

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Homer, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.  
Clerk, J Farrell. County Cllr. K May and twelve members of the public.

**066/19 Apologies** were received and accepted from Cllr. A Mabbett. Apologies had also been received from C.Cllr. S Webb.

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.

**067/19 Declarations of Interest** None.                      **068/19 Dispensations** None.

**069/19 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019.  
The Chairman then signed the minute book.

**070/19 Fortis Living – proposed development at Yew Tree Lane / Stourbridge Road Fairfield**

Council agreed to move this agenda item ahead of its listing due to the arrival of the representative Mr Eamon Thompson and the large number of residents present.

Council agreed to hear the presentation but would not express any comment at this stage and approved considering at a future council any proposal to support or not to support in principle an application for affordable housing on sites in Fairfield.

Mr Thompson, Development Manager, from the Fortis Living Housing Association, a charity, advised that acting for landowners, two pieces of land, which he did not identify, were being considered for application to the District Council for planning permission to build affordable housing. The sites were in the Green Belt where there would be a restriction on building unless they were able to be designated as 'Rural Exception Sites' – such exception being assessed on a proven need in the area for affordable housing. Occupation would be limited to local residents or those working in the vicinity and would be a mix of renting and shared ownership.

He detailed the criteria for rental rates under their scheme. He acknowledged that some open market housing could be included within the mix to make a scheme viable. A local housing needs survey would be required to determine need. The two sites under consideration could accommodate up to 20 properties.

C.Cllr. May advised Mr Thompson to discuss the proposals with the District Council. She advised that a 'Call for sites' is due later this year by B.D.C. and she felt that the approach this evening to the Parish Council was probably too early. The council acknowledged this however, had agreed to listen further to gain information with a view in particular to understand the methods of finding out residents' views. Mr Thompson advised this would be by way of a housing survey.

He confirmed that he would as requested contact the District Council to ascertain whether at this stage it would take the proposals forward and he would also contact the County Council Highways Dept. as regards accessibility to the sites.

Cllr. Bradley thanked Mr Thompson for attending the meeting.

## 071/19 Reports

### *Chairman's report:*

Cllr. Bradley had no report.

*Financial Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### *Clerk's Report:*

1. **Drayton Road / Little Bell Hall Pool site:** The third quote for the tidying work was received but the figure was well in excess of the Council's initial preferred contractor. The contractors were due to start 11<sup>th</sup> March but this has now been delayed until 21<sup>st</sup> March due to the illness of the firm's owner's spouse.
2. **Smartwater:** With Cllr.Mabbett unable to attend Council this evening the review of the Fairfield scheme is postponed until the April Council.
3. **The Green Belbroughton:** The felling of the cypress trees has taken place, the working group will be organising their next meeting shortly which will include agreeing ongoing public consultation procedures for deciding fresh planting schemes.
4. **Information Commissioners Office Enquiry:** A complaint / enquiry has been received from the I.C.O. concerning a possible data protection breach. Under the Council's complaint processes the complaint was assessed by the Chairman and clerk who responded to the I.C.O. The I.C.O. was content with the response and closed down the matter. There was no data protection breach, since the Council does not and did not hold the data the enquiry referred to. The I.C.O. requested that certain internal procedural documents were re-circulated for information to council members, which has been done.
5. **Elections May 2019:** The District Council is holding a 'Workshop' session in Parkside at 6.00pm 13<sup>th</sup> March for potential candidates. The quarterly District Calc. meeting follows this first meeting.
6. **Greenbelt review:** Mike Dunphy from the District Council writes – *"Thank you for responding to the Bromsgrove Plan Review Issues and Options consultation which took place in Autumn/Winter 2018. I'm conscious that you will not have heard from us since you submitted your response. To update you, we are currently processing the large number of responses with the aim of producing a report on the consultation as soon as possible. In due course we will update all consultees with more specific details, including when we envisage the next stages of the plan review will take place."*
7. **Bus shelter seating:** I have a pending enquiry sitting with W.C.C. requesting permission to install folding seats in the shelter located outside the church on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield.
8. **W.C.C. Chief Exec visit:** A reminder of Mr Paul Robinson's visit to the June Council. April's Council will agree questions.

### *County Cllr.Report:*

She advised that following the postponement of the Belbroughton assessment visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, this will now take place on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Cllrs. Allington and Margetts would join her and Mr Clewer of the County Council Highways Dept.

She was to shortly speak to Belbroughton Primary School regarding parking at school drop off and pick up times with a scheme to make traffic movements safer. She will keep the Parish Council informed on any traffic calming measures agreed. She advised that 'Consolidation Orders' were required on the roads, to enable legal enforcement of regulations.

She advised that gullies on High St. Belbroughton had been cleared. Surface dressing is due on High St. later this year.

Following both members' and residents' concerns she would ask Highways look at the road surfaces at Bradford Lane / Waystone Lane; Hockley Brook Lane, and Mearse Lane.

#### **072/19 Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer role – grade and hours**

Council confirmed the 18<sup>th</sup> February Finance Committee recommendation to amend the terms and conditions of the role to the NALC spine point 30 with contracted hours of 26 per week.

Council thanked the current clerk for his excellent work for the Council.

#### **073/19 Sandy Lane Quarry, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor.**

Council approved a response to the Scoping Opinion:

The Geo-Technical and any other relevant surveys have to be part of the application. An environmental impact statement should be produced by the applicants and the County Council must be mindful of the cumulative impact of the neighbouring quarries already present in the locality and effect potentially on the major aquifer. The site is also close to a Site of Special Scientific Interest 'S.S.S.I.' and suitable measures recorded for its protection.

#### **074/19 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Morgan advised that once the parameters of the District Council's Green Belt review are known then the Working Group would meet again to assess next actions. He advised that Mike Dunphy from the District Council would be present at the District Calc meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> March and may have an update on the Green Belt review.

#### **075/19 Little Bell Hall Pool**

- a. Council deferred a decision on erecting additional railings at the site, requesting the matter is discussed further by the Working Group. Council approved £200 towards fresh mandatory and cautionary signage for the site when it is more 'open', with specific wording to be agreed by the Working Group following advice from ROSPA. Council agreed that any redundant signage would be removed.
- b. Council did not consider the future of the site, requesting that the Working Group assess all options, including again researching the pool restoration, and report back to a future Council.

#### **076/19 Street Lighting**

Council deferred a decision on a resident's request for additional lighting along Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton, requesting that the Working Group meet to assess the logistics and costs. The group also to assess other costs for maintenance and replacement works that were now due.

The Working Group was confirmed as Cllrs. Hood, Homer, Jones and, Parsons.

#### **077/19 Working Groups**

The Chairman advised that the various groups should be in position to report progress quarterly.

#### **078/19 Litter Pick**

Council approved organising a litter pick on 24<sup>th</sup> March to cover Hackmans Gate Lane and Hartle Lane. The Council had a stock of 'Hi Viz' jackets but would also utilise the services of the District Council which would supply picks, gloves and black refuse bags. District Cllr. K. May agreed to liaise with the District Council to procure materials for 20 volunteers. These would be delivered to Cllr. B Allington who would lead and co-ordinate the litter pick.

**Action:** The clerk to promote the event on website, the parish magazine and available social media and also produce the risk assessment for the event.

: Cllr. Allington to liaise with D.Cllr. May.

**079/19 County Council Libraries Review – Catshill Library**

Council agreed that should the County Council decide after the consultation to implement its suggested reductions in financial support for Catshill Library the Council approved in principle, using the same criteria as had been approved previously for the Hagley library, to support Catshill library with a grant of £200 in the financial year 2020/21. This being contingent upon the results of the consultation and the resultant County Council budget for that year having decided to withdraw support. Any funds finally agreed would be taken from the Parish Council’s ‘Ordinary (Precepted) Income’.

**080/19 Belbroughton War Memorial**

Council noted that the memorial was leaning slightly possibly due to settlement of the land and agreed that a structural engineer should be approached to assess if any repair works were needed.

**Action:** Clerk to assess options for a structural survey.

**081/19 Councillors’ Items – None.**

**The meeting was closed at 9.40pm**

Signed ..... Chairman