

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Carter, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Knight,  
Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk – Ruth Mullett  
There was seven members of the public in attendance.

**365/23 – APOLOGIES**

No apologies received.

**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.**

The meeting re-opened.

**366/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**367/23 – DISPENSATIONS**

None

**368/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with one amendment to change the wording under Cllr. Webb’s report to – *The residents believe the bottom of the road is adopted but County Council did not resurface this part of the road.* Cllr. Webb confirmed she would investigate and report back. The Chairman duly signed them.

**369/23 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Chairman’s Report**

- The Chairman confirmed that two candidates were interviewed on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023, and it was unanimously agreed that they were not suitable for the role. We are therefore still in a position of not having an employed Clerk and Ruth cannot carry on indefinitely on a self-employed basis. I am hoping to be able to bring a solution to the next Full Council Meeting.
- Following the Full Council’s decision to arrange a meeting with Fairfield Villa to discuss the Notice of Intent to Offer a New lease, a meeting has been arranged for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7.00pm.

**Planning Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 had been circulated and these were noted with no further comments.

## **Finance Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting had on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 had been circulated and these were noted with no further comments.

### **370/23 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree payments made in February.
- To agree to register McColl's Belbroughton village shop as an Asset of Community Value

### **371/23 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

#### **Cllr. May**

- The new VAS sign installed on Hartle Lane is not in the correct position and Cllr. May asked Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman to turn it round.
- Cllr May Is looking to arrange a Community Action Day to conduct public footpath maintenance works.
- A list of outstanding maintenance issues for Belbroughton had been produced by the working party and Cllr. May confirmed they had all been logged on the County Council reporting site.
- Broken man-hole cover Lower High Street located by The Talbot railings – Cllr. May confirmed although this is not WCC's manhole cover she is arranging to get it replaced.
- Pavement on Hackman's Gate Lane until the Cricket Club – Cllr. May confirmed she had arranged for the Highway's Engineer to take a look.
- Cllr. Danks stated an application for a footpath diversion on Chadwick Lane quarry had been granted and asked Cllr. May to find out the reason for the diversion and what infrastructure had been put in place to access that land?
- Cllr. Allington confirmed a Belbroughton litter pick is due to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 10.30am meeting at The Talbot carpark and asked Cllr. May if she would again be providing the litter pickers and bags. Cllr. May confirmed she would. Clerk to provide Cllr. Allington with a Risk Assessment and first aid kit.
- Cllr. Mabbett – due to the new legislation for photo ID at polling stations, are District intending to put up posters? Cllr. May confirmed they were.

#### **Cllr. Webb**

- Following receipt of Cllr. Wilkes' highways issues – could Clerk ask the Lengthsman to conduct the minor works.

**Cllr. Sherrey** – not in attendance and no report received.

### **372/23 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS**

- Clerk confirmed that due to District Council elections taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and Purdah commencing on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, have moved the Annual Parish Meeting to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to be held at Belbroughton Recreation Ground.
- It was agreed to draft an article about the planters outside The Talbot and forthcoming elections update asking for parish councillors to stand and advising residents about the new photo ID requirement.

- Three community issues to be inserted on the West Mercia Policy Community Charter were agreed, namely:
  - Illegal parking
  - Speeding
  - Bigger Police presence.

**373/23 – WEBSITE**

Cllr. Carter confirmed that he had produced a proposed new website, a business email system, and a Use of Social Media Policy which he will share the link to after the meeting. He asked that councillors look at the proposed website, link to the email system and comment on the proposed policy.

**374/23 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE**

- **Little Bell Hall Pool** – the Working Party met with a local resident who had knowledge of the pool. The advice was for the Working Party to contact North Worcestershire Water Management to ascertain the health and safety of the pool and they would need to instruct a specialist company to inspect the safety check of the dam. Cllr. Allington agreed to get a quote for the safety check. It was agreed for the Chairman to let Cllr. Allington have all the files in his possession on the pool to read through the history and report back to the next meeting.
- **Fairfield Recreation Ground** – it was agreed to set up a Working Party consisting of Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Wilkes and Cllr. Gibbs in conjunction with the Fairfield Community Association to start works on the Millennium Garden in preparation for the Coronation on 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**375/23 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr. Danks** – Still no update with regards the planning application at Pinches Quarry Phase 4 as they are awaiting County Council comments. With regards the Western Quarry they are still discharging their conditions.

**Cllr. Pawley** – confirmed herself and Clerk were to meet BDC Tree Officer tomorrow to look at the trees at Silvester’s Corner and ascertain the state of the Christmas Tree on the Village Green.

**Cllr. Wilkes** – resident has requested a pedestrian crossing and Cllr. Wilkes agreed to inform Cllr. Webb. The two bus shelters need a clean-up, Cllr. May is aware but there is a backlog. It was agreed to add these to the volunteer day.

**376/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.00pm at Belbroughton Recreation Ground.

**The meeting closed at 8.40pm**

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

**Signed .....**