

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 7th September 2020.

Present: Cllrs. S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. 0 members of the public.
County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

218/20 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, A Homer and G Parsons.

219/20 Declarations of Interest None. **220/20 Dispensations** None.

221/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meetings held on 6th and 13th July 2020.

222/20 Reports

Chairman's report:

Cllr. Morgan advised he was glad to be back and looking forward to a productive September.

Planning Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 20th July 2020.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 20th July 2020.

Clerk's Report:

1. The bi-annual survey of the trees on Parish Council owned green spaces will take place on 21st September.
2. Benches Belbroughton – Cllrs. Pawley and Hood are considering which benches are to be replaced and which are to be refurbished.
3. The Green, Belbroughton – we await a date from Kidderminster Memorials for the four millstones to be installed. Also, the County Council are still to advise on the 'vintage style' lamp standard option.
4. Fairfield Recreation Ground- Playarea – aluminium usage warning signage has been installed.
5. Fairfield First School – remains unable to host P.C. meetings – this will be reviewed with the Head Teacher in January.
6. Reminder of a Bromsgrove Area Calc meeting via Zoom 10.00am Weds 9th Sept. Dale Birch and Ruth Bamford from the District Council Planning Dept. will be available to answer questions on enforcement and the Government's new planning white paper.
7. Lighting: W.C.C. have undertaken (free of charge) on our behalf a lighting column strength survey of the 80 units owned by the P.C. Their report is expected by the end of September. It will detail where there are defective columns and thus a need to replace. The projected costs and timescale required for these will be suggested by W.C.C. and Council might wish to tie this in with the approval already given for a third of the stock to have lantern replacements to the more efficient 'l.e.d.s'.

County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. May

'Covid – 19'

She advised that the Local Engagement Board for 'Covid -19' had met fortnightly but this would be a monthly session from 19th August.

Twice weekly updates are received from the 'Silver Command' on the local Bromsgrove situation. Bromsgrove's proximity to Birmingham had previously resulted in issues with discharges from hospitals into care homes in Bromsgrove leading to cases occurring in those homes. Care home staff are now being tested weekly. And, care home residents monthly.

An education programme on car sharing is coming out – i.e. wear masks if sharing.

Overhead gantries on M5 will display messages on social distancing and hand washing.

The test and trace 'Nimrod' system in Worcestershire is recognised as a better platform than most and could be award winning. Public Health Worcs. keep in contact with Public Health B'ham on issues. The temporary road crossing at Asda Bromsgrove should end shortly, it was noted there was difficulty socially distancing at the crossing.

Bromsgrove Covid case levels are at a consistent 6/7 per week.

Testing locally - arranged via telephone 111 is taking place at the Artrix Theatre carpark.

Corporate strategy meetings are being held at W.C.C. to assess the next budget – challenges are many including discussing a Redditch Borough Council request to set up as a unitary authority. This is not a straightforward issue and supposed cost savings were not correct.

Double yellow lines are now in force outside Belbroughton Primary School and the District Council has invested £15,000 to enhance the enforcement officer resource.

Bus shelter A491 – The 'Place Team' will repair this and also tidy the central reservation.

The Talbot P.H. carpark issue – Dale Birch of BDC. will advise on the planning legalities of the CCTV set up.

Roads: Hockley Brook Lane will have a 'surface overlay' in October and redressing in Spring 2021. Dark Lane and Warbage Lane will also be redressed next spring.

Govt. Planning White Paper – the bulk of the parish area is 'green belt' which remains in place as do conservation areas. BDC /RBC has though a challenge to provide 694 new homes p.a. for the coming 10 year period. The former Council site at Burcot Lane Bromsgrove is now sold on to developers who should commence building works shortly.

The Artrix – The Holding Trust (not the District Council) has to agree and put forward proposals for its survival.

Cllr. Webb

Advised - Libraries are opening up again – although with revised hours – see the WCC website. Schools are all back – Fairfield First School has staggered times – parents are parking both at The Swan P.H. and the service road – she has had no reports of congestion.

Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield – work on the verge will begin in November - including the dropped kerbs – a temporary road closure will be needed.

Brook Road, Fairfield - speed monitoring strips will be put down in due course. The police have been asked to monitor traffic.

Stoneybridge service Road, Fairfield – the overgrown vegetation will be cut by end of October.

Swan Lane, Fairfield - two drains still need remedial work.

Stourbridge Road, Fairfield – relining will take place on the mini roundabout and the 30mph 'in road' signs.

223/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

- a. Council noted the certification report dated 17th August 2020 from the external auditors advising that no actions were required in respect of the Council's governance. Thus, a clean audit.
- b. Council noted that it has Risk Assessment processes in place and carries adequate insurance cover for identifiable risks.
- c. Council approved the re-appointment of Mr John Benner as the Parish Council's internal auditor.

224/20 Website review / accessibility requirements (*The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018*)

Council approved contracting the website amendments work to Richard James of Tech-Eze (Hagley) Ltd. Approved cost of £250. **Action:** the clerk to instruct the work.

225/20 Fairfield – Dog waste bins

Council noted that residents had requested two additional bins. Council approved that these would be purchased however any donations allegedly offered from the Woodland Trust Community based at Pepperwood – one of the sites - would be useful.

Action: Fairfield Cllrs. would assess the positions requested and sizes of bins needed and then request the clerk arranges the purchase and installation.

226/20 Fairfield Recreation Ground

- a. Council noted that two trees needed replacing but also that the poor condition of the underlying ground at the site may be an issue. It would wish to appoint a professional gardening contractor before any planting (which should anyway be carried out during winter months.).
- b. Drainage – Cllrs. are to further review the N.W.W.M. report along with obtaining landscapers quotes for the recommended works. Such works though should be in conjunction with both developing the 'orchard' area and assessing the use of wetland plants where there may be grant assistance available.

Council approved the setting up of a Working Group to deal with a. and b. above which ideally was to also include local residents. Councillors Ingram, Mabbett and Morgan would join the group.

Action: Cllr. Mabbett would canvass for local residents to join the Working Group.

227/20 Capital Grant

Council approved a Capital Grant of £414.00 to the Belbroughton Cricket Club towards the purchase of a new pavilion clock. It agreed the grant notwithstanding that the item had been purchased prior to the application being considered, however the Council made allowance for delays in application submissions during the health crisis.

Action: The clerk to advise the club and make the payment.

228/20 Speeding – Fairfield, Brook Road

Council while noting that C.Cllr Webb was to set up speed check strips, no reference number had yet been issued by way of confirmation.

Cllr.Mabbett advised that there were probably 11 houses situated beyond the present 30mph zone and the area was seeing increased traffic especially HGVs usage.

Council approved seeking from County Council Highways an extension of the 30mph zone to the bottom of Snuff Hill. If it was not possible to achieve this, then the deregulated section should become a 40mph zone.

Council noted that there was no footway on the section and it wishes to promote cycling and walking which would be easier with a suitable speed limit in force.

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

229/20 Parish Upkeep (Maintenance, Including gardening)

Council agreed that Cllr. Patchell should co-ordinate fresh working schedules for the upkeep of Parish owned areas, and then with the clerk source potential contractors. (Fairfield Cllrs. would provide Cllr. Patchell and the clerk with the schedules for the Fairfield ward.).

The October Council would consider the schedules and aim to approve a new contractor to carry out the upkeep works.

Action: Belbroughton and Fairfield members to inform Cllr. Patchell of parish upkeep needs and then he and the clerk to obtain quotes from contractors.

230/20 C.C.T.V. – Belbroughton

This item was deferred until October Council as Cllr Allington the promoting member had been unable to attend the meeting.

231/20 Use of Parish Council land

Council approved in principle a requirement for event users of Parish Council land to supply as security returnable cash bond to ensure that areas are cleared up after usage – The amount of bond required would be dependent on the size and nature of the event and left to the clerks discretion.

232/20 Councillors' Items

Cllrs Pawley and Danks requested a future council consider actions to deal with speeding at the lower end of High Street, Belbroughton and on Top Road, Wildmoor.

Cllr. Danks requested and Council agreed that it should ask W.C.C. Highways to provide a cul- de-sac sign for the junction of Third Road and Middle since Middle Road was such and lorries were often getting 'lost'.

Cllr. Danks requested and Council agreed that it should ask W.C.C. Highways to place a weight restriction notice on Top Road, Wildmoor at the bridge over Battlefield Brook.

Cllr. Danks questioned how 'Sat Navs' data could be amended to advise that Top Road and Wildmoor Lane were unsuitable for h.g.v.s.

Action: the clerk would raise these issues with W.C.C.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the number of trustees running the Fairfield Village Hall was reducing and it was difficult to attract new trustees. He and the clerk were investigating the fall back position for the Hall and the Parish Council should the trust 'fail'.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that a gate on the Recreation ground was again faulty, probably Cllr. Ingram advised, due to vandalism. The Finance Committee 21st September would consider replacing it with a more robust gate.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that he has contacted W.C.C. regarding their lack of action on the government's Statutory Guidance on social distancing. While C.Cllr. Amos had acknowledged the request for information there had been no tangible response. Thus, he had now contacted the Secretary of State for Transport.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.