

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Fairfield First School on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Homer, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.  
Clerk, J Farrell. County Cllr. K May and five members of the public.

**036/19 Apologies** – None.

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.

**037/19 Declarations of Interest** Cllr. Pawley declared an interest in agenda item 7:  
*"Grants a. To hear a presentation from a representative of Belbroughton Recreation Centre.  
b. To consider a Capital Grant application from the Belbroughton Recreation Centre."*  
since she was a member of the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Committee.

**038/19 Dispensations** Cllr. Pawley requested a Dispensation in relation to agenda item 7 to remain in the meeting and to speak but not to vote. Council agreed the Dispensation.

### **039/19 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 after agreeing an amendment to minute 011/19: First sentence – **deleted** 'Dark Lane' – **inserted** - 'on Parish Council owned land at the junction of Holy Cross Lane and Dark Lane, Belbroughton'.

The Chairman then signed the minute book.

### **040/19 Reports**

#### *Chairman's report:*

Cllr. Bradley noted it was a long agenda and requested concise comments during the meeting.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

*Financial Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

#### *Clerk's Report:*

1. WCC Chief Executive Paul Robinson has accepted your invitation to meet the council. He will attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> June Council.
2. As is probably known the P.C.'s defibrillator at the Talbot was used 27<sup>th</sup> January, the pads have been therefore been replaced plus a new rescue pack put into the cabinet. The Chairman and Vice Chairman under delegated powers approved the immediate purchase of these items plus a new battery at a total cost of £292.50.
3. Smartwater – Review of the Fairfield ward roll out and consideration of a scheme for Belbroughton ward was due at this council – However this is postponed until the March council due to the length of and priorities on the agenda this evening.
4. Advance notice of a presentation at the March council from Fortis Living who wish to advise members of a request they may make to the Bromsgrove District Council for a Rural Exception Site adjacent to and including No.2 Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield.

5. Belbroughton Rec. Centre – Approved P.C. Grant (up to £20k.) for playground improvements. I'm advised that the 'Rec's' grant application with Biffa P.L.C. for £75k remains pending and it is therefore very unlikely that any call on the P.C. grant will be made before the year end of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
6. Fairfield Rec. Ground potential extension of playarea: - the District Council have advised via e mail on the size limits to work to for putting in additional equipment without planning permission. The Council is also advised to liaise with the Project Officer within the Leisure and Cultural Services Team at Bromsgrove/Redditch District Council to discuss the plans of the Parish Council in more detail and how this would fit in with the District Council's own public open space strategy.
7. W.C.C. Highways have advised that they will arrange the jetting of the gullies on Bradford Lane from Bradford House to Waystone Lane.
8. Tree Decision Notices have been issued by the District Council permitting health and safety work on trees sited in the Conservation Area (excepting the felling of a sycamore on The Green, Belbroughton which was felt not to be unsafe). Permission is also given separately for the cypress trees to be felled on The Green, Belbroughton. Access to The Green will be via the Talbot P.H. carpark which has been agreed with the landlord. We await a date for the works from the contractor.

*County Cllr.Report:* Cllr. May had circulated a report.

She further advised that the County Council had obtained £23m extra funding from Central Government which would now give it 'headroom' in its budget.

The Council is to approve its budget on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February she will meet with WCC Highways Richard Clewer and Parish cllrs. to assess usage of divisional funds for improvements to the infrastructure in and around High St. Belbroughton.

#### **041/19 Scarecrow 2019**

- a. Council heard a presentation from members of the '2019 Belbroughton Scarecrow' organising committee regarding the entity involved and its plans for running an event later this year on 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Council members then questioned the representatives on these plans and likely costs.
- b. Council noted that a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.) now existed as the entity to run the event. Council approved by 10 votes in favour, 1 vote against and three abstentions to in principle assist the C.I.C. with funding of up to £10,000 to provide working capital in advance of the event in 2019. A formal request including a business plan would be submitted by the C.I.C. in due course for consideration.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation.

**Action:** The clerk to confirm to the C.I.C.

#### **042/19 Grants**

- a. Council heard a presentation from the Chairman of the Belbroughton Recreation Centre detailing an application for a Parish Council Capital Grant of £3,702.50, being 50% of the costs of assisting with improvements to the Centre's external site and also internal cleaning machinery. Council had been provided with a specific schedule of works. It also had seen copies of the latest financial accounts - a requirement of the Grants assessment process.
- b. Council, having previously approved extending the deadline for consideration of Capital Grant funds for 2018/19 financial year approved the application from the Belbroughton Recreation Centre and allocated £3,702.50 from the current year's budget.

The Chairman thanked the representative for his presentation.

**Action:** The clerk to confirm to the Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

#### **043/19 County Council Libraries Review**

**a.& b.** Council noted that Cllr. Morgan had met with Hagley Parish Council and members of W.C.C. to discuss the W.C.C. libraries consultation. This consultation while covering the whole of Worcestershire specifically suggested that the Hagley library, used by residents of this parish area, should become self-funded, and be run in the future purely by volunteers.

Cllr. May advised that the statutory requirement was to provide just one library for the Bromsgrove District but she did not wish to see others closed.

Should the County Council decide after the consultation to implement its suggested reductions in financial support for Hagley Library the Council approved in principle by 9 votes in favour and 5 votes against to support Hagley library with a grant of £1,000 in the financial year 2020/21. This being contingent upon the results of the consultation and the resultant County Council budget for that year having decided to withdraw support. Any funds finally agreed would be taken from the Parish Council's 'Ordinary (Precepted) Income'.

Council agreed to encourage volunteers to apply for positions at the Hagley library.

**Action:** The clerk would respond to the W.C.C. consultation.

: Volunteers would be sought via the Parish Council's electronic media.

#### **044/19 Quarries**

- a. Council approved a response to the County Council 4<sup>th</sup> Minerals Plan Consultation in which it would emphasise concerns that should be addressed of the cumulative impact on the area of the many existing quarries and potential further applications. Such impacts on the area related to water quality, being in a flood water protection No.2 zone, and, traffic movements. Importance should be given to ensuring adequate terms relating to enforcement on restoration and traffic violations.
- b. In addition to the present quarterly stakeholders meetings at the District Council, Council agreed to aim work together with Bournheath and Romsley parish councils, plus the Wildmoor Residents Association. This grouping would be led by Cllrs. Ingram and Jones.

**Action:** The clerk would respond to the consultation and liaise with the local parish councils.

#### **045/19 Belbroughton Primary School – traffic issues**

- a. Council noted a presentation from C.Cllr. May advising that following a meeting at the school with the Head and Chair of Governors it was recorded that traffic was chaotic at drop off and pick up times. Consideration was now being undertaken by W.C.C. for a bollard to be in place opposite the school to prevent turning which was causing disruption. Council endorsed that parents should be encouraged to use the Belbroughton Rec and Church Hall carparks and requested that it was kept informed on any traffic calming measures decided by W.C.C.
- b. Council did not consider any further actions.

#### **046/19 Annual Parish Meeting**

Council agreed that the Parish Council input would be reduced in time and content to leave more time for residents' discussions. The Footpaths wardens would be asked to present and an invite would be sent to the 2019 Scarecrow Committee, but not to other groups. The District & County councillors would be invited to present but it was acknowledged that due to 'Purdah' their input may be limited.

Cllr. Mabbett left the meeting.

**12.**

**047/19 The Green Belbroughton**

Council agreed to consider this item ahead of Agenda item 12.

Council noted an update from Cllr. Hood, he advised that the developer is looking to commence works on the new homes site towards the end of May after renovation work on his adjacent properties on Hartle Lane. The developer was in contact with the Tree Officer regarding the drainage link from the new development site to the High St. and the restoration of the existing path. Cllr. Pawley advised that the line of cypress trees will be coming out shortly. When the date was known from the contractor this would be advised by leaflet to residents in the immediate locality and more widely on social media.

Thereafter Council noted that the Working Group would arrange to meet again to discuss the next phase of works, which would include residents' consultation.

**048/19 Little Bell Hall Pool / Belne Brook Site**

- a. Cllr. Morgan advised that the working group now recommended a limited tidy up of the site and had so far received two quotes. Works would include creation of 'habistacks' as the group was keen to have a limited impact on the existing wildlife sensitive environment. A further quote was to be sought for the work, however Council approved by 10 votes in favour and 2 votes against and 1 abstention that unless this quote was significantly below the current preferred tender then the works would be commissioned without further recourse to Council with a cost of up to £7,000.

**Action:** the clerk to report on the third quote and as appropriate instruct the preferred contractor.

- b. Due to time constraints Council deferred to a future Council meeting consideration of the future of the site.

**049/19 Dark Lane, Belbroughton**

Council approved the positioning of a new bench onto Parish Council land at the junction of Dark Lane and Holy Cross Lane. The bench and installation costs were being borne, as requested by a Belbroughton family and as approved at the February Council.

**050/19 Neighbourhood Plan**

Due to time constraints this item was postponed until a future council.

**051/19 Belbroughton War Memorial**

Due to time constraints this item was postponed until a future council.

**052/19 Councillors' Items – None.**

**The meeting was closed at 10.20pm**

Signed ..... Chairman