

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2022, 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
Cllr. May and Cllr. Webb
There were three members of the public in attendance

326/22 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Hood and reason for absence agreed by all Councillors.

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

327/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 16.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

328/22 – DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 16.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

329/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2022 as a true record, with one amendment, 322/22 change to Bournheath Road. The Chairman duly signed them.

330/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report

Chairman confirmed he had meet with The United Charities to discuss their Minor and Capital Grant Applications and it was noted that due to their Constitution they could only use income funds for the poor in Belbroughton so match funding would be an issue if we were to agree to their grant applications.

Has started to remove the archive files from Mrs Morgan’s and he will go through them to see if there is anything we can confidentially destroy. They will then be stored on a temporary basis at an archive firm.

Has meet with the British Legion and has a wreath to lay in Belbroughton on behalf of the parish council. We would also give a grant of £100.00 to be agreed at Finance Committee.

Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Clerk was asked if she could include the reasons for our objection in the minutes. Clerk to circulate a revised copy for agreement at the next Planning Committee Meeting.

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Cllr. Mabbett confirmed that a lot of time had been spent on the draft Fairfield Recreation Working Paper, so the budget was a little behind schedule. This will be the next priority.

331/22 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree payments made in October.

332/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. May

- BDC have experienced a few challenges over the last year with regards the accounting system and had been issued with a Section 24 from the External Auditors. Cllr May stressed that the issue was being resolved.
- A new Leisure Strategy was to be presented to BDC Full Council in December.
- The new planters and chain fencing for outside The Talbot in Belbroughton are imminent. Thus, to alleviate the dangerous parking.
- Following the recent flooding in Belbroughton High Street, confirmed that all the gullies have now been cleaned out.
- Has received reports of overnight parking in Woodhouse Orchard and is looking at options to alleviate. There will also be extra Enforcement Officers in the area.
- Has submitted a grant application for an Air Quality Management System.

Cllr. Webb

- A new VAS sign has been purchased for the corner of Yew Tree Lane and are awaiting the de-commissioning of the old sign.
- Awaiting a Liaison Meeting with regards Chadwich Quarry. Pinchers 3 is near completion and there may be increased traffic whilst this is taking place. Enforcement issues relating to the quarries are still being investigated.
- There is currently a Transport Consultation taking place, so all bus shelter repairs are on hold.

333/22 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

Nothing to report

334/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Parking in Fairfield Working Party/Speeding Traffic** – Nothing to report.
- **Agree locations for Platinum Jubilee trees** – this item was deferred.

- **Options for more parish council maintenance** – this item was deferred.

335/22 – PARISH COUNCIL OPEN LAND

Clerk to contact the Chief Fire Officer to obtain some more information and policy wording.

336/22 – WEBSITE

Cllr. Carter produced a report on Proposals for Changes to Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council's Website, IT Arrangement and Social Media Presence and the Chairman thanked Cllr. Carter for an excellent and informative report.

The following three proposals were considered for resolution.

1. Proposal to redesign and update the Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council Website.
2. Proposal to introduce a business email system for the use of the parish council, its Clerk and Councillors.
3. Proposal for the parish council to consider the use of social media and adopt a Social Media Policy.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt proposals 1 and 2 and defer proposal 3.

337/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Allington – Clerk to put Little Bell Pool, Drayton on the next agenda.

Cllr. Pawley – The History Society are seeking funding for a new Information Board to be placed on Belbroughton Village Green and Clerk confirmed the grant application would be discussed at Finance Committee.

Cllr. Pawley – Got agreement that the Christmas lights would be switched on as soon as they were installed. Clerk confirmed the new lights was at her home and BDC would be collecting them next week.

Cllr. Danks – confirmed that Wildmoor would not be requesting funding for a Christmas tree.

Cllr. Danks – To minute that Wildmoor Chapel is no longer a chapel and BDC should recognise this is no longer a place of worship but a redundant building if any planning applications were to come forward.

338/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Closing date for applications is 25th November 2022. It is hoped we may be able to get interviews arranged before Christmas.

339/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th December 2022, 7.00pm at Fairfield First School.

340/22 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public are excluded from the meeting for the duration of the

above item on the basis that the information disclosed will be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

A Summary Report on the Future of Fairfield Recreation Ground was debated which consisted of Six Recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – this recommendation was carried with one abstention.

Recommendation 2 – this recommendation was carried with one against and one abstention.

Recommendation 3 – this recommendation was unanimously agreed.

Recommendation 4

Improvement 1 – this improvement was unanimously agreed.

Improvement 2 – this improvement was unanimously agreed

Improvement 3 – this improvement was carried with 3 against.

Recommendation 5 - this recommendation was carried with one abstention.

Recommendation 6 – this recommendation with unanimously agreed subject to revised wording. Finer detailed to be debated at Finance Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

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

Signed