

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 3rd September 2018.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, T Jones, Dr R Morgan, S Pawley and, C Scurrall. Clerk: J Farrell and six members of the public.
County Cllr. K May was also in attendance.

232/18 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. G Ingram, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, P Margetts, S Nock and, G Parsons. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. S Webb.

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.

233/18 Declarations of Interest - None. **234/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

235/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2nd July 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

236/18 Reports

Chairman’s report:

The Chairman had no report.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 16th July 2018.

Clerk’s Report:

1. The Green Belbroughton – Andy Bucklitch the Tree Officer at the District Council will meet the clerk and Cllrs. Sue Pawley and Paul Margetts 11th Sept to advise on what changes to the planting scheme would be acceptable to him in this conservation area. This will give the ‘Working Group’ clarity on potential designs that may be progressed during the consultations planned for future coming months.
2. The footpath diversion at Becketts Farm is about to be confirmed by the County Council, the Chairman and Vice Chairman authorised payment of £500 legal fees in August to speed matters, rather than await the Finance Committee of 17th Sept. WCC would not progress the matter without the payment. The current path has a dangerous stile and it is important that the new route is opened asap.
3. A reminder that the quarterly Bromsgrove District Calc meeting is 6.30pm Weds. 12th Sept at Parkside. Mike Dunphy will speak about the approach to the Local Plan review processes.
4. Fairfield Recreation Ground – proposed car park extension – Cllr. Mabbett is to meet onsite with a former planner this month to assess how the extension application should be progressed.
5. Fairfield, Stourbridge Rd. – A pair of dropped kerbs have been installed, with the costs of altering the B.T. facilities nearby covered by C.Cllr. Shirley Webb. Cllr. Mabbett has questioned WCC on whether a tactile surface can be added, however this is not possible due to a restricted area of pavement between the B.T. cover and the kerb.
A new ‘H bar’ has been painted outside no 69 Stourbridge Rd. opposite the church which enables those dropped kerbs to be safely used.

6. Traffic Calming: I have met with Richard Clewer of WCC Highways regarding provision of hard standing in Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield for use by the Safety Roads Partnership (S.R.P.) on the grass verge past the field entrance coming away from the island towards Catshill. He is agreeable to the siting and the size of this will be determined by S.R.P. who will assess if additional dropped kerbs will be needed. WCC could supply and fit the hardstanding blocks from stock and thus the costs but not cover costs for the kerb(s).
No replacement bollard will be put in on the village side of the mini roundabout on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield as it is felt by WCC that to do so would severely restrict the ability of HGVs negotiating entry onto Stourbridge Rd.
In Hartle Lane, Belbroughton he has approved speed camera warning signs, Council require to liaise with S.R.P. on precise locations in the lane.
7. Hagley Parish Council have invited members to attend a meeting Weds 26th Sept 6.30pm to discuss future increased through traffic following new housing developments passed for building in the Wyre Forest district.
8. Paul Hardcastle - volunteer footpath warden - has been in contact with Barhale Ltd (who are currently installing the water pipeline for Severn Trent, which crosses the parish area) requesting assistance with carrying out and covering all or part of the costs of resurfacing footpath path BB554 from its junction with BB556 down through the gully to gate accessing the next field. Barhale have acknowledged the issue with this path and are considering a response.

County Cllr. K. May report:

Her monthly report on County Council activities is available under a link on the Parish Council website.

Cllr. May emphasised: the members were entering their budgeting phase with corporate strategy planning. There are challenges, 70% of the budget, is spent on 4% of the population, being largely via social care and children's services (not education). The County Council has 862 children under its 'care'.

237/18 Council Committees

Council appointed recently co-opted member Cllr. Ingram to the Planning Committee and also to the Agricultural Holdings Committee.

Council being aware of the low attendance at many Planning Committee meetings also appointed Cllr. Allington to that committee.

Council requested that members inform the clerk, copying in other members, as soon possible if they are unable to attend a meeting. Council requested that the clerk inform the two members of the Planning Committee not present at this Council of this request.

238/18 Grants

Council approved the recommendations from the Finance Committee meeting of 16th July:

Capital Grant: Belbroughton Cricket Club £550 - Secure storage for coaching equipment.

Minor Grant: Fairfield Community Association £350 - Delivery of Neighbourhood Watch, local news and crime prevention advice via newsletters, and a 'Picnic in the Park' event during 2019.

Minor Grant: Fairfield Bingo Social Club £200 – Venue hire and social activities.

Council agreed that as the budgeted funds for grants this financial year had not been fully drawn that it would accept further applications notwithstanding the expiry of the application date.

Action: the Finance Committee to authorise minor grants payments at its next meeting. The clerk would inform the cricket club and await sight of the required invoices before funds are released.

239/18 Traffic Calming – County Cllr. Divisional funds

Council acknowledged the significant contribution made by County Cllr. Webb in recently funding the two dropped kerbs in Fairfield from her Divisional Fund which it is understood cost £3,000. It was therefore decided not to formally apply for further funds from C.Cllr. Webb this financial year.

Council approved in principle applying for funds from County Cllr. May for the Belbroughton ward noting that specific requests would be required to be with her by the end of February 2019.

240/18 Council Processes

This item was carried forward from the July Council when due to time constraints it was not considered. Council had noted a previously circulated e mail dated 26th June from Cllr. MacDonald on council processes and also the clerks circulated comments dated 3rd July.

Council endorsed the clerk's response.

Council agendas would in future where felt appropriate contain the phrase 'and to consider any further actions' in order that members are aware that discussions could lead on to specific motions for actions being considered.

241/18 Annual Report

This item was carried forward from the July Council when due to time constraints it was not considered. Council noted the Chairman's report, the Committee Chairmen would liaise with the clerk on their inputs and the aim would be for a document to be produced and released by the end of September. Circulation will be electronic with a paper copy being sent to those residents who had requested such.

Action: Committee chairmen would liaise with the clerk to produce the report and the clerk would release this to the community.

242/18 District Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation

Cllr. Morgan advised that the Bromsgrove District Local Plan was to be reviewed, the District Council were seeking consultation on the approach it should take on the review.

Representatives of B.D.C. including strategic planners are able to make themselves available for two meetings in the parish area. It was planned therefore to hold drop in sessions in Fairfield at the school on 1st October 4.30pm – 7.00pm and in Belbroughton, where the date and venue remain to be confirmed. The meetings will give residents the opportunity to receive information, join focus groups and to have question and answer sessions.

Cllr. Morgan will be attending the quarterly Bromsgrove Calc meeting 12th September where Mike Dunphy of B.D.C. will advise of more details on the approach the District Council are looking to adopt and the format of the consultation meetings.

Action: Cllr. Morgan would update members on the 12th Sept meeting and confirm the Belbroughton meeting date.

243/18 'Smartwater' – Fairfield Ward

Cllr Jones advised of resident collection dates for the 'Smartwater' kits from Fairfield Village Hall of Wednesday 19th September between 7.00pm and 9.00pm and, Saturday 22nd September between 10.00am – 2.00pm. The Wildmoor Residents Association and Fairfield Community Association were widely publicising the dates and explaining in detail the security marking kits. The intention is to 'mop up' the outstanding properties through volunteers, it is acknowledged that this will take time and energy to achieve.

244/18 Emerging Minerals Local Plan (4th County Council call for sites)

Council considered the proposals from the owner of Wildmoor Quarry for inclusion of parish council land in order to extend minerals extraction in the locality which had been presented to council in July 2018 and, local quarrying in general and the effects on the local community.

A motion was proposed: "This council refuses to give its consent to quarrying of its land located near to Wildmoor quarry, without any further consideration of the financial and environmental implications of this decision."

The motion was approved by seven votes in favour and one vote against.

The Council further agreed that no further action would be taken on the matter.

Action: the clerk would inform the owner of Wildmoor quarry.

245/18 Bromsgrove District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

Council had no comments to make on the consultation.

Council felt that the operation of the current policy had been quite satisfactory.

246/18 Minerals Scoping Opinion – Pinches Quarry (Phase 4) Wildmoor Lane, Wildmoor

Council was made aware that the site location was not in the parish area but Council felt that its residents would be affected by the matter. It acknowledged the detailed work undertaken by the Wildmoor Residents Association on the 'Scoping Opinion' and it approved endorsing such work and would inform the County Council of such endorsement.

Action: the clerk would inform Steven Aldridge at W.C.C.

247/18 Action Plan

Due to the lack of time Council agreed it would review the plan at the October Council meeting.

248/18 Councillors' Items

Council approved discussing an item raised by Cllr. Jones regarding the requested release of funds to the Fairfield Community Association for the commemoration of First World War. Council had previously approved funds of £500 for each ward and agreed now that this sum can be paid over to the Fairfield Community Association.

Action: the £500 payment to be authorised at the next Finance Committee.

Cllr. Pawley requested that maintenance of the Little Bell Hall Pool area is considered at a future Council.

Cllr. Pawley advised that the Belbroughton History Society were seeking a minor grant for repainting the library telephone box. Whilst Council agreed that this could be considered by a future Finance Committee, County Cllr. May advised that the request could be funded from her Divisional Fund and therefore Council agreed that such application would be made.

Action: Cllr. Pawley and the clerk would submit the application to C.Cllr. May.

Cllr Boswell advised that a Belbroughton Lunch Club for older residents has been set up and was seeking support. C.Cllr. May noted this and would be happy to consider an approach for support.

Action: Cllr. Boswell to liaise with the lunch club and County Cllr. May

Cllr. Allington felt that the parish owned benches required a repaint as did the bus shelter in Woodgate Way. Council noted that the Finance Committee could consider these maintenance items at its next meeting. The Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed Chairman