

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre 5th November 2018.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell.
Clerk, J Farrell and three members of the public.

307/18 Apologies – Apologies were received from County Cllrs. K May and 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.

308/18 Declarations of Interest - None. **309/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

310/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 1st October 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

311/18 Reports

Chairman’s report: Cllr. Bradley had no report.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 15th October 2018.

Financial Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett advised that there were funds for term investment and options would be considered at the next committee meeting. There had been a long discussion on the Little Bell Hall Pool. Council then noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 15th October 2018.

Clerk’s Report:

1. **Vacancy** - Following the resignation of Cllr. MacDonald the co-option processes have been commenced – the District Council informed & the legal notice has been displayed. After 5th November the position can and will be actively advertised with an expectation of assessing candidates at the December Council. Should Council not appoint in December, as there would only be 5 months of this Council remaining the Council can decide not to fill the vacancy.
2. **Planning Committee** - Advance notice that the Planning Committee on Monday 19th November will start earlier - at 7.00pm as there are already eight applications to consider.
3. **Traffic:** County Cllr. Shirley Webb has set up a meeting for Monday 12th November 10.30am - 11.30am for Fairfield residents and Cllrs. at Catshill Methodist Church Hall, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill. Speed monitoring data will be made available. There will be representatives from Safer Road Partnerships, Safer Neighbourhood Team, W.C.C. Highways and Community Safety. She has also invited your District Councillors.
As a follow up the Parish Council’s ‘Working Group’ will meet to discuss outcomes, and issues relating to Belbroughton, on 14th November.
4. **Tree Survey:** Parish owned land will have its ‘every two years’ trees health and safety survey on 6th November.
5. **Potholes:** A response is awaited from the County Council on possible pot hole filling by the Parish Council.

312/18 Remembrance Sunday

Cllr. Bradley advised that it would be the final parade by the Belbroughton branch of the British Legion due to lessening numbers. Council agreed the Cllr. Bradley and Cllr. Jones would lay wreaths at the services in Belbroughton and Fairfield respectively.

Events to mark the centenary include exhibitions in the Church Hall Belbroughton and in St Marks Church Fairfield.

313/18 Meetings

Council approved a circulated schedule of meetings for 2019 which would follow the existing format. There would probably be a Council meeting in August, but this would be reviewed in July.

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 29th April in Fairfield Village Hall.

314/18 'Smartwater' Fairfield Ward - Pilot

Cllrs. Jones and Mabbett advised that take up was progressing well. The percentage was sufficient to now approach West Mercia Police to erect the signage in the village. On Sat 24th November there will be a session of calling on properties which have yet to take up the free offer with the aim of increasing coverage further. This is expected to be repeated early in the New Year to maintain momentum. In early Spring 2019 a report on lessons learned will be presented to Council.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that Neighbourhood Watch signage was being renewed.

Council wished to record thanks to the Fairfield Community Association for prior and ongoing work on the implementing scheme.

315/18 Fairfield Recreation Ground – Play area

Council noted the annual September RoSpa report, which gives an overall 'good' report on the equipment and surface. Cllr. Jones referred to a circulated list of items that ought to have attention and Council approved seeking quotations for this work.

Action: the clerk and Cllr. Jones would meet on site with potential contractors, which would include the original installers, to obtain quotes and take advice on options for surface repairs.

316/18 County Council planning application – 18/000036/CM

Council discussed the application at length and approved a response to the County Council objecting to the application: "The Parish Council objects - the application is for a site which is not part of the current Worcestershire County Council Minerals 'Preferred Area' and thus it should be rejected. Should however the application nevertheless be agreed then all conditions set out in the permission must be met. Traffic movements between the site and any local processing facilities are of great concern due to location and should be subject to Worcestershire County Council Highways full understanding and appropriate additional conditions. Conditions for limiting the environmental impacts must be properly set and enforced."

317/18 Bromsgrove District Council District Plan Review Issues and Options

- a. Council noted that two residents meetings had been organised by Cllr. Morgan and the clerk enabling the District Council to hold public meetings to garner views on the review process. In total 35 people attended.
- b. Council approved a response to the District Council: "It was content with the review processes detailed by the District Council's representatives during the meetings held in Belbroughton and Fairfield."

318/18 Little Bell Hall Pool – Future

- a. Cllr. Morgan had circulated an update report, he confirmed that work had commenced on the clearing of vegetation, including ivy overhanging the footway, to within on average a metre away from the footway. A tree safety survey on 6th November and inputs from the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, who would visit the site of 8th November would provide additional information for the Working Group to assess. He therefore recommended a further discussion at the December Council on the future usage and appearance of the site.
- b. A motion was proposed: “That the Parish Council should not in any way consider the possibility of selling the site”. Council voted: four votes in favour (Cllrs. Allington and Pawley requested formal recording of their votes in favour), six votes against and three abstentions. The motion was therefore defeated.

Action: The ‘Working Group’ would explore this as one of the options when continuing its review on the future of the site.

- c. Council will await a further report from the Working Group.

319/18 The Green Belbroughton

- a. Council approved granting permission for the annual carol service to take place which was organised by Belbroughton Animal Sanctuary.
- b. Council approved switching on the Christmas lights on 1st December.

Action: Cllr. Pawley would test the lights and advise the clerk if any maintenance works were required.

320/18 The Green Belbroughton – Replacement planting and landscaping scheme

- a. Cllr. Pawley on behalf of the Working Group advised that following the consultation open meeting 22nd October five residents had attended, who would join the Working Group. (four others had wished to attend but were not available on the evening). The recommendation was a two phase approach: Firstly the line of cypress trees is removed to provide more light to The Green. Secondly further consultation to take place on new planting schemes, with the benefit of using the most up to date plans for the adjacent new development which would be sourced from the District Council.
- b. Council approved requesting permission from the District Council for the cypress trees to be removed, including grinding out of stumps, and if this is agreed then to seek quotations for the work.

Action: the clerk to make the application.

- c. Council acknowledged that the Working Group would meet again to progress phase 2.

321/18 Working Practises

Council recorded that it must adhere to legal requirements in its processes. It would continue with the Committees and ‘Working Groups’ procedures aiming to turn debates more speedily into actions.

It acknowledged that the Parish Council could not legally action items raised by the community which were the responsibility of the County Council and that the public may not be fully aware of this.

Action: the clerk was requested re-circulate its delegation policy.

322/18 Councillors’ Items

Cllr. Pawley wished to record thanks to County Cllr. Karen May for supporting the History Society with £240 from her Divisional Fund. The funds have covered the costs of repainting the phone box library.

Cllr. Boswell also thanked C.Cllr. May for helping at the Belbroughton Lunch Club.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that lorry diversion signs had been erected in Fairfield advising HGVs to use Brook Rd. Council acknowledged this posed safety issues at the junction of Brook Rd and Dordale Rd. and agreed to express these to the County Council.

Action: Clerk to advise Worcs. C.C. Highways of safety concerns and request a response on why the route had been chosen.

Cllr. Allington advised that the promised repainting of double yellow lines outside The Old Shoe P.H. had yet to be actioned.

Action: the clerk to chase the County Council.

Cllr. Bradley advised that C.P.R.E. Worcs (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England) were requested a cllr. representative.

Action: Members interested should advise the clerk who would contact C.P.R.E.

Cllr. Bradley advised that Age UK were seeking support for 'Tea and Tech meetings' Council agreed it would be happy to support in principle by publicising Age UK events.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm

Signed Chairman