

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 5th March 2018.

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Pawley and, C Scurrall. **Clerk:** J Farrell. Six members of the public. County Cllr. K May.

071/18 Apologies – An apology was received and accepted from Cllr. S MacDonald.

An apology was received from Cllr. G Parsons subsequent to the meeting.

[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.

072/18 Declarations of Interest – None. **073/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

074/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 5th February 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

075/18 Reports

Chairman’s report:

Cllr. Bradley had no specific report but would speak to agenda item 12 - ‘Council Meetings Process’.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held 19th February 2018

Financial Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett advised that the Committee agreed to trial the use of electronic banking. And, approval had been given to pay the costs of the re-siting of a B.T. box to enable dropped kerbs to be installed on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield. Council noted the draft minutes of the Committee Meeting held 19th February 2018.

Neighbourhood Planning report: Cllr. Morgan advised that a further open meeting had been held on 26th February and the notes had been circulated to members. It was again well attended and meaningful contributions had been made by residents. Volunteers had come forward to form a Steering Committee and this would meet for first time on 12th March. A third open meeting will be held 26th March in the Jubilee Room, Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

Clerk’s Report:

1. **Vacancies** - No applications have been received for the vacant councillors’ positions - one each for Belbroughton and Fairfield. (albeit we cannot officially advertise the Belbroughton position until the District Council confirm there has been no call by at least 10 residents for an election.).
2. **Fairfield Rec. Ground**
 - a. Car park pot holes - the County Council have filled these with no charge to the P.C.
 - b. Car park extension - 3 quotes are being sought for planning advice to take forward the initial application for increased capacity.
3. **Traffic Calming**
 - a. Hartle Lane, Belbroughton – W.C.C. still considering whether to grant permission for camera warning signs to be put up.
 - b. The Glebe, Belbroughton - District Cllr. M Sherrey, following a resident’s request, has asked C.Cllr. Karen May to arrange for a ‘No through road’ sign to be erected.
 - c. Heath End Lane close to the junction with Chapel Lane Bell Heath / Belbroughton. C.Cllr. K May has agreed to endorse the request for warning signs of ‘Horse Riders’ to be erected.
 - d. Stourbridge Road, Fairfield - Dropped kerbs – C.Cllr. Webb has been advised of the PCs approval of paying for the moving of the B.T.box. We await confirmation of the work date.

4. **Grass cutting 2018** – Greenaways have accepted the contract for this year.
5. **Internal Audit** - Mrs Diane Malley has agreed to carry out the Parish Council’s internal audit requirements for 2017/18.
6. **Banking** - HSBC have been instructed to open an additional bank account which is to be used solely for electronic banking transactions.

County and District councillors:

County Cllr. Karen May advised that ‘fibre to premises broadband’ investment for homes in the Dordale Road area remained likely.

She advised that Richard Clewer WCC Highways was currently away due to illness and a family bereavement which has meant a delay on dealing with various outstanding matters. She advised that a proportion of her Divisional Fund remained and the Council may wish to apply for funds and it agreed that if possible it would wish monies to be spent on improving the kerbs outside the Belbroughton Village shop.

Her Top Five updates advised of:-

1. *Construction about to start at the new Worcestershire Parkway Station.*
2. *To support the move to an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for our Children's Social Care Services, a full business case will be presented to Council Cabinet on 29 March.*
3. *The new interim Director for Adult Services, Avril Wilson has been appointed into the position and joined the Council Monday 19 February 2018.*
4. *Work continues on two major flood alleviation projects around the County:*
5. *Council leaders across Worcestershire have agreed to relocate more Syrian refugees across the county.*

Full details are available on the PC website or on application to the clerk.

Finally, and sadly, she advised that the interim Chief Executive, Steve Stewart passed away last week. Steve joined the Council in May of last year and has made a big contribution during his time with us. Steve had a career lasting more than 40 years in local government and was the Chief Executive at three different Councils; York, Northumberland and here at Worcestershire. Thoughts are with his family at this very sad time.

076/18 Traffic Calming across the Parish:

Council noted the previously circulated suggested priority areas for action from Cllr. Mabbett, on behalf of the Working Group:-

1. **Dropped Kerbs/Tactile Pavements:**
 - a. To write to WCC Highways, C.Cllr Amos and C.Cllr Webb asking for action to rectify the problems in Fairfield with regards to movement for the less abled and the guardians of buggies. **Progressed** – No Further Action Required at this Stage.
 - b. Assessment of the provision elsewhere in the Parish area. Council agreed to examine. **Action:** Cllr Pawley agreed to assess need in Belbroughton.
2. **HGVs:**
 - a. To send an open letter to all local businesses and residents through digital media asking for cooperation in ensuring that Hauliers are aware of the local road conditions. - Council Approved.
 - b. To request WCC Highways for i) a review of HGV signage in the Parish and ii) map showing designated roads appropriate for use by HGV’s for distribution. - Council Approved
Action: a & b – the clerk and Cllr. Mabbett to action.

3. Traffic Speed:

- a. The purchase and installation of speed camera signs for Hartle Lane while approved by Council awaited the permission from WCC Highways.
Action: Clerk to continue to chase for the permissions.
- b. Supporting F.V.C.A. in the implementation of a Community Speed Watch scheme for Fairfield. This has fallen away due to the police advising that speeding was felt too high to permit a scheme. As a result the police would be looking to enforce the speed limit themselves with mobile speed cameras. Council agreed to fund camera warning signs and seek W.C.C. permissions.
Action: the Finance Committee to assess the costs.
- c. To consider the viability of utilising green/red digital speed Vehicle Activation Signs within the Parish. - C.Cllr. K May advised that the County Council was still considering its policy on these signs. Council agreed to investigate the costs of signs for information purposes at this stage.
Action: Cllr. Mabbett would assess the market for such signs.
- d. To request W.C.C. to supply a rationale as to why the implementation of engineering methods on Stourbridge Road in Fairfield is not appropriate. Council deferred any action, since under advice from C.Cllr. May there would be more merit in speed enforcement.

077/18 Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area Strategic Growth

Council noted a report from Cllr. Morgan. C.Cllr. May advised that this independent report commissioned by B'ham City Council and was for discussion only and did not form part of Bromsgrove District Council policy nor any of the other 13 local authorities within the area. The report highlighted shortfall in allocation of need and indicated possible sites.

Cllr. Morgan had attended a meeting with the District Council and notwithstanding the above report BDC are currently drawing up the methodology for its Green Belt review into which parish councils will be asked for input. The District Council would be looking for planning arguments for possible changes to the Green Belt.

Council noted that its influence could be improved by completion a Neighbourhood Plan with its inherent consultation processes with residents. It also noted that the Bromsgrove Local Plan designated that Belbroughton and Fairfield were only permitted to have infill development.

078/18 First World War – Commemorations

Cllr. Bradley advised, that the W.W.1. Group for Belbroughton decided that should there be any fund raising during events the proceeds should go to the proposed playground improvements at the Recreation Centre. Council noted the decision.

Planned Events:

- a. A picnic in the park on the Belbroughton Recreation Centre grounds on 30th June – Cllr. Pawley is organising.
- b. Remembrance weekend – 10th / 11th November – a concert will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday evening, a church service including the British Legion on the Sunday, after which refreshments will be served in the Church Hall. The History Society will have a display throughout the weekend – the venue is yet to be decided.

The war memorial needed cleaning and Council noted this would be a light clean without chemicals.

Cllr. Jones advised that in Fairfield St Marks church would be holding a service and the village hall was booked for the 11th November. Further details of events in the hall would follow.

079/18 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Cllr. Jones advised that the Fairfield Community Association requested permission to plant an area of approximately 16 sq.ft. with poppy seeds, it would also attend to the ongoing ground maintenance of the area. Council approved the request and would require that suitable arrangements would be put in hand for amending the future grass mowing regime for the area.

080/18 The Green, Belbroughton

a. Council noted that the agreement with the developer was close to completion. Council approved the setting up of a Working Group to assess future improvements to The Green. The group will comprise of Cllrs. Boswell, Hood, Margetts and Pawley. The group will invite a number of local residents to join the Working Group which will assess consultation processes and in due course recommend a plan of works to the Council.

Action: the new Working Group to progress as above.

b. Council declined a request from the householder of No 10 High Street Belbroughton at her cost to provide land for a parking space on The Green adjacent to the said property. The Council confirmed that as approved previously it would consider a plan from the householder involving the removal of limited soil and vegetation from the immediate vicinity of the property.

Action: the clerk will inform the applicant.

081/18 Ram Ally Green, Belbroughton – Tree Planting

a. Council approved re-considering the decision taken under minute 009/18 in January 2018.

b. Council approved the planting of a *Salix chrysocoma* 'Golden weeping willow' at this site subject to the necessary agreement of the District Council Tree Officer since the site is in the conservation area.

Action: the clerk to seek the necessary permission and if granted Cllr. Margetts would attend to the purchase and planting of the tree.

082/18 Council Meetings Process

Cllr. Bradley circulated a paper on process which Council noted and would look to implement immediately.

083/18 Spring Newsletter

Council decided now that information was regularly available on its website in a timely manner there would be no requirement for specific newsletters. It would though continue to issue its annual report and would aim to do so within three months of the financial year end i.e. by 30th June. Council noted that the Communications working group would discuss ongoing methods of communication and it would report any suggested changes to the current strategy.

Action: Cllr Morgan to discuss with the W.Group members.

084/18 Quality Council Status

Cllr. Scurrell advised that the Working Group of himself and Cllrs. Mabbett and Nock had met with the clerk to assess the requirements of Local Council Award Scheme and assess where the Parish Council presently met the various criteria. The Council noted the report from the clerk on the areas, which were few, that the Council would need to address to ensure the achievement of the 'Quality Status' under the scheme. There would need to be a considerable amount of work involved in compiling the evidences required for the scheme and Council deferred registering for it.

However, Council approved producing:-

- a. An annual action plan to cover specific issues along with 'business as usual' items.
- b. A training policy and an action plan for members to take up specific training courses.

Action: the Chairman to progress the above with the clerk and members.

085/18 Councillor Items

Cllr. Margetts advised of a large pot hole outside 63 High St Belbroughton requiring filling and also of the pavement outside the Talbot which is broken up. In addition a gully outside Yew Tree House Belbroughton requires attention.

Action: Clerk to advise WCC on the three issues and also request that the Lengthsman attends to the gully blockage.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the Fairfield Community Association had asked if the Parish Council would promote the 'Herbert Protocol' for the protection of vulnerable adults and secondly advise of the availability of shed alarm padlocks. Council approved both items.

Action: the clerk would upload details of a. to the website and b. inform the group e mail database.

The Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed Chairman

DRAFT