

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 1st February 2021.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Patchell and S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. 3 members of the public. County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

30/21 Apologies

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. J Boswell, A Homer. D.Cllr. Sherrey sent apologies via D.Cllr May.

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

The meeting re-opened.

31/21 Declarations of Interest None. **32/21 Dispensations** None.

33/21 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th January 2021.

34/21 Reports

Chairman's report:

Delighted that P.C. is now 'achieving'.

Planning Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 18th January 2021.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 18th January 2021.

Clerk's Report:

1. Dolfor House, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor: B.D.C. advise that the planning Inspectorate under ref: APP/P1805/X/18/3209389 will hold the Inquiry into the appeals against the District Councils decision on refusing industrial activities from 10.00.am 9th February 2021.
2. W.M.Police are seeking Parish Council involvement in monitoring a defibrillator which they are looking to site in a disused police box on Quantry Lane, Bell Heath. Full details of the plan are awaited for the P.C. to consider.
3. Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership (WCRP) is seeking P.C. thoughts on how to promote better rail usage and seeking suggestions for improvements to link Worcestershire stations to the public.
4. Belbroughton Village security: David Rischmiller Community Safety Projects Officer will hold a zoom meeting with Council members in the next fortnight to discuss options for improving security following the spate of robberies at the village shop.

10.

5. Greenaways have accepted and signed the contract for the grass cutting and village upkeep for 2021.

6. Grit bins: Nigel Williamson has refilled the bins again after the January frosts and snow.

7. The 'green' bus shelter Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield: The District Council have confirmed they own it and I have asked whether they will replace the two damaged panels and discoloured perspex screens.

8. A reminder that there are links on the Parish Council website for numeric information on the local 'Coronavirus' cases.

County and District Councillors reports:

C.Cllr. May advised :

Covid 19 - While case figures are down, one care home has a significant outbreak and there is an outbreak at the District Council itself. The Worcester Royal Hospital is under stress with 25 of 28 critical care beds in use. (This is a 25% less capacity due to Covid regulations) The County Council continues to engage with community groups and workplaces on prevention measures.

Care homes remain a concern but Worcestershire is 2nd in country with a 89% roll out of vaccinations to care homes. The former 'Artrix Centre' is now open with a capacity for 10k vaccinations per week. Feedback on the operational aspects is good.

The road gully outside 54 High St. Belbroughton has been cleared.

Flooding on Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton has been reported to Richard Clewer to urgently arrange contractors to visit. There could be an issue with heavy rains runoff from ploughed fields.

£54k is available for District Council owned bus shelters maintenance works and so requested jobs should be possible from within this allocation.

C.Cllr. Webb advised that the Traffic Regulation Order (Speed limit reduction from National Speed Limit to 40m.p.h.) for the Stourbridge Road from the Stoneybridge island to the circa the Fairfield village boundary had finished its consultation process, with no objections recorded. She will advise when the signage is to be erected.

A new Policeman, Lloyd Stone is in place and is keen to deal with speeding issues and setting up of P.A.C.T meetings.

Parish Council members raised issues with what were thought to be illegal parking at various sites and both D.Cllrs agreed upon receipt of images from Cllrs. to ask enforcement officers to visit.

11.

35/21 Fairfield Villa F.C.

a.Council deferred a decision on the club's request for a rental freeze and would seek information on the clubs current financial position and whether it had applied to the District Council for financial support.

b.Council appointed Cllrs. Mabbett, Ingram and Morgan to form a Working Group to work with the football club on the terms of renewal of the lease which expires in September 2022.

Action: the clerk to request the information from F.V.F.C.

36/21 Fairfield Recreation Ground - Improvements

a.Council noted the previously circulated Zoom consultation meetings' points held on 11th and 19th January with the public and District Council.

b. Council approved seeking tenders for drainage works as detailed in the recommendations from the North Worcestershire Water Management. It would however be looking for an amendment to the specification to ensure no additional water would be discharged onto any adjacent landowners.

Action: The clerk to seek tenders for the drainage works and refer these to the Finance Committee.

c. Council agreed from the consultations that three improvement phases are required:

1. Sorting the footpath drainage issues. **2.** Redevelop corner area garden with input from the school /orchard soil investigation / planting a wild, sensory or 'wet' garden. (All are possibly grant fundable). **3.** Carparking, while approval in principle by the Council for an extension this is 'on hold' due to high cost of quotes received and there will be a reassessment of best use of funds. Possible outdoor gym equipment. Possible hardstanding track surround of the football pitch. Council would concentrate initially on the first 2 phases.

Action: The clerk to seek a contractor to survey the soil conditions under the orchard area as the fruit trees are growing poorly.

37/21 Broadband - 'Fibre To The Property'

a.Council noted the 'exploratory' meeting held 29th January on the processes of setting up community lead schemes for installation of 1 gigabyte fibre roll out to both residential and commercial premises.

b.Council approved acting as the 'Community Lead' for installation of F.T.T.P. with the aim of including all areas of the Parish. It noted that the various telephone exchanges areas did not match the parish area boundaries and the desire would be, working with the County Council Broadband & Connectivity Team, to ensure full coverage. This may also require involvement with adjacent schemes already in progress.

Action: The clerk to register the P.C. as a 'Community Lead' with Openreach. The clerk, and Cllrs. to work up an implementation strategy with Rob Stepniewski - W.C.C. Broadband & Connectivity Team. The co-ordinate actions with the County Cllrs. and other local community schemes.

12.

38/21 Belbroughton Recreation Centre

a. Council approved a matched funding financial offer for the purchase of a defibrillator by the Centre.

b. Council approved donating two 'old' benches which were surplus to requirements, one each to the Centre and the Belbroughton Cricket Club. The donations would be on an 'As Seen' basis with the request that necessary refurbishments are carried out prior the benches being re-used.

Cllr. Allington proposed and Council agreed, to formally congratulate the Belbroughton Recreation Centre on its success in raising significant funds for the Playarea improvements.

39/21 Hagley Library

a. Council noted the additional information provided by Hagley Parish Council.

b. Council rejected a motion to offer financial support to Hagley Parish Council for its library since the existing funding arrangements it had with the Worcestershire County Council had not changed.

Action: The clerk to inform Hagley Parish Council.

40/21 Land adjacent to Pepper Wood

Council deferred decisions on both promoting the appeal for funding by the Woodland Trust, and considering a donation, for its land purchase and tree planting adjacent to Pepper Wood. The Council wished to consider the plans the Woodland Trust had for the site including any additional parking facilities.

Action: Cllr. Mabbett from connections he had and separately the clerk to request details from the Woodland Trust on its plans for the site.

Cllr. Parsons left the meeting.

41/21 Bus shelter – Top Road / A491 junction - Wildmoor.

Council approved asking the District Council to remove the wooden structure and install a simple 'pole and flag' by way of substitution. This was due to the poor and dirty state of the edifice where it is rare for the public to use it for its intended purpose.

Action: The clerk to send the request the District Council.

42/21 Council Priorities

Members made the following comments:

Cllr. Danks - Broadband upgrading should be a priority. Also, fresh quarry sites' applications are pending this year and these have a great effect on the parish areas if granted and it was key that the County and District Councils took on board residents' views.

Cllr. Pawley - Council should make the villages look as good as they should.

Cllr. Nock - 'F.T.T.P.' should be a priority, also the Council should keep the local environment in a tidy state.

Cllr. Ingram – Drainage works and then upgrades to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

43/21 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Allington requested again that a 'cul-de-sac' sign is installed at bottom of The Glebe, Belbroughton.

Action: C.Cllr. May would take this up with W.C.C. Highways.

Cllr Allington questioned the siting of pathways along the backs of the new properties being built adjacent to the village green, Belbroughton and was concerned about potential encroachment.

Action: The site will be checked to plans and Cllr. Morgan would take photographs.

Cllr. Allington questioned the conversion works being carried out at 44 Hartle Lane, Belbroughton. Cllr. Patchell advised that planning permission was not required for loft conversions.

Cllr. Patchell requested for the better use of members time that 'basic' maintenance requests are filtered through the clerk, and then probably by him to the County and District hubs, rather than being brought to a full Council. This would provide more time for discussion of significant matters.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.