

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 5th October 2020.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan*, S Nock, S Patchell and S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. 2 members of the public.
County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

Cllr. Nock Chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

253/20 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J Boswell, A Homer and G Parsons. Council wishes to record that non attendees should give reasons for non-attendance to the clerk.

*Cllr. Morgan took over the chairing of the meeting and apologised for his late arrival.

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.

254/20 Declarations of Interest Cllr. Allington declared an 'Other Disclosable Interest' in agenda Item 6 since she had been associated with a contractor and the proprietor involved in the project and therefore would not speak or vote to the item.

255/20 Dispensations None.

256/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th September 2020.

257/20 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Morgan appreciated all the hard work being carried out in difficult times and thanked members for their efforts.

Planning Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 21st September 2020.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 21st September 2020.

Clerk's Report:

1. Tech-Eze (Hagley) Ltd. are working this week on the website adjustments for compliance with The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018.
2. The Belbroughton Cricket Club have thanked the P.C. for the Capital Grant of £414.00.

3. The 2021/22 budget will be assessed by the Finance Committee shortly and a recommendation produced at the Committee meeting 16th November. Members are requested to advise the clerk by 24th October of any specific spending requests for consideration by the Committee.
4. The Parish area tree survey was postponed from 21st Sept. and will now take place on 6th October.
5. Talbot P.H. Belbroughton carpark – B.D.C. advise - No action required by them from a planning perspective is proposed and no planning application for the pole and camera will be invited.
6. Talbot P.H. – the proprietor has agreed to remove the unsightly rusting post from the footway.
7. Our Lengthsman has checked and refilled the P.C. grit bins – due to the mild 2019/20 winter only three bags of grit required, which he had available from last year's stock.

County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. Webb

Covid – 19 she advised that cases had risen in Bromsgrove to a ratio of 80 / 100k of the population. A new test centre was due to open by the end of October.

8 care homes in Worcestershire have reported cases, and there are restrictions on visits.

The Fairfield School staggered starts and pickups have worked well. There has been one complaint regarding social distancing. This was referred to the school governors and the headteacher who was to emphasise to parents the need for compliance with the guidance.

Generally, more posters are to go up on lampposts.

On request from Cllr. Danks she committed to speak to WCC Highways for possible installation of white lining at the Battlebrook bridge to emphasise the narrowness of the lane.

Cllr May

Following a road traffic accident involving a child in Bell Heath, shrubbery has been cut back and arrangements made for re tarmacing the footway area close to the bus stop.

She has asked for a risk assessment by 'Highways' of all areas around bus stops in her ward.

Improvements to Gorse Green Lane drainage are in hand with new kerbs to go in.

Signage will be going up warning of the narrowness of Waystone Lane.

Hockley Brook Lane will have patched improvements to the road surface in late October and a re-dressing in Spring 2021.

There will be a strong push for the public to adhere to social distancing with radio and videos used on social media along with message board vehicles.

Worcestershire numbers were believed to be part of the 'lost' 16k cases and certainly Bromsgrove's numbers were inaccurate recently.

However, Covid -19 cases are not at March levels.

Tests occur monthly for all care home residents and weekly for care home staff.

70.

Bromsgrove town centre social distancing – BDC are open to innovative ideas to use further Gov't funds for promoting safety measures.

10th/ 12th November virtual hearings are being held by WCC regarding the need for minerals across the county. Zoom details will be sent out for access.

A further burglary had taken place at McColls in Belbroughton and she will be contacting the Police and Crime commissioner seeking advice and support to help prevent future incidents.

258/20 Parish Room, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton

Council noted the request and schedule from the tenant outlining changes they would carry out at their expense, to the frontage of the site: removing a tree and grass area and gravel walkway. Then, installing a more solid walkway to include a ramp to the entrance to improve disability access.

Council was in 'general' agreement, but Council approved by a unanimous vote to delegate the final decision to Cllrs. Nock and Pawley after they first obtained sight of drawings illustrating the proposed plans and were content with the drawings.

Action: The clerk to obtain the plans from the tenant and cllrs. Nock and Pawley to assess and advise the clerk of their decision. He would then inform the tenant.

259/20 Parish Lighting

a. Council noted the lighting column strength survey conducted by the County Council. This recommended that 12 out of the stock of 80 columns should be replaced.

Council approved the recommendation and the use of the County Council contractors.

b. Council noted, again from the report, that a proportion of the lighting stock contained both i. aged mercury and ii. low pressure sodium lamps, where replacement availability was for i. nil and ii. extremely limited.

It approved replacing these 22 lamps with energy efficient LED units.

Council noted the County Council quote of a total cost of £23,100, and approved using the £8,000 already held as a provision for such repairs/replacements, and requested the Finance Committee assess how the balance should be structured. The payments were unlikely to be required until towards the end of the current financial year (31st March 2021). The Finance Committee should also consider a 'sinking fund' for future repair needs.

County Cllr. Shirley Webb advised that she would commit £1500 from her divisional fund to assist with the costs.

Action: The clerk to request W.C.C. to replace the columns and lantern units.

260/20 Parish Upkeep (Maintenance, including gardening)

Council noted that some progress was being made on producing fresh work schedules and the Chairman requested that members ensure that all requirements are with the clerk by 9th October to enable him to produce a specification to put out to contractors for quotations.

Action: Members to inform the clerk of additional items for the schedules by 9th October.
The clerk to seek quotes and refer these to a future Council meeting.

261/20 Vehicle Speeding – Parish wide

Council noted a number of accidents recently albeit one was outside its parish area.

Council noted Brook Rd. Fairfield was to have speed monitoring strips, data will in due course be shared with the Council.

Council noted that Wildmoor Lane and Top Road could not have formalised speed camera points but C.Cllr Webb advised that a 30mph roundel would be put into Wildmoor Lane and the police would be asked to attend with their hand held camera.

Council noted that due to bends a formal speed camera site was not possible on the roads leading out of Belbroughton to Blakedown. C.Cllr May advised of possible strip monitoring of speed at the site.

Council noted comment from C.Cllr May that 20 mph limits are only assessed for roads outside schools.

It also noted that property and pedestrian protection barriers could not be placed on the footway at the junction of Drayton Rd and Hackmans Gate Lane due to the narrowness of the footway. Neither could a 'no righthand turn' be installed.

262/20 Remembrance Sunday 8th November

Council agreed that Cllrs. Morgan and Ingram would lay wreaths at the remembrance services. It was noted that this year the Royal British Legion would be arranging this with social distancing and by specific invitation only, with no parades taking place.

263/20 Fairfield Village Hall

Council noted that the charity running the hall was struggling to attract new trustees with only four in post currently.

Council noted its responsibilities as 'Custodian Trustee' should the charity cease to operate and the requirement to involve the Charity Commission.

The clerk had been in contact with the Council's legal advisers who were ready to give further specific guidance, as necessary.

Action: Nothing required at present.

264/20 Annual Parish Meeting

In view of the ongoing health crisis Council confirmed again that it could not host the Annual Parish Meeting and that it would not now be held in 2020.

265/20 Traveller Encampment

Council noted that there was a planning application in the neighbouring Hagley Parish area. Since this Council had not been requested to make comment by the District Council and that the members had anyway not seen the application the item was not further progressed.

266/20 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Allington requested that the recent shop robbery in Belbroughton is placed on the next Council agenda.

Cllr. Allington advised that fly tipping had again been seen on Hackmans Gate Lane, albeit just outside the parish area. C.Cllr. May advised that she would chase up its removal.

Cllr. Allington requested that the Finance Committee on 19th October considers further strimming of the Drayton Rd. former pool area and the quote received for brickwork repairs on the dam.

Cllr. Allington advised that cars were parking on the green space adjacent to Pincher's Close and Woodgate Way, Belbroughton. C.Cllr. May advised she would investigate the erecting of no parking signs.

Cllr. Nock requested a report is sought from the County Council on the success or otherwise of the traffic calming measures recently installed outside the Belbroughton School.

Cllr. Danks advised that the County Council enquiry into the trading activities at Dolfor House Wildmoor was due to be heard on 24th November. He advised that the A491 was he felt again in need of a clean as a result of activities from the Dolfor House site.

Cllr. Ingram advised that the gate on Fairfield Recreation Ground had inadequate post support and should probably be replaced. The Finance Committee 19th October would consider actions to repair or replace.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the next Council agenda agrees a switch on date for the Belbroughton Christmas lights.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that an update was obtained on the white line painting on the Stourbridge Rd. close to the Stoneybridge island. C.Cllr Webb advised that this was in hand being subject to normal consultation processes which were almost completed.

Cllr. Patchell requested that future Council discusses the signage on Hackmans Gate Lane where a solar powered warning sign was not working and other signs were bent.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

To Be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.