

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Fairfield First School Monday 6th February 2017.

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, S MacDonald, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell.
County Cllr. S Blagg.

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 5 members of the public also attended.

040/17 Apologies - None.

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.

041/17 Declarations of Interest None. **042/17 Dispensations** None.

042/17 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of Council 9th January 2017 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

043/17 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Bradley had circulated a note concerning meeting procedures with the aim of reducing excessive time being taken in future meetings. When questioned, he did agree that it remains the Chairman's decision on whether to invite members of the public to speak outside of the allotted 'Open Surgery' slot. However, it was not the intention to exclude such comments and these would continue to be permitted when appropriate to any specific agenda item.

Action: the clerk would re-draft the wording of that section of the note.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 23rd January 2017.

Finance Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett emphasised that a quotation that had been received for the emptying of dog waste bins from the District Council representing a 500% increase in the costs charged by the current private contractor (but see clerk's report). Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 23rd January 2017.

Clerk's Report:

1. The Parish Room, Belbroughton has been successfully let on a six year lease to Dean and Rachel Knight. They will be aiming to open a delicatessen business shortly. Members of the Council's 'Working Group' will meet with the tenants on 15th February to discuss the intended minor alterations to the site. The 'Change of Use to A1 usage' has been agreed by the District Council.
2. The Green, Belbroughton. Council awaits the Developer signing the Deed of Easement, the matter remains with the council's solicitors. They have forwarded the engineering surveyor's additional comments on the two drainage routes from the site to the Developer's lawyers.
3. Dog bins: discussions are taking place with Stoke Prior Parish Council jointly assessing the possibility of a fresh contractor taking over the 'emptying' contract in April for both parish areas. An update will be advised at the Finance Committee on 20th February. Thus, further contact with the District Council on the matter is on hold as is the involvement of District Cllrs.

4. Trees: The Application for the works in the Belbroughton Conservation area has been submitted to the District Council, covering Sylvester's Corner and The Green. This is following the site visit by Mr A Bucklitch from B.D.C. (attended by Cllr. Pawley and the clerk). The tree at Ram Ally is to be subject to a further inspection in mid Spring when Mr Bucklitch wishes to assess tree foliage and the extent of the disease before deciding whether the lime tree requires to be felled.
5. The clerk and 2 cllrs. are to attend the Bromsgrove and Redditch District Councils 'Funding Fair' exhibition on 8th March at Redditch Town Hall.

County Cllr. report: Cllr. Sheila Blagg advised that she was available to discuss items from her monthly report which had been circulated previously to members. She also advised that the County Council were unable to install the dropped kerb close to the mini-roundabout due to traffic flows and a further site was deemed to be too close to a B.T. cabinet. Further sites can be suggested to the County, but appreciating that there were limited opportunities.

She also advised that the Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield school crossing patrol advert had been issued in 2014 without any applicants to date. A promotional brochure was left with the Council. She advised that a traffic audit would be undertaken by the County to assess need for a pedestrian crossing and they would report to the Integrated Transport Team who give approval for crossings. This may suggest a crossing is a better option than the patrol option. Funding remained an issue however and any matched funding would obviously be helpful. Crossing costs can be up to between £100k and £200k. The audit will explain parameters it considers for crossings.

She confirmed that funds remain in her Divisional Fund following a prior project falling away and thus the parish council may bid for these monies of up to £1,500. Requests must be received before 20th March.

She informed the Council that she would be retiring from the County Council and thus not seeking re-election in May. Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. Blagg for sending her regular monthly updates, which he had found extremely useful and, for the occasions that she had been able to attend council meetings. He further thanked her for the work she had done over the years for Fairfield and her division and the council records its thanks.

044/17 Co-Option of new Councillor for Belbroughton ward

Mrs Sharon Boss was co-opted onto the Parish Council and after signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Cllr. Boss took her seat on the Council. The Chairman welcomed her to the Council.

045/17 Neighbourhood Plan

a. Cllr. Morgan advised that the 'Working Group' had been very active and he thanked them for their work. Current activity involved information gathering which included conversations with other parish councils, the M.P., and Mike Dunphy the Strategic Planning Officer at the Bromsgrove District Council. The aim being to produce a paper for consideration by the March Council. This would include potential list of questions to test resident opinion on the concept. No recommendation on whether to develop a plan with the community would be made by the 'Working Group' at the March Council since the processes remained at the investigation stage.

12.

b.Cllr. Morgan advised that part of the consultation process could initially involve communicating by two newsletter/ leaflets over the next few months. Costs of printing and delivery by Cllrs. is circa £200 per drop and by a mail order delivery contractor £800 per drop. Delivery by Cllrs. is cost effective and enables conversations with residents. He advised that this delivery method including a proportion of posted items was termed a 'blended delivery' and common to many parish councils in the County.

Council approved this method of distribution should the March Council agrees that communications regarding the Neighbourhood Plan should be commenced.

046/17 Winter Newsletter

Council noted the second draft and with minor amendments approved the newsletter. The communications 'Working Group' was requested to assess the processes and timeline for producing subsequent newsletters and future delivery method detail.

047/17 Lengthsman

Cllr. Margetts wished to ensure that systems are robust to ensure that instructions to the Lengthsman are understood and actioned in a timely manner. To changes were made to the present arrangements although Council approved Cllr. Ingram monitoring activity in Fairfield since there had been no prior point of contact in that part of the parish. Cllrs. were to direct any specific work requests, which fell within the Lengthsman job description, via the clerk and not the monitoring cllrs.

048/17 Annual Parish Meeting

a.Council noted the re-arranged date of Monday 22nd May for the meeting to be held in the Fairfield Village Hall. The Fairfield W.I. had agreed to provide refreshments prior to the meeting.

b.Council agreed to maintain the existing format for reporting council business but agreed that only two organisations would be invited to give presentations which would enable more time to be available for the residents' 'question and answer' session.

c.Council noted its previous agreement to invite the Birmingham Velo and, Severn Trent to present at the meeting.

049/17 Dropped Kerb

Cllr. Mabbett informed Council of a number of sites where dropped kerbs would be beneficial to Fairfield residents. Council approved progressing four potential sites, to be endorsed by Fairfield Cllrs., with a note of the priority of each site, for submission to the County Council for its consideration.

Council approved investigating the Belbroughton ward to assess if there were similar needs.

Cllrs. Boss and Pawley agreed to survey the village and report back to Council.

Action: The clerk to approach W.C.C. when the Fairfield list is confirmed.

050/17 Place Name Signs

Council approved the purchase and installation of two 'Broom Hill' place name signs on Dordale Rd. The signs are to be based on the design used at Stoneybridge.

Action: The clerk will contact the County Council to seek the site approval.

051/17 Councillor Items

Cllr. Jones requested the next agenda considers recommending to the County Council that a 'gated entrance' in installed on the Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield. Council noted that Police Insp. Corteen was likely to attend the March Council meeting and agreed to send her a formal invitation.

13.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that at the junction of Brook Rd and Dordale Rd the County Council had removed certain debris but had left in place an orange painted jagged pole which would be extremely dangerous to cyclists.

Action: Clerk to chase W.C.C. for its removal and to copy in the County cllr. with the request.

Cllr. Margetts advised that the road surface outside 73 High St Belbroughton was breaking up badly. He also advised that following significant W.C.C. work on Dordale Rd. joints between the repair and the existing pavement surface appeared not to have been sealed properly which could lead to potholes forming in due course.

Action: clerk to report both issues to W.C.C. Highways.

Cllr. Bradley advised that Cllr. Ingram had offered to act as a liaison cllr. with the Fairfield Community Association. Council confirmed this representation.

Action: the clerk to contact the F.C.A. to firstly request whether this offered link with the Council was welcomed and if so that Cllr. Ingram would fulfil the role.

Cllr Scurrrell advised that he and Cllr. Morgan had attended the exhibition on the latest County Council Minerals consultation. He felt that there were no issues in the plan for the parish area since it dealt with rules and regulations for new quarries. It did not deal with existing quarries and the issues that they presented.

A future agenda would assess the current position with the existing sites in the parish.

Cllr.Hood advised that following an assessment of the damaged fence at Stoneybridge, the farmer would be contacted to confirm the size of the entrance to the adjacent field and thus the amount of new post and fencing repairs required.

Cllr. Pawley advised that as representative on the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Committee she held copies of the minutes of their meetings. Council requested that she bring to Council any pressing matters but that it was not necessary to supply copies of the minutes.

She advised that they were developing a new website and had requested a link to it on the parish Council site. Council approved that this would be done.

She further advised that the committee was also checking the responsibilities for emptying their dog bins.

Cllr Parsons requested that it be recorded that she was on her own with four children and that she was minded to be if not mildly offended by the insinuation that she didn't do enough and that Fairfield councillors didn't do enough.

Cllr. Nock advised that two residents in Belbroughton had complained that they could not access the steps to the raised pavement in High St Belbroughton due to parked cars. He requested that a future council agenda considers whether the County Council should be asked to input parking restrictions suitably painted on the highway adjacent to the steps.

The Meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed **Chairman**