

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2022, 7.00PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Baldwin, Cllr. Boswell, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Morgan (Chairman), Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Clerk – Ruth Mullett
Cllr. May – District and County Councillor
Cllr. Sherrey – District Councillor
There were five members of the public in attendance

220/22 – APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

Chairman adjourned the meeting for an ‘open surgery’ to enable residents to discuss any issues with their councillors and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda, this does not form part of the formal meeting.

221/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda – there were no declarations of interest reported.

222/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 as a true record.

223/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report

Clerk thanked the Acting Clerk for all the help in getting the council back compliant and up to date.

Planning Committee Meeting – 25th January 2022

Cllr. Pawley gave an update of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25th January 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting.

Finance Committee Meeting – 25th January 2022

Cllr. Mabbett gave an update of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 25th January 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting. He also confirmed that all the outstanding minutes were now up to date and Clerk will place on the Council’s website.

224/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies were received from Cllr. Webb with the following report sent which Clerk read out to the Council: -

- *Cllr. May and I met with a couple of residents a few weeks ago concerned with the parking from the football club and the school. I have been advised the Enforcement Team will make time during the school hours and the local police to attend when possible. The football club are assisting with cones around the entrance to the recreation ground, but this is putting pressure further along the Stourbridge Road and we are receiving complaints from residents of Wood Lane that farm traffic is struggling exiting the junction. I have asked the Traffic Management Team to look at yellow lining the Wood Lane junction and a white line opposite the junction to keep it clear. I will update as soon as I receive further updates from the team.*
- *Yew Tree Lane dropped kerb is still an issue due to there being no footpath on one side, I have requested the team look at reducing the height of the footpath on one side and dropped kerb on the other side. This is far safer in my opinion than crossing the Stourbridge Road. I hope to have an answer soon.*
- *VAS signs – at the recent PACT meeting with the Police we had a lot of complaints about speeding in the area. Cllr. May and I have purchased a new VAS sign that shows the actual speed you are doing; the signs have proved very effective in other areas. We are proposing Brook Road and then the sign will be moved around other assessed areas of Fairfield and Belbroughton. The Police have also secured some funding for a couple more signs which record the speed as well as flashing the speed you are doing; they will be put around the area they cover.*
- *Street lighting was also mentioned at the PACT meeting, looking for upgrades outside the church area. I have sent over some Divisional Funding to help with this matter.*

Cllr. Sherrey gave the following report from District: -

- Enforcement with regards fly tipping in the District is going well and BDC are currently budgeting for hopefully more covert cameras.
- There was a computer blip when producing the brown bin invoices and residents were sent duplicates, this has now been rectified.
- Commercial waste collection is going well, and District are hoping to work more closely with County Council.
- Cllr. Allington asked for an update on the overhanging tree in the alleyway at the back of the doctor's surgery in Belbroughton (reference 178324) – Cllr. Sherrey agreed to chase this at Bromsgrove.

Cllr. May gave the following report from County Council and District: -

- County have allocated an additional £75,000 for the Lengthsman Scheme which will see an increase of 15% in the grant allocated to parishes.
- County are currently doing a Health and Wellbeing Consultation and Cllr. May encouraged all councillors and residents to take part in the consultation. The consultation is open from 7th February 2022 to 2nd May 2022.
- Cllr. May attended an inaugural meeting of Chadwick Quarry and gave an update of the key points of the meeting and confirmed that Terms of Reference had been agreed.
- Also attended a meeting with Belbroughton residents to discuss speeding issues on Hartle Lane. County have carried out a speed survey, but the results are inconclusive so will be rerunning the survey.
- Cllr. Pawley asked for an update on the parking outside of The Talbot – this item will be investigated once the new Highways Engineer is onboard.

225/22 – BROADBAND – FTTP FOR THE WILDMOOR AREA

There was no update on this matter, and it was agreed to take this item off future agendas.

226/22 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

Cllr. Mabbett confirmed that the Community Questionnaire had been agreed by the Finance Committee and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** for Clerk to action arranging for the printing of the questionnaire by Stress-free Printing and for parish councillors/volunteers to distribute to the whole of Fairfield and the surrounding area. Fairfield Village Hall will be used for returning the questionnaire as it has a secured letter box and is central to the community.

Whilst some limited discussion took place on the renewal of the lease, the Parish Council were mindful of the decision taken last year to ensure that the views of the community on the use of all village amenities were considered. Such views would come from the responses to the questionnaire as well as from the postponed residents' meeting to be re-arranged. Further discussions and review will take place at the next scheduled Finance Committee Meeting.

227/22 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

- **Clerk's Outstanding Action List** – Clerk circulated copy to all councillors and gave a verbal update on outstanding items.
- **Date for Annual Parish Meeting** – this item was deferred.
- **Reports for Parish Magazine** – Cllr. Danks will be producing an article for the parish magazine on an update on the Scoping Opinion Response for Wildmoor Quarry.
- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – it was agreed to take this item to Finance Committee to look at costings and ideas on how we can mark this event as a parish council.

228/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Christmas Lights** – this item was deferred awaiting final costings.
- **Parking in Fairfield Working Party** – Cllr. Baldwin gave an update on the Parking in Fairfield Working Party and summarised the five key points to come out of the meeting: -
 1. Volume and speed of traffic passing through the village.
 2. The type of traffic that passed through the village.
 3. Parking on the pavement especially around Fairfield First School and Fairfield Villa.
 4. Parking off the pavement where traffic flow is impeded.
 5. Air quality and pollution due to increased traffic.

It was agreed that the full copy of the document produced would be circulated to all councillors and a meeting would be arranged with Cllr. May, Cllr. Webb and the new Highways Engineer once she is onboard with County.

229/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Mabbett – longstanding issue with regards road markings for visual narrowing of the road north of Fairfield village and confirmed he would chase directly with Cllr. Webb
- Cllr. Danks – issues at Pinchers Quarry with regards prefabricated buildings/caravans/excavation works – Cllr. May will investigate this issue with Bromsgrove Enforcement Officers.
- Cllr. Boswell – United Charities are still in need of volunteers.
- Cllr. Allington – the footpath Drayton Road to the pool is cracking and needs sorting – Cllr. May agreed to investigate this issue.
- Cllr. Pawley – could we investigate ways to enable the Lengthsman to take rubbish from site. Cllr. May is to try and ascertain whether a refuse pass could be given to parish Lengthsman.

- Cllr. Wilkes – could we ascertain whether there are any covenants on Fairfield Recreation Ground restricting certain activities – Clerk to investigate.
- Cllr. Morgan – as Cllr. Homer had not attended any meetings or given apologies for over six months it was agreed for Clerk to write and inform him he was no longer eligible to be a councillor and to thank him for all his hard work.

230/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

A working party was set-up to include Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Nock and Clerk will arrange a zoom meeting to carry the item forward.

231/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be held on 7th March 2022, 7.30pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

The meeting closed at 20.42pm.

To be agreed as a true record by Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council

Signed