

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre Monday 6th January 2020.

Present: Cllrs. S Danks, A Homer, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr. R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and, S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. County & District Cllr. K. May. 0 members of the public.

1/20 Apologies

Apologies had been received by the clerk from Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell and G Parsons and were accepted by Council. Apologies had also been received from C.Cllr. S Webb and D.Cllr. M Sherrey.

The meeting was not adjourned as no members of the public were present.

2/20 Declarations of Interest - None. **3/20 Dispensations** - None requested.

4/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2nd December 2019.
The Chairman signed the minute book.

5/20 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Morgan (*and C.Cllr. May*) advised of the passing of former Parish Councillor Marjory Rees noting her work over many years for the community both as a councillor and with the setting up of the Wildmoor Residents Association.

The meeting stood for a one minutes silence.

Cllr. Morgan thanked members for the way in which recent meetings had been conducted.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 9th December 2019.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 9th December 2019.

Clerk's Report:

Fairfield Recreation Ground: Pothole repairs have been completed.

Footpath – Belbroughton Rec. to the primary school: Repairs to path completed.

Autumn leaves clean up: Both Fairfield and Belbroughton central areas have had visits from the District Council path clearing machinery.

Marjory Rees: We have been informed of the passing of former councillor Mrs Rees who was in recent years as a resident, a great help to the current Parish Council members by sitting on the Agricultural Holdings Committee and conducting the annual farm walks.

Communication: A meeting with County Cllr. Shirley Webb is scheduled for 15th January to review outstanding County Council items in Fairfield ward: e.g costs of constructing the hardstanding area on Stourbridge Rd. / speed limit reductions / maintenance of footways.

Training: A reminder that the District Council are holding a training session on dealing with planning applications. Venue: Parkside 6.00pm 23th January.

Quotes: We still await quotes from consultants for the assessment of refilling the Little Bell Hall Pool, Belbroughton; the options for potential CCTV installation in Belbroughton; roof repairs to the Parish Room, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton.

Mr Richard Ince had phoned to thank the Parish Council for its card expressing condolences to him and the family on the passing of former councillor Mrs Ann Ince.

1.

County and District Cllrs.:

C. Cllr. K May - No report due to the Christmas period holidays. D. Cllr. K May - advised:

The District Council had undertaken a review its bus shelters. 18 of these required to be brought up to an acceptable standard. A budget of £3,200 for each was proposed.

She would be enquiring of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust as to why ambulances were backing up at A & E and what it was doing to address the matter.

An appraisal of income streams at the District Council was being undertaken.

6/20 Precept 2020/21

The Council reaffirmed its prior decision at November Council to retain the Precept for 2020/21 at £65,000 since there had been no issues arising requiring a review of the agreed budget.

The District Council would be requested to collect the Precept.

7/20 Parish Room, Hartle Lane Belbroughton

Council approved a request from the tenants of the Parish Room for them to apply to the Bromsgrove District Council for a change of business use for the premises to include 'café and takeaway activities.'. **Action:** the clerk to inform the tenant.

8/20 Fairfield Villa F.C.

Council approved:

1. Commencement of the renewal processes for the lease should begin 18 months prior to the expiry of the present lease (28th September 2022).
2. Permitting, upon application and approval by the Council with a one month's notice requirement, the usage of the clubhouse for occasional 'community hub events'.
The Council had noted that the Fairfield Village Hall was now very fully booked up with separate commercial letting arrangements and therefore the local community could benefit from another local venue being available.
3. Installation of goal post sockets.
4. Installation of spectator barriers in Mid-August as fixture commitments required.

Council noted that the club wishes to have a permanent spectator hard standing surrounding parts of the pitch, to operate also as a health and access benefit for walkers / joggers / cyclists to have access to the overall green space all year round. Council would welcome sight of the F.V.F.C.'s project and costings but did not make any decision on whether to approve the concept.

Council noted that the club had suggested increasing the carpark by using the green space adjacent to the entrance lane. This would be considered by a future Council after costings had been obtained. **Action:** The clerk to inform F.V.F.C.

9/20 V.E. Day Celebrations May 2020.

Council approved in principle assisting local groups with funding towards events and looked forward to receiving applications.

Action: The clerk to inform local groups.

10/20 The Green, Belbroughton

Cllr. Pawley advised that following a meeting with a local contractor she would be calling a meeting of the Working Group (which includes local residents) to assess his report and costings for the tree planting requirements and potential other improvements to the area.

The Working Group will report back to February Council with precise recommendations.

Action: The Working Group to meet during January.

2.

11/20 Parish Contractors

- a. The Working Group had not met but Council approved the renewal of the 2019 work plans for the gardening contractors. Cllrs. Patchell and Ingram would be the points of contact for the Belbroughton and Fairfield contractors respectively and would discuss with them precise work schedules with possible changes, prior to the season commencing.
Action: The above Cllrs. would meet the contractors and report to the February Council any recommended amendments to the working schedules.
- b. Council agreed renewal of the current financial terms and conditions for the two gardeners who continue to operate as contractors to the Parish Council.
Council approved an increase in the hourly contracting rate for the Parish Lengthsman effective from 1st April provided however that the County Council was to maintain the Lengthsman funding scheme for 2020/21.
Action: The clerk to inform the Lengthsman with the annual confirmation letter of engagement but await issuing confirmation letters in respect of the gardeners until after the February Council.

12/20 Aspirations for 2020

Council noted members aspirations for the year which included:-

Enhancing what is in the two villages and to look after rather better what we have and not seek to expand into additional projects. Improving public attitudes and contribution to community service. Self-accountability for getting issues finalised and matters completed. Individual cllrs. taking responsibility for specific activities within the Council's workflow. Residents to be made more aware of Parish Council activities and encourage their involvement. Maintain the current good natured and positive atmosphere in the Council. Keep a close watch on the Green Belt but be mindful to promoting positive development. Be aware of any possible future quarry expansion desires from operators. Councillors should be aware of training opportunities through the Worcs. Calc. organisation.

13/20 Councillors' items

Cllr. Pawley requested that in view of another robbery at the shop in Belbroughton assessment of the CCTV options was progressed quickly.

Action: The clerk would press the consultant for his recommendations, however it was believed that he was presently off work due to an accident.

Cllr. Pawley advised that she would investigate the works carried out by Western Power on a tree on Sylvesters Corner, Belbroughton which a resident claimed was now badly misshapen.

Cllr. Mabbett – advised that certain residents in Fairfield were unhappy at the recent County Council Planning committee agreement to grant permission for industrial operations at the Wildmoor quarry site. They wished for clarity on the rationale that justified the decision.

Council approved inviting W.C.C. C.E.O. Paul Robinson to visit the Council to explain the reasoning behind the decision bearing in mind three Parish Councils and the District Council had strongly objected to the application. **Action:** The clerk to write to W.C.C.

Cllr. Patchell requested that the marketing agents for the Glebe Fields housing development are contacted to ascertain what permissions they had for erecting three sales boards in Belbroughton.

Action: The clerk to contact the agents.

The meeting was closed at 9.30 pm

Signed Chairman