

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 7th January 2019.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Homer, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.
Clerk, J Farrell and one member of the public.

001/19 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Dr. R Morgan, P Margetts. Apologies were also received 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.

002/19 Declarations of Interest None. **003/19 Dispensations** None requested.

004/19 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd December 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

005/19 Reports

Chairman’s report:

Cllr. Bradley thanked Cllr. Pawley for the Christmas lights display in Belbroughton.

He welcomed Cllr. Adrian Homer to the Council, who agreed to take up the vacancy on the Finance Committee. He requested that the leaders of Working Groups gave progress reports at the March Council and then quarterly thereafter. He also thanked the clerk for his work during 2018.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 10th December 2018.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 10th December 2018.

Clerk’s Report:

- 1. Precept 2019-20** - Council had approved an unchanged Precept of £65,000 at the 3rd December Council, there have been no changes to the budget in the last month and this is therefore the amount that will be collected by on the Parish Council’s behalf by the District Council. (The amount will mean a £54.00 charge for a band ‘D’ property. The tax base is 1203.6 units).
- 2. County Budget** - A reminder of the County Council’s ‘Budget Briefing’ for parish councils is being held 6.00pm 23rd January at County Hall Worcester.
- 3. Quarries** - The next ‘Stakeholder’s Quarries’ meeting is 12.00pm 25th Jan. at Parkside, Bromsgrove.
- The defibrillator was removed by person(s) unknown from the cabinet attached to the wall of the Talbot P.H. late evening 23rd Dec. – it was found the next day on a grass verge in Hartle Lane. It has been checked for its functionality which was sound and was returned to the cabinet 28th Dec.
- 5. Fairfield Villa F.C** have advised following the parish council’s response on use of the clubhouse:
“We have noted your concerns about third parties using our clubroom and we are happy with their insurance covers - which we have discussed with them”.
- 6. Little Bell Hall Pool** - The Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment report has arrived from Natural Networks and Cllr. Morgan will shortly convene the ‘L.B.H.Pool’ Working Group to discuss the contents and other future options for the site. The Group would aim to report back to the February or March Council.

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7. Fairfield Community Association have advised:

Remembrance Service and Display

Last year, Council provided a grant that helped fund Order of Services, flyers and refreshments in relation to events organised by Fairfield Village Community Association to commemorate the 100 years since the end of First World War. I would be grateful if you could update Council that events were successful:

Display in Church – involved St. Mark’s church, Fairfield First School and residents. Many members of our community, including school parents and past residents, viewed the displayed material between 1st and 12th November. Feedback has been very positive.

Act of Remembrance – Attended by over 100 members of the local community, people young and not so young were involved in the service. Wreaths were laid by the Parish Council, Fairfield Village Community Association (FVCA), Fairfield First School and the Royal British Legion. Many people who attended the service remained for refreshments. A copy of the Order of Service was given to Cllr Jones to pass on to Council.

Christmas

Festive Fairfield, which is coordinated by FVCA, was a success. Numbers attending Carols Around the Christmas Tree and the New Year’s Eve Party were up. Attendance at the Christmas Party inc. Puppet Show was slightly down and the Outdoor Christmas Fair attracted many people from Fairfield and the surrounding area – not bad for a first time event. FVCA would like to thank the Council for once again funding the village Christmas Tree and procuring new tree of lights. Many residents have made very positive comments.

006/18 Traffic Calming

Councillors had received a briefing report on Fairfield from Cllr. Mabbett following meetings of the ‘Working Group’ and other meetings held with W.C.C. , the Safer Road Partnership and C.Cllr. Webb. (No current issues had been raised for Belbroughton ward).

Council agreed with the recommendations in the report:

Speeding:

- 1.1 To continue to press for a speed monitoring site on the South side of Fairfield with SRP which will act as an alternative site to the North site. WCC had agreed to fund the construction of the site allocated for use by the motorcycle however SRP had now felt a larger space for a van, including an additional dropped kerb would be required and this may require additional funds possibly from the Parish Council – WCC to advise on these and the council would consider in due course.
- 1.2 To pursue a proposed extension of the 30 mph zone along Brook Road to Dordale Road, or at least to change the 60 mph zone to a 40 mph zone on Brook Road to its junction with Dordale Road.
- 1.3 To support the proposed changes by WCC of the 60 mph limit to 40 mph between Stoneybridge and the current position of the start of the 30 mph, with a preference for no change in the positioning of the 30 mph zone. Also, to support additional lineage to that stretch of Stourbridge Road.
- 1.4 To leave the VAS on the South side of Fairfield unchanged until more information can be gathered on what alternative would be more effective.
- 1.5 To continue to work with Highways in seeking costing and effectiveness of the use of speed tables and/or changes in road surfaces on both sides of the village to act as a physical measure to reduce speed.

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- 1.6 To delay a decision on any contribution the Parish Council might consider making towards the installation of White Entry Gates until other traffic calming measures have been evaluated.
- 1.7 Council would ask W.C.C. whether more sophisticated radar recording equipment could be made available to record speed and vehicle reg. numbers.

Parking:

- 1.1 To highlight concerns over 'school' parking on the B4091 in Fairfield to the Dept. of Education as part of any response to the expansion of Fairfield School, with a view to ensuring the safe passage of all road users.
- 1.2 To suggest again to the Fairfield School Governors the implementation of a staggered drop-off time in the morning in order to 'smooth congestion, if resources could be made available.
- 1.3 To suggest the use of timed no-parking strips at school time to help with both traffic movement and improving safety for pedestrians. However it was noted that any enforcement by the District council may be patchy.

Traffic composition:

- 1.1 To suggest to highways that consideration should be given to restricting HGV movement on the B4091 between Catshill War Memorial and Stoneybridge Island at peak school times, given the proposed expansion of the school and the congestion on the Stourbridge Road which can be witnessed at school time.

Action: the Working Group and clerk to progress the recommendations.

007/19 County Council Libraries Review

Council noted the County Council consultation reviewing library coverage and the meeting at Hagley 9th January regarding specifically Hagley library, which Cllr. Morgan is attending to assess what contributions may be being sought in respect of recruiting volunteers and possibly funding. A response will be considered to the consultation at February Council after Cllr. Morgan reports back.

Action: Cllr. Morgan to report back to February Council.

008/19 County Council 4th Minerals Plan – Call for sites Consultation

Council agreed to set up a 'Working Group' of Cllrs. Ingram and Jones to prepare a response to the consultation for consideration by the February Council. The Wildmoor Residents Association and Bournheath Parish Council would be asked to contribute to the 'Working Group'. Council noted that an 'Open Day' was being held by W.C.C. on 21st January at The Hive, Worcester.

Action: the Working Group to report back to February Council.

009/19 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Council noted the costs from Wicksteeds for repairs to the play area. Council approved the Wicksteeds quote for the replacements for cradle and flat seats and, finger trap plugs at a total cost of circa £650. As regards the 'wetpour' surface replacement quote it would require two further quotes from other companies in order to comply with council financial regulations. All works should take place in spring 2019. **Action:** the clerk will seek further quotes and refer to a future Council.

Council also agreed to assess future expansion of the 'play area' site and equipment for usage by older children and potentially an adult outdoor gym.

Action: Cllrs. Parsons and Jones to assess as a future 'Parish Project'.

: The clerk to contact the District Council regarding any planning permissions required.

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010/19 Age UK Bromsgrove/Redditch/Wyre Forest

To assist with Age UK's desire to reach the over 50s in the community, Council approved in principle covering the costs of room hire in the parish area for Age UK organised events, e.g. 'Talk Tea and Tech' sessions. Council also agreed to promote Age UK events to residents.

Action: The clerk to inform Age UK and await specific room hire requests.

011/19 Dark Lane, Belbroughton

Council approved in principle a resident's request to place, at his cost a memorial bench at Dark Lane. The bench should be maintenance free. It declined a request from the same resident to plant a tree as the area was already adequately 'planted up'.

Action: Cllr. Pawley to liaise with the resident and bring the specific request back to a future Council which would also consider the precise location.

012/19 Annual Parish Meeting

Council agreed to hold the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting at The Fairfield First School 7.30pm on Monday 8th April 2019 provided there are adequate p.a. and display facilities.

Action: Council to decide the format of the meeting at February Council.

013/19 W.C.C. Chief Executive Paul Robinson

Council agreed to accept the open offer from the Chief Executive to visit parish councils. Specific items to be raised will be considered when the meeting date is known and members would also liaise with the county councillors on topics.

Action: the clerk to invite Mr Robinson, offering any of the Council meeting dates in 2019.

014/19 Elections May 2019

Council agreed that individual members would talk to residents in their ward to encourage interest in the Council. The website would be used to inform residents of the elections.

015/19 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Boswell advised that councillors should be informing residents of what the Parish Council does for its residents.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the Fairfield Community Association had shown 3 useful police videos clips on credit card and A.T.M scams at their meeting on 5th January. He requested that the P.C. copy the links to the clips to the resident e mail database and also place these onto the website.

Cllrs. Allington and Pawley requested a meeting of the Little Bell Hall Pool Working Group prior to the February Council. Cllr. Homer asked to join this Working Group and Council confirmed.

Cllr. Parsons requested that the range of health provision at the community hospital - The Princess of Wales, Bromsgrove - should be addressed specifically by the WCC Chief Executive or by him liaising with the NHS Trust.

The meeting was closed at 9.25pm

Signed Chairman