

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre 5th June 2017.**

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

County Cllr. K May

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

A minutes silence was held in memory of those who were killed in the incidents in London and Manchester and all innocent victims of terrorism across the world.

160/17 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. G Ingram on holiday, S MacDonald ill health, G Parsons family commitments.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Shirley Webb and District Cllrs. M Sherrey and C Allen-Jones.

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.

161/17 Declarations of Interest None. **162/17 Dispensations** None.

163/17 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of 8th May 2017 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

164/17 Reports

Chairman's report: The Chairman had no report.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee held 15th May 2017.

Finance Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee held 15th May 2017, cllr. Mabbett confirming that an application would be submitted to the District Council for financial assistance towards the proposed Fairfield carpark extension.

Clerk's Report:

1. Little Bell Hall Pool - A meeting is set for 15th June on site with Kirsten Huizer of North Worcestershire Water Management to seek guidance on options for the area.
2. The Green, Belbroughton - Council legal advisors – M.F.G. solicitors - have no update.
3. The Parish Room, Hartle Lane. The Working Group are aware that the current tenants seek permission to assign the lease to a limited Company entity. The Council's lawyers advise that if the council agrees to this then the directors / current lease holders Dean and Rachel Knight should complete guarantees to ensure that the Council as landlord is in no worse position than currently. Also, they would expect all costs to be borne by the tenants and assignees. Council agreed that the clerk should progress the assignment processes with the council's lawyers.
4. Parish Project - Proposed diversion of footpath BB509 – the W.C.C. have acknowledged receipt of the request and have now produced the map of the proposed new and extinguished routes which are then to be referred to user groups for comment.
5. Fairfield Villa F.C. - Following a request from Fairfield Cllrs. I will be requesting the fixture list for next season to ensure usage of the ground complies with the lease terms.

6. Farm Business Tenancy – Council had approved request for an exit by one tenant from part of their holding without the 12 months notice period. Our lawyers are quoting fees of circa £750.00 for the process of amending the current agreement for the tenant and any amendment to an existing tenant’s agreement whom may wish to take on the piece of land. I am seeking advice from S.L.C.C. and N.A.L.C. to see if we can deal with the necessary paperwork without the use of lawyers. The area of land is very small at circa 1 acre.

County Cllr. Karen May

She thanked all those who had supported her candidacy in the recent election. She had been appointed the Transformation and Commissioning portfolio holder for the WCC cabinet. Transformation concerns looking at front line services and Commissioning recognizing what services end users require and scrutinizes activity.

You may have read about the Mercury payroll issues: there were 22,000 applicants that use the new system and there had been 147 issues, which is less than 1%.

She had met with Richard Clewer WCC Highways Dept and she has highlighted Hockley Brook Lane and Bradford Lane requiring re surfacing work and the gully at Quantry Lane as needing attention. She would add Mearse Lane and Dark Lane as also having a number surfacing issues requiring fixing. Velo Birmingham - Director Andy Taylor is meeting her 23rd June at County Hall along with County officers to discuss the event and residents issues. She advised that the road closures decisions had not yet been made. She would be seeking clarification of safety of residents along the route and accessibility.

165/17 Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2017

Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

166/17 Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2017

Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2016/17.

The Chairman thanked the clerk for all the work involved in compiling the Return.

167/17 Council’s Annual Report

Council approved retaining the current format – The Chairman and Committee Chairmen were requested to produce copy for the clerk. There would be an update from the Working Group on the Neighbourhood Plan processes.

The Report would be a hard copy distribution on the existing procedure.

168/17 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Morgan advised that the questionnaires had been issued and responses were being returned via the new post boxes. Members were asked to encourage more replies. The two primary schools and the Wildmoor Residents Association and the Fairfield Community Association were assisting the process requesting that responses are made. A report will be given on the assessment of the responses at the 3rd July Council.

169/17 Velo Birmingham

- a. Council agreed to invite Mr Ed Dursley from the County Council to visit the Council on 3rd July to answer members questions on the event.
- b. Council was not satisfied with the responses from CMS and approved a motion by 9 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions, to write to the County Council objecting to the principle of this year’s event on the grounds that there had been insufficient consultation by the organising company including their addressing of the impact on the local community.

170/17 Fairfield Recreation Ground - Playarea

Cllr. Jones advised that contractors who recently attended to 'patching work' had felt that the top surface overall, particularly near the swings and slides, after some 12 years of use was looking the worse for wear.

Council approved seeking a free estimate for costs of a general top surface repair which may delay the need for a more costly fuller repair. Council would seek information on the most cost effective solution.

171/17 Fairfield Stores – Stourbridge Rd.

The Chairman invited a local resident to advise council of the position as he saw it regarding the situation at the 'Stores' which was now often closed and the adverse effect that was having on the villagers.

Council agreed to seek an application via the District Council for the registration of the freehold site as a 'Community Asset'. **Action:** the clerk to progress with the District Council

172/17 New Homes Bonus Funds

Council noted that the Fairfield carpark extension was subject to an application under the 'higher value' category, as agreed in the May Finance Committee. Council approved seeking funds of £1,500 under the 'lower value' scheme to assist with the purchase of planters and gateway structures for locating on entrances to Belbroughton and Bell Heath to assist traffic calming.

Action: Cllr. Pawley will progress the application.

173/17 Parish Grants and General Funding

Cllr. Pawley as Council representative to the Belbroughton Recreation Centre informed members of the significant project the Centre has costing circa £100,000 to provide a new playground area.

The proposal indicated a significant input from grant assistance including a request for £20,000 from the Parish Council. This sum is well in excess of the year's budget for Capital Grants.

The chairman reminded members that the Council's Financial Strategy does provide an option for exceptions to the general rule that income only from the Reserves is used for capital projects where the Council is satisfied that there is a long term sustainable benefit to the community.

The Chairman also advised that the cash reserves had resulted from the sale of farmland and buildings in about 1990, those being part of the farmland purchased in 1925 with the use of a Public Works Board Loan. The funds were therefore Capital funds and not the result of the Precept income.

Council approved in principle to consider the use of Reserves for assisting with the project although no final decision would be considered nor any specific sum agreed before the representatives from the Belbroughton Recreation Centre had presented the fuller details of the project in person to a future Council.

Action: clerk to ask the applicants to present the proposal to Council.

174/17 Parish Church Belbroughton

Council approved a request from the church seeking permission to position a notice board just outside the rear church entrance (adjacent to Church hill) on the Cenotaph lawn, provided it is of appropriate size and not requiring planning permission. **Action:** the clerk to confirm to the church.

175/17 Display of flags

Following the one month trial Council approved the permanent flying of the union flag on the two Parish Council flagpoles. It also agreed to lower the flag to half-mast on the occasions when that procedure was implemented on government buildings.

176/17 Councillors Items

Cllr. Hood requested that an invoice was paid for the approved refurbishment work on the bus shelter on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield. Council approved the payment of £445.00.

Council was advised that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee would be holding the event this year on the weekend of 30th September / 1st October. It would be on a reduced scale compared to recent years. The Scarecrow Committee requested the use of The Green and Sylvester’s Corner for the days of and surrounding the event. Council approved the use and noted the request for assistance from members to assist after the event.

Cllr. Pawley informed Council that the Belbroughton P.T.A. and the Scarecrow Committee were to hold a ‘Fun Day’ at 2.00pm – 6.00pm on Sunday 9th July at the Belbroughton Recreation Centre. She would be organising the event which had received support of £1,500 from the Scarecrow Committee.

Cllr. Pawley advised that the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Committee request a waste litter bin is installed for the carpark area. Cllr. Pawley would advise their committee that they would have to apply themselves directly to the District Council as the area was on their premises and not on Parish Council land.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that he was still awaiting to hear from WCC Highways regarding various matters that had been raised on traffic calming, statistics and, suggested solutions. County Cllr. May advised that new survey figures ought to be requested covering the month of September as that was a more relevant month.

Action: the clerk would chase up a reply copying in the County Cllr. Shirley Webb.

Cllr. Margetts advised that he had been discussing the grass cutting at Dark Lane / Ram Ally with the contractor as the quality was not as expected.

The Meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed Chairman.