

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 1st July 2019.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, A Homer, A Mabbett, S Nock, G Parsons and, S Pawley.
Clerk J Farrell. 2 members of the public.

In the absence of Cllr. Morgan the Vice-Chairman Cllr. Nock chaired the meeting.

204/19 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J Boswell, A Hood & Dr R Morgan.

Apologies had also been received from County Cllrs. K May & S Webb and District Cllrs. K May and M Sherry. The Chairman advised that the County and District Council members were not obliged to attend.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for:

‘Open Surgery’ to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening’s agenda or any other issues.

The meeting re-opened.

205/19 Declarations of Interest None. **206/19 Dispensations** None.

207/19 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of 13th May 2019.
The Chairman then signed the minute book.

208/19 Reports

Chairman’s report: No report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 17th June 2019.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 17th June 2019.

Clerk’s Report:

Fairfield First School expansion: C.Cllr Webb has advised that planning permission is to be submitted later this year by the County Education Dept. to the County Council. Bromsgrove District Council expect to be consulted on the application.

Little Bell Hall Pool / Drayton Rd Belbroughton: a second phase of tidying has been completed and the ongoing maintenance agreed by the Finance Committee involving keeping the vegetation managed. The ROSPA report on appropriate cautionary signage and the report on options for pool restoration are due imminently.

Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy a consultation is now live and runs through to 13th September 2019. The link is www.worcestershire.gov.uk/passengertransportstrategy

Vacancies: we continue to have four vacant councillor positions in Fairfield and one position in Belbroughton.

209/19 Street Lighting

- a. Council approved using the County Council contractors for conducting a Health and Safety structural assessment on the Parish Council owned lighting stock of 80 units which are sited on various column and bracket combinations. The work would take four days and Council approved the quoted cost of up to £3,280.

Action: the clerk to instruct Kiwa CMT Ltd

- b. Council agreed that it would assess the costs and benefits of replacing the 80w Mercury bulbs with modern 'l.e.d.' bulbs.

Action: the clerk to seek costings and evidences of energy savings from the County Council and report back to Council.

210/19 Smartwater – Belbroughton Ward

Council noted that while council members were content to allocate time at venues to distribute Smartwater kits a core of volunteers would still be needed to ensure the smooth roll out of a scheme to match that successfully launched in the Fairfield ward during 2018.

Council would assess the availability of volunteers during the summer and would consider the logistics again at the September Council along with the decision itself on whether to issue kits. These would be free of charge to residents.

Action: Members to sound out community volunteer support for the potential distribution of kits.

211/19 Parish Council Grants

Council agreed the recommendation from the Finance Committee of 17th June for the payment of the 2019 Capital and Minor Grants:

Capital Grant of £2,000 to the Belbroughton Cricket Club to assist with the purchase of a specialist roller for the pitch.

Capital Grant of £2,000 to the Fairfield Village Hall to assist with the purchase of projection, sound and lighting systems.

Minor Grant of £250 to the Fairfield Community Association for assisting with planting spring bulbs and bedding plants in the village.

Minor Grant of £200 to the Fairfield Bingo Group for assisting with the purchase of a new bingo machine and buffet requirements for 2 evening sessions.

Minor Grant of £89 to the Wildmoor Residents Association to assist with purchasing 30mph signage for distribution to residents.

212/19 Quarries: Application Ref: 18/000036/CM Chadwich Quarry – consultation.

Council agreed it would not respond to this consultation.

213/19 Fairfield Recreation Ground – Car Park Extension

Council noted that the District Council had now confirmed that as a local authority under 'Permitted Development Rights' it could extend the current carpark without a requirement to apply to the District for planning permission.

Council agreed that it would consult with the Fairfield Community Association on 6th July and in due course, The Fairfield Villa Football Club and The Fairfield First School on the extension.

Action: Cllrs. Mabbett, Parsons and Morgan would contact the above, and a report including the recommended design, the costings, grant availability and, the timescale would be produced for the September Council to consider.

214/19 Traffic Calming

Council noted information circulated by the clerk on current outstanding matters and agreed the following actions:

- a. Stourbridge Rd Fairfield whitelining and speed reduction to 40 mph from the roundabout to village entrance. – W.C.C. Highways had not progressed these as promised and the clerk would again chase copying in C.Cllr. S Webb.
- b. HGV weight limits enforcement – WCC advised that enforcement is a police matter – No further action.
- c. Issues with carparking at turning circle Yew Tree Avenue Belbroughton – WCC have advised the P.C. should approach the C.Cllr. for assessment and referral. The clerk to contact Cllr. May.
- d. Hard standing Stourbridge Rd Fairfield for Safety Partnership vehicle usage – WCC Highways will cost the work via Ringway and advise the P.C. – clerk to diarise for receipt of the quote.
- e. Amalgamation of signage onto one pole – Sylvesters Corner Belbroughton. WCC advise they cannot do this. – No further action.
- f. Traffic calming action in Bell Heath – WCC not aware of any pending matters – Cllr. Hood to contact WCC to review.

Council also noted that mobile speed assessment units had not been seen recently in either ward, this is apparently being due to resourcing issues within the safer roads partnership team.

Action: the Clerk to report its concern to the P.C.C.

215/19 Annual Parish Report

Council agreed that the draft report would be scrutinised by individual members by 5th July with any requested amendments being referred to the chairman and clerk for input. The report would then be issued.

216/19 Council Meetings

In view of the current workload and anticipated co-option of new members, the Council confirmed that it would meet in August, on Monday 5th at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

217/19 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Pawley advised that conifers in High St and elsewhere in Belbroughton were showing signs of disease. Council noted that at the request of the clerk Mr Gavin Boyes, the District Council tree officer, would be assessing the condition of the conifer on the village green. (This tree has the Christmas lights attached to it.).

Cllr. Pawley requested that the site owner of the Hartle Lane building development tidied the frontage to Hartle Lane. **Action:** the clerk would contact the developer.

Cllrs. Pawley and Allington enquired as to the time capacity of the Lengthsman to carry out all of the schedule of works plus extra works as a contractor especially on tasks in Belbroughton at Dark lane, the footpath from the Rec Ground to the school and siding out works in Bradford Lane.

Council agreed that other contractors could be contacted for urgent works.

Action: the clerk would seek a schedule from the Lengthsman to assess if he was able to do the works and refer to other contractors if the jobs could not be completed within a seven day period.

Cllr. Pawley was concerned at the poor quality of the recent resurfacing on High St. Belbroughton. Council requested that the clerk inform the Highways Dept. with photographic evidence, of these concerns, copying in the C. Cllr. May. Also, enquiring as to why Severn Trent were permitted to dig up the new surface within days of it being installed.

Action: the clerk to contact the WCC Hub & C.Cllr. May.

Cllr. Mabbett advised he had not heard from contractors regarding the new bench for the bus shelter on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield.

Action: The clerk would contact Tripple R Ltd and seek the quotation.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the road drainage on the Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield between the mini-island and Yew tree Lane was poor with all but one of the seven drains / gullies requiring attention.

Action: clerk would report to the W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the report on the options for widening of the pavement on sections of the Stourbridge Rd. had not been seen.

Action: the clerk would chase the Lengthsman for information.

Cllr. Allington advised that she had been casually informed by the Developer of the Hartle Lane site that he intended to commence works on 12th August. There had been no formal advice to the Council. **Action:** the clerk would contact the Developer to seek confirmation.

Cllrs Allington and Nock requested that the metal barriers on Hartle Lane close to Galtons, which are in a poor state of repair are straightened. Since the County Council had not deemed them dangerous and thus would not act they requested that Council agree to utilise funds donated by C. Cllr. May from her Divisional Fund. Council agreed.

Action: the clerk would seek the costing from WCC and revert to the Finance Committee.

Cllr. Allington advised that a speed limit sign on Hartle Lane was damaged.

Action: the clerk would report to the Hub.

Cllr. Parsons advised of a broken wooden post on the Fairfield Rec carpark.

Action: Cllr Parsons would take a photo and send to the clerk who would ask the Lengthsman to repair / reinstall.

Cllr. Parsons requested that a future council again considers whether it should have a 'Facebook' page.

Cllr. Nock advised that despite work by the County Council, Bradford Lane Belbroughton still floods.

Action: the clerk to contact the WCC Hub.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the owner of Springfield Cottage is contacted with a request to trim the holly bush which is encroaching onto the pedestrian footway.

Action: the clerk to send the standard letter.

The meeting was closed at 9.29pm

Signed Chairman