

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 6th March 2017.**

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley (Chairman), S Boss, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 5 members of the public also attended.

061/17 Apologies – Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. S MacDonald, A Mabbett and, G Parsons.

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.

062/17 Declarations of Interest None. **063/17 Dispensations** None.

064/17 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council 6th February 2017 and the Chairman signed the minute book. The clerk confirmed, upon enquiry, that the County Council had acknowledged receipt of the Parish Council enquiry concerning re surfacing work on Dordale Road but it had yet to reply with commentary on the quality of the works.

065/17 Reports

Chairman’s report: Cllr. Bradley had welcomed Cllr. Sharon Boss to her first full council meeting. There were no further reported items

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee held 20th February 2017.

Finance Committee report Council noted the minutes of the committee held 20th February 2017.

Clerk’s Report: 1. Tree work - Western Power are to reduce two trees - to rear of 112 Stourbridge Rd in the Fairfield Recreation Ground and to the left of the F.V.F.C. club house hedge. Both works are to remove vegetation encroaching onto power lines.

2. The two parish gardeners and the grass mowing contractor have agreed to renew their contracts with the Parish Council for 2017 on existing terms and conditions. A reminder that the grass cutting contract will be up for open tender again for the three years commencing 2018. The new dog bin emptying contract has been issued to IDG Services of Stoke Prior, to include the general litter bins on the Belbroughton Recreation Ground.

3. ‘Broom’ place name signs – Richard Clewer of WCC highways advises he wishes to run the request past the local WCC member first, so he requests that it may be prudent to leave it until after County Council elections but, he will visit the site. Date to be confirmed.

4. W.C.C. Cllr. Rachel Jenkins has processed the previously agreed £1,000 donation from her ‘Divisional Fund’ which will assist with the costs of the Parish Project regarding the proposed footpath diversion at Becketts Farm.

5. W.C.C. Cllr. Sheila Blagg has agreed to donate £1,350 from her ‘Divisional Fund’ to be used to assist with the provision of a new parish council notice board in Fairfield.

6. Work on the 'footpath BB555' located off Dordale Road running towards Bradford House has commenced with the contractors on site for two days last week cutting back hedging and overgrown vegetation. The path is now much wider but obviously the mud remains (probably worse than ever after the recent rain). Surfacing will be done in April/May when general ground conditions have improved.

7. The Green Belbroughton – we await confirmation from lawyers that the Developer wishes to complete the agreement. Provided no changes emerge in the final document previously approved by Council in March 2015 then this can be signed.

8. The proposed 'liaison councillor' with the Fairfield Community Association – The F.C.A. advise that they will now consider this at their April 2017 meeting.

066/17 Fairfield - Traffic Calming

The invited guest Police Inspector Sarah Corteen of North Worcestershire & Bromsgrove Safer Neighbourhood Team was unable to attend the meeting due to car breakdown.

Cllr. Jones detailed the agenda item, and Council approved:-

a. Requesting that W.C.C. consider the implementation of engineering works at or near to the two entrances to the village on the Stourbridge Road:-

To include 'gated entrances' and two 'pinch points' (physical or virtual) before Mount Road (coming from Catshill) and near Fairfield Court.

b. Requesting that W.C.C. conduct a traffic survey on Brook Road with a view to checking on the range of speed of vehicles.

c. Requesting W.C.C. conduct a review of the speed limit along Brook Road with a view to i) extending the 30mph to the junction of Dordale Road, ii) extending the 30 mph to Snuff Hill or iii) changing the 'unrestricted' sign to a 40 mph sign for that stretch of Brook Road.

Action: the clerk to inform WCC

Further to a request from a Belbroughton resident, Council also approved that the Traffic Calming 'Working Group' should assess a need for similar engineering works on the entrances to Belbroughton.

Council also noted that as and when the County Council survey the Fairfield sites under 'a.' above then two Fairfield Cllrs. would attend and assess the suitability of the positioning of the requested works.

067/17 Neighbourhood Plan

a. Cllr. Morgan detailed the earlier circulated updating report from the 'Working Group' meeting of 27th February which included a recommendation to undertake a parish survey and detailed initial questions for such survey.

Council confirmed that there had been no commitment to proceed to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and that the matter remained at the exploratory stage.

b. Council approved the issue of an initial questionnaire to residents and businesses seeking their views on the current state of the parish area and suggestions for improvements. Council noted that some issues that may be raised would not come under its powers to address but it in that case it could refer matters to other parties e.g. the Police and District & County Council. The survey would be distributed by Councillors in the same manner as the present arrangements for the Annual Parish Report. It would also be available on the website. There would be a 'Pilot' circulation to a small number of residents or members of a local parish body. The 'Working Group' was authorised to finalise the precise questions on the survey, advising councillors of its intended wording revisions, and then arrange the distribution. It would also determine the analysis process of the survey results.

Cllr. Morgan thanked the members of the 'Working Group' for their commitment and the Chairman thanked Cllr. Morgan for his hard work in moving the process to the current stage.

068/17 Communication

Cllr. Morgan detailed the recommendation of the 'Working Group' to end printed distribution of Newsletters and Annual Parish Reports by 31st December 2017. However, working with residents, copies would continue to be issued to those individuals who requested that format and whom may not have access to the internet.

Council approved by six votes in favour and five against to cease the issue of printed communication including the Annual Parish Report from 31st December 2017 however individual residents may opt in to receive a printed copy if desired.

The Neighbourhood Planning 'Working Group' was asked to consider if it could coincide the issue the Parish Survey with the delivery of the 2017 Annual Parish Report.

069/17 Diversion of public footpath 509 past Brookfield Farm in Hackmans Gate Lane.

Cllr. Bradley updated Council on this approved 'Parish Project' advising that the County Council had informed him that they were in favour of the diversion on safety grounds. An application form is in process of being completed but awaits written confirmation of the prior verbal agreement of the landowner. The landowners requests that the diversion process does not incur them with any charges and also that the current pathway is then extinguished. The tenant on the land has agreed to the diversion. Legal and administrative costs along with physical costs of three new gates required to be funded. The County would waive the administrative costs as there is a safety issue involved with the request and may pay for the new gates but not their installation. He confirmed that W.C.C. Cllr. Rachel Jenkins has donated £1000 from her 'Divisional Fund' and therefore the expected costs to the Parish Council were now circa £1000. This sum has already been approved by council under 'Parish Project' expenditure.

070/17 Working Groups

Members updated Council:

1. **Footway Lighting** – A meeting to be called.
2. **Parish Room** – The new tenants have advised of improvements to the premises in line with the 'change of use permission' from the District Council. These works have started and will become more apparent in the next few weeks as external items are progressed including cutting back vegetation.
3. **Traffic Calming** – Awaiting the outcome of the Fairfield proposed measures, the group will be assessing needs for Belbroughton.
4. **Parish Grants** – The group will meet to consider applications later in the year in accordance with the usual timetable.
5. **Parish Projects** – The group awaits requests and will probably meet to assess how to engender more requests.
6. **Little Bell Hall Pool** – The trash screen works and the area is in a stable condition. Questions remain as to the possible dredging the pool of silt. Estate agents have not shown interest in considering marketing the site, should council approve a sale. A further meeting to be called to assess future options for the site to include consideration of a consultation with the public. Cllr. Boss would join the group.
7. **Fairfield Recreation Ground** – Various improvements are in progress in respect of fencing, post replacement and car parking along with repairs to the play area surface.
8. **Veolia and other quarry sites** – Members noted that an incinerator bottom ash facility had been granted planning permission in Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire which may mean that there would be no appeal by Veolia in respect of permission refused in October 2016 for such a facility at the Sandy Lane, Wildmoor site .

9. **Communication** – The group’s work is detailed under minute 068/17.
10. **Neighbourhood Planning** - The group’s work is detailed under minute 067/17.
11. **Budget** – The group will meet in the autumn to begin work on the 2018/19 figures.

071/17 County Councillor Sheila Blagg

Cllr. Boswell advised that a grouping of three entities - Wildmoor Residents Association, Bournheath and Catshill parish councils - wished to offer a gift to the retiring county councillor in recognition of her outstanding work over many years especially with regard to issues with the quarries and thus suggested that the Parish Council join in this gift.

Council approved by eight votes in favour, two votes against and one abstention a motion, that as an exceptional matter, to allocate a £50.00 contribution towards a gift to retiring Cllr. Sheila Blagg.

072/17 Councillor Items

Cllr Boswell requested that pot holes on Madeley Road where filled in.

Action: the clerk to report to the W.C.C. hub.

Cllr. Pawley advised that Mr Clive Raybould would no longer be erecting the flags on The Green, Belbroughton. Cllr. Margetts offered and it was agreed that he would take over the role. Council requested that the clerk writes to Mr Raybould thanking him for his service over a number of years.

Cllr. Hood advised that a light on the junction of Hartle Lane and the drive leading to the Recreation Centre was obscured by vegetation.

Action: the clerk to report to the W.C.C. hub.

Cllr. Hood advised that at Little Bell Hall Pool contractors were costing a grid and access ladder to enable clearance of debris from the trash screen and that the work and the quotation should be considered by the Finance Committee on 20th March.

The Meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Chairman