

Minutes of the BELBROUGHTON and FAIRFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on 25th April 2016 in The Belbroughton Church Hall.

Present : Parish Councillors : Dave Roberts (Chairman), Janice Boswell, James Bradley, Ian Dalziel, Trevor Jones, Paul Margetts, Gemma Parsons, Sue Pawley Scott MacDonald and Chris Scurrall.
Parish clerk & R.F.O.: John Farrell.

Other attendees - Paul and Lynn Hardcastle (Parish footpaths wardens), Mr M Simpson, Parish Organisation representatives and 20 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors, Allan Hood, Bob Morgan and Alan Mabbett County Councillors Sheila Blagg and Rachel Jenkins.

District Councillor Chris Allen-Jones

2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 30th March 2015

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a fair record.

3. Reports

Parish Council Reports for 2015/16.

Chairman's Report

The Parish Council Chairman, Dave Roberts, welcomed all to the meeting. He reminded the meeting that the change of name to Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council had now taken place.

Communication:

He advised that the parish council website belbroughtonandfairfield-pc.info was now up and running and requested comments on its content. The Parish Council continued to e mail residents with information and would add further names to the group database as were requested by residents. The latest Newsletter had just been issued.

The Lengthsman Scheme:

The scheme involves clearing ditches and gullies adjacent to highways and is carried out on behalf of Worcs C.C. as the service provided by the Parish.Council was more economic and better targeted than the County Council could provide. He thanked Lengthsman David Aldridge who retired 31st March 2016 for his work over the previous 11 years and welcome Nigel Williamson to the role.

Parish Council in the Community:

He advised that maintenance of 'Green Spaces' in the parish involved two contract gardeners. The grass cutting contract cost £5,500 last year. Dog waste bins are provided at a annual cost of £1,800.

Ringway Plc had provided a day of free activity to help a 'Village Tidy' in Belbroughton village centre. He thanked their staff for the work. A Fairfield W.W.1. Commemoration Orchard had been planted at the recreation ground. Support for in the parish included working with Bromsgrove D.C. to provide services for enhancing individual's computer skills in Belbroughton and Fairfield.

Parish Meeting Room : The current lease on the room would end at the end of June. It is to be re-let.

The Parish Precept has been reduced by 7.7 % for the 2016/17 year.

1.

Parish Projects:

He advised that the following were completed or in progress:

Belbroughton Christmas Tree lights – Completed.

Planting at entrances to Fairfield – Completed.

Diversion of Hackmans Gate footpath –Ongoing.

Defibrillator - in conjunction with Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee – Underway

Major issues:

Veolia ES Ltd planning application

He advised that the planning application has just been formally accepted by W.C.C. The consultation document 1750 pages long – was available on CD. The Parish Council has not yet seen document. The Environment Agency has granted a permit to Ballast Phoenix Ltd for the incinerator bottom ash facility at the site and the landowners Veolia were now seeking planning permission. The Parish Council continues to oppose the application with concerns over the aquifer, the green belt and possible air pollution.

The Green Belbroughton

The Development had still not started. The boundary of The Green was secured. The Agreement with developer was not finalised and remained with the lawyers.

Bus Services

The proposed Dial-Ride-Scheme did not happen due to lack of public support. Bus services in County remain under threat

Future Issues / Projects:

Severn Trent Frankley Alternative Water Scheme: This is the proposed new pipeline for water abstraction from the River Severn to Birmingham which will go through parish. Concerns had been raised over a treatment reservoir planned in Romsley Parish.

County Minerals Plan: Potential new extraction sites will be sought by the County Council.

Potential crossing near school on Stourbridge Road Fairfield : Discussions to be held with Worcestershire CC re feasibility. Need for Community input. Need to consider effect on shop and general community. Requires funding from Worcs CC. which was not readily cash rich

‘Smartwater’ Initiative: The Council will decide whether to back the crime prevention initiative, of providing the marking kits to all residents and sought residents views.

Finance Report

Cllr. Bradley (Chair of the Finance Committee) advised that the Council receives income from both the Precept (Council Tax element) and income from its owned assets. The first category amounted to £65,000 and tax support monies of £2,849, plus £3,147 from the County Council for the Lengthsman Scheme for the year to 31st March 2016. Expenditure for the year was £58,621 resulting in a surplus of £12,375. Clerk (sal,n.i.c.,pension) £16,205 Queens Hill Wall £10,000 return of funds to reserves, Footway Lighting £6,175, Grass Cutting £5,550, Maintenance Grants to parish bodies £4,625, Gen Admin £3,947, Lengthsman £3,565, Open Spaces £2,644, Dog bins £1,797, Insurance £914, General Maintenance £822.

2.

Maintenance grants had been paid out to :-

- Belbroughton Parochial Church Council £2,080
- Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,155
- Fairfield Village Hall £695
- Belbroughton Church Hall £695

The secondary income source - Income from Council assets: Agricultural Holdings rents £7,295 Belbroughton Parish Room Rent £5,750 Fairfield Villa F C rent £2,517 Investment income from cash resources £17,248* and, Wayleaves £511 . This total of £33,321 was distributed via grants and donations with the balance placed to reserves:-

- Capital Grants:
- Belbroughton Recreation Centre £1,161
- Belbroughton Church Hall £1,598
- Parish Projects:
- Christmas Lights Belbroughton £1,616
- Fairfield Bus shelters upgrade £1,500
- Fairfield Gardening £500
- Footpath diversion/improvement £2,000
- Minor Grants:
- Fairfield Social Club £250
- More the Merrier £250
- Fairfield Welcome Club £250
- Donation C.A.B Bromsgrove £275

*This figure includes the maturity proceeds of £15,130 from a five year investment bond of £50,000.

The Council had the following investments as at 31st March 2016. The interest income from these is used to fund grants projects and donations. Its policy is to retain the capital sums including annual inflation changes.

Bank of Cyprus	£26,089
Cambridge & Counties Bank	£71,141
Shawbrook Bank	£25,000
Secure Trust Bank	£20,000
Hampshire Trust Bank	£50,000
Nationwide B. Society	£20,000
Scottish Widows Bank	£64,000

Planning Report Cllr. Chris Scurrell (Chair of the Planning Committee) gave a brief outline of the work of the Committee, advising that 42 planning applications had been heard, with the Committee recommending approval for 15, approval with conditions for 21 and refusal for 4. The Committee maintains a close watch on the activities and planning applications at the three quarries within the Parish. He advised that the Planning Committee meets once a month and that residents were always welcome. The Committee would be carefully monitoring the situation with the Veolia planning application.

Agricultural Holdings Report Cllr. Roberts in the absence of Cllr. Hood (Chair of the Committee) advised that the council owned 85 acres of agricultural land in the Wildmoor/ Stoneybridge areas. This is let to 13 tenants and is used for various cropping types. It provides a regular income for the Council, now at £7,300 p.a. which is used to fund community Parish Projects, Capital and Minor Grants. The Council inspects the holdings during the year to ensure they are well maintained. As well as providing a regular income the land is a significant area of Green Belt in the Council's ownership and therefore control.

4. Mick Simpson Project Manager 'We Don't Buy Crime'

Mr Simpson gave a presentation on the 'Smartwater' marking kits which the Parish council would later in the year consider making available to all residents for a cost to the Council of £10,000. The Parish Council sought views of the residents attending and a number of points of view were brought forward. The meeting itself did not take any formal vote on the matter as no motion was proposed.

5. Footpath Wardens

Paul Hardcastle, the volunteer Footpath Warden, continued to give his time maintaining and improving the footpaths. He advised that should residents like to help on their projects to contact the clerk.

Works this year, jointly with W.C.C. included levelling and widening the pathway from Cricket Club to Breach House. New gates on the path at Hurst Lane to Mearse Lane. Also, with the assistance of the W.C.C. Community Payback Group major winter clearance works were carried out on paths from Hurst Farm to Wood Lane Fairfield and Madeley Road to Harbours Hill.

The Parish council chairman thanked him for his works during the year.

6. Parish Organisations

Fairfield W.I. - Mrs Kath Davis outlined the recent activities in the club including the attendance of officers at a training event partly funded by the parish council.

Fairfield Villa F.C. – Mr K Nind advised of the activities at the football club.

7. Residents Open Forum Wildmoor Residents Association - Mr Hugh Norris advised that the association was actively to obtain evidence to support an objection to the Veolia planning application in Wildmoor. It also would keep a watchful eye on any future proposed expansion of the Wildmoor quarry. He invited residents to the association's AGM on 19th May 2016.

A resident requested improvements to the bus shelters in Fairfield.

A resident was unhappy with the Parish Council's article on speeding in a prior newsletter.

4.

A resident felt that more could be done to calm traffic in Fairfield.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending the evening.

The meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

UNAPPROVED