

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Fairfield First School Monday 5th December 2016.

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, S MacDonald, P Margetts, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons and, C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 16 members of the public also attended.

382/16 Apologies - Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs .Jones and Pawley. Apologies had also been received from District Cllr. Sherrey.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for the 'Open Surgery' and also to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening's agenda.

The meeting re-opened.

383/16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Margetts declared a discloseable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 6b and an other discloseable interest in agenda item 7.

384/16 Dispensations:

Cllr. Margetts requested a dispensation to remain in the meeting and speak and vote during agenda item 6b. Council agreed the dispensation request.

Cllr. Margetts requested a dispensation to remain in the meeting and speak but not to vote during agenda item 7. Council agreed the dispensation request.

385/16 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of Council 7th November 2016 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

386/16 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Bradley reminded the Council that Cllr. Dave Roberts had submitted his letter of resignation from the Council. Cllr. Bradley proposed a motion which was approved recording the Council's thanks to him for his huge contribution over a number of years especially during his term as chairman and it regretted that he had resigned.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 21st November 2016

Finance Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett advised that the main item had been the consideration of the 2017/18 budget and the recommendation of no change in the precept. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 21st November 2016.

Clerk's Report:

1. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had approved the clerk confirming to the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee that it may utilise Sylvester's Corner for Christmas lights and a nativity scene.
2. A reminder of the Quarries meeting at B.D.C .Friday 9th Dec 1.00pm and the quarterly area Calc meeting also at B.D.C. Weds 14th Dec 6.30pm.
3. A letter of thanks has been received from the Bromsgrove C.A.B. following the donation of £300.

4. Items for a winter newsletter should be sent to the clerk, which will be considered by the January Council.
5. Little Bell Hall Pool / Belne Stream. The new trash screen is due to be fitted Monday 12th December. Cllrs. Hood and Margetts removed a significant amount of debris from the culvert chambers during w/end of 26th/27th November following heavy rains.
6. Defibrillator: The British Heart Foundation via the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee have been asked for confirmation that a lock may be fitted to the cabinet.
7. Christmas lights Belbroughton – B.D.C. operatives are due to visit the site 6th December to lift some of the cables to reduce the threat of further vandalism. Following this work the lights will be lit.
8. Parish Room Belbroughton – the asbestos survey has been completed. The change of use planning application is due for decision any time after 12th Dec. There are to date no recorded objections, the Conservation Officer is though yet to record her comments.
9. Tree Survey: One quote has been received for the approved tree works – three more are awaited all will be considered by the Finance Committee.
10. Severn Trent will be distributing newsletters to residents who live close to the pipeline route during the week detailing timescales of the works etc. A link will also be on the PC website.
11. The councillor member vacancy has been registered at B.D.C. and the process is therefore underway for recruiting a replacement.

County and District Cllrs. Reports:

Council noted concern at the lack of any representation on the evening from the County and District but acknowledged the very useful monthly reports that were sent to the Parish Council by County Cllr. Sheila Blagg.

387/16 Agricultural Holdings Rent Review

- a. Council approved the re-opening of the decision recorded within minute 265/16 dated 5th September 2016.
- b. The Chairman allowed comments from members of the public and for clerk and councillor responses to questions raised. Council deferred a decision and approved referring the item for further consideration to the Agricultural Holdings Committee. Council declined by six votes to four to require the Agricultural Holdings Committee to seek a formal view from a local land agent.

388/16 Parish Council Logo

Council approved by five votes to three votes a new logo to reflect the two main parts of the parish following the change of name. The design features a typical Worcestershire scene with an oak tree and post and rail fence with Belne Brook in the foreground – a common sight in the parish plus a view of the Clent Hills which are a popular landmark feature seen from the parish. The winner Ms Margetts will receive the prize of £100. The Council understands that the prize monies will actually be passed on by the recipient to the 'Help for Heroes' charity. There would be 'fine tuning' of the design.

389/16 Footpaths

- a. Volunteer footpath warden Paul Hardcastle advised that WCC would be willing to carry out works on the bridle path BB555 but would require a contribution from the Parish Council. Council approved providing up to £2,000 for the project to improve the bridle path from opposite Waystone Lane towards Bradford House.
Council requested the clerk and footpath warden liaise with both the WCC and the adjacent landowner as to whether the landowner should contribute to the costs.
- b. Paul Hardcastle advised that the WCC will take on strimming of outer parts of the parish area but may only be once a year with no specific date advised. Council approved the proposed increase in the general footpaths budget for 2017/18 from £500 to £2,500.
- c. Council approved the recruitment of an additional footpath warden for the Fairfield area to work alongside Paul Hardcastle as a deputy. Council noted that the cost of training and supplying a strimmer and personal protection equipment would need to be taken from the funds under note b. above.

390/16 Trees, Maintenance and bins.

- a. Cllr. Margetts advised that he had spoken to the relatives who had arranged the installation of the bench surrounding and plaque on the tree now due to be felled at Ram Ally. Council approved the principle of providing a new sapling replacement.
Action: Cllr. Margetts would discuss options with both local residents and the Cound family.
- b. This item was deferred to a future Council since Western Power had not supplied the necessary information.
- c. Council noted the request from a resident that a further tree on Sylvester's Corner should be assessed for possible reducing. Council approved seeking a view from the B.D.C. Tree Officer on the smaller tree at issue.
Action: the clerk to arrange the tree officer visit.
- d. Council approved the funding of a replacement lid to a vandalised litter bin in High St Belbroughton following the quotation obtained by Cllr. Pawley.
Action: Cllr. Pawley to progress.
- e. Council deferred a decision to request the removal of the WCC grit bin from Pepperwood Close pending a recommendation from Fairfield Cllrs. on the need to install a parish council bin at a more appropriate site and confirming when would be the ideal time to remove the WCC bin. A further proposal to come to the January Council.
- f. Council deferred a decision on further maintenance works at Fairfield Recreation Ground requesting that Fairfield Cllrs. provide a schedule of proposed jobs and costings for consideration.

Cllr. MacDonald gave apologies and left the meeting.

391/16 Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2017/18.

a & b. Council noted the recommendations of the Finance Committee, and the adjustment made in respect of the additional funds for 'footpaths', which had been moved from the 'open spaces' budget line.

Council approved that the £300 donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau should continue to be in the budget.

Council however approved a motion to potentially raise the precept above the budget figure of £60,000 by five votes in favour, 4 against and one abstention. Council would consider further the Precept at the January council.

Council was content that the Finance Committee could revisit the figures at its next meeting.

392/16 Working Groups

Due to time constraints the item was deferred until a future council. The Chairman advised that working groups should though consider their requirements for a replacement member following the resignation of Dave Roberts who was involved in a number of the groups.

393/16 Annual Parish Meeting

The clerk advised that the Fairfield Village Hall had informed him that the hall was not available on 25th May and Council agreed that further to a second confirmation that this remained the position then the meeting should continue to be held at that venue but on 3rd May when the hall was definitely available.

Action: clerk to arrange.

394/16 The Green Belt

Council approved that the M.P. Sajid Javid should be requested to address the council and residents to explain his position on development within the Green Belt. This would be a meeting the council would facilitate but it would not be a council meeting.

Action: the clerk to make the request.

395/16 Parish Council Dinner

Council agreed that the dinner would be held in Belbroughton, probably the Talbot, on January 30th. Members would cover their own costs, the clerk his spouse and Lengthsman and footpath wardens would be invited and their meals paid for by the Council. Invitations would be sent to County and District Cllrs. whom would need to cover their own costs.

396/16 Councillor Items

Cllr. Hood requested that the school properly heat the room during meetings.

Action: the caretaker would be contacted immediately after the meeting.

Cllr. Margetts requested that Lengthsman action on gullies and pavement work in the centre of Belbroughton is prioritised rather than work on more outlying areas.

Action: the clerk to speak with the Lengthsman.

Cllr. Parsons requested that the cleaning of the Fairfield war memorial is considered at a future council.

Cllr. Boswell requested that further 'Lengthsman' work is considered a requirement for Fairfield. The Chairman requested that the Lengthsman mentors assess this need with Fairfield Cllrs. after assessing the annual schedule the Lengthsman worked to

Cllr. Mabbett requested that a future council considers the quotations he has now received for the carpark extension work at Fairfield Recreation Ground.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that WCC supply an update regarding a request for a dropped kerb in Fairfield.

Action: the clerk to chase.

Cllr. Mabbett requested an update on the BDC outstanding review of condition of the Stourbridge Rd bus shelter.

Action: the clerk to chase.

The Meeting was closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed Chairman

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