December

- The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 11th April 2016 in **Belbroughton**.
- Meetings in January, March, May, June, August, September, & November will be held in the **Jubilee meeting room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre** -
- Meetings in February, April, July, October, & December are anticipated being held in **The Barton Room at Fairfield Village Hall**

387/15 Councillors Items

Cllr. Hood requested that the Lengthsman attend to the verges outside the 'Fiveways' junction in Bell Heath.

Action: the clerk to request David Aldridge attends.

Cllr. Dr Morgan advised of a failed light at junction of Chapel Lane and Heath End Rd Bell Heath.

Action: the clerk to inform W.C.C. via the Hub.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the provision of flower containers for High St Belbroughton is placed on a future agenda.

Cllr. Pawley advised that there were bags of garden refuse at the Parish Room Belbroughton which ought to be removed by the tenant.

Action: the clerk to contact the tenant requesting their removal.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the owner at 2 Hartle Lane is asked to remove the weeds from adjacent to the development site that were now encroaching onto the footway. This following a resident's complaint.

Action: the clerk to contact the owner.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the purchase of a union flag for display in Belbroughton was placed on a future agenda.

Cllr. Boswell requested that a letter was sent to the Belbroughton United Charities confirming the Council decision that it would not assist with their land management requirements.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the County and District Councils had left the footway at junction of Dordale Rd and Brook Rd in a dangerous state where there was a broken off direction sign and concrete in the ditch. In addition kerb stones were in a poor state.

Action: the clerk to approach the County and District to make the required improvements.

Cllr. Parsons requested that the location and possible replacement of the Fairfield parish notice board is placed on a future agenda.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the County Council are chased regarding their views on uses for the space on Holy Cross Lane previously occupied by a telephone box.

Action: the clerk to contact W.C.C. again.

Cllr. Margetts advised that the new website would display council and committee agendas along with the minutes of those meetings.

Cllr. Roberts advised that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee had allocated a sum of £5,000 towards a 'Village Fund' and would happily discuss how this could be used.

Cllr Roberts advised that the annual parish council dinner would be held in early January in Fairfield. It would be funded as usual by the members themselves and Fairfield Cllrs. would be deciding on the venue.

The Meeting was closed at 10.25 p.m.

Signed Chairman.