

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.**

**Present:** Cllrs. J Bradley (Chairman), J Boswell, G Ingram, T Jones, S MacDonald, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.

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

**124/17 Election of Chairman**

Cllr. James Bradley was re-elected Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**125/17 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr. Dr Robert Morgan was re-elected Vice- Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**126/17 Apologies** – Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. S Boss, A Hood and A Mabbett. Apologies had also been received from County Councillor Karen May.

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.

**127/17 Declarations of Interest** None. **128/17 Dispensations** None.

**129/17 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council 3rd April 2017, the Chairman signed the minute book.

**130/17 Reports**

*Chairman’s report:* Cllr. Bradley advised that Cllr. Boswell had sent a congratulations card to the Parish Room tenants Dean and Rachel Knight following the birth of their baby daughter, Elizabeth.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the minutes of the committee held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

*Finance Committee report:* Council noted the minutes of the committee held 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

*Clerk’s Report:*

1. Mr Sajid Javid’s proposed visit on Friday evening 9<sup>th</sup> June has been cancelled due to the forthcoming General Election.
2. The District Council has been asked to supply a dog waste bin for junction of Wood Lane / Stourbridge Road Fairfield to replace the one they incorrectly removed earlier this year. We await a reply from the District Council on the requested provision of additional litter bins in Fairfield.
3. The Green Belbroughton - The Council legal advisors M.F.G. advise that they have had an updated version of the agreement from the Developers but still await the required plans that are to sit as appendices to the agreement. They are chasing and will refer the entire agreement to council for review and signing only when the document is complete.
4. Fairfield Recreation Ground: Car/park – the planning permission request for the extension will be sent to the District Council this week. Surface repairs to the play area are planned to take place during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> May.
5. Stourbridge Road traffic calming: Cllr. Mabbett and I are awaiting a response from the County Council as to the reasons why ‘pinch point virtual traffic calming’ cannot be installed. When that issue is resolved then Cllr. Mabbett on behalf of the Parish Council will progress with the County the costs and options for funding of the agreed gateway structures.

6. Fairfield bus shelters: Strengthening work has been carried out on the shelter adjacent to the church. The options for improvements to the shelter at The Swan are still being considered with the County Council
7. The next P.A.C.T. - **People And Communities Together** meeting is to be hosted by Dodford with Grafton Parish Council and has been arranged for Tuesday 6 June 2017 in Dodford Village Hall, Priory Road, Dodford at 7.30pm. I gather that the Police and Crime Commissioner is keen to attend this meeting.
8. The new notice board for Fairfield has been ordered and will be located outside the Fairfield Village Hall.
9. Trees: The Green, Belbroughton - sycamore encroaching the flagpole – the Tree Officer has no objection to removal of limbs or felling of the whole tree, it is a small self-set tree growing out through cypress. Small enough to be exempt from need to apply for a formal permission.  
Lime tree by Dark Lane – The Tree Officer advises following his site visit that the basal decay is pretty extensive around the trunk. He further comments this is bad enough that he is happy to consider it exempt from the need to formally apply for permission and would advise this it is felled & replaced asap.  
Following the Parish Council's request, the trees adjacent to Springfield House, Belbroughton and the highway have been trimmed by the owners.
10. The internal auditor has completed her assessment and her report will be noted formally at the June council when the annual return to the external auditors Grant Thornton will be completed. The Chairman thanked the clerk for his work on the Parish Council's accounts.

#### **131/17 Meetings 2017**

Council agreed to continue with the current schedule of Council and Committee meetings for the remainder of the calendar year.

#### **132/17 Parish Council Governance**

- a. Council approved the adoption for the new council year of the :-  
Council's Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Complaints Procedures, Freedom of Information Policy, Press and Media Policy, Filming and Recording Procedures, and Data Protection Policy & Risk Assessment schedule.
- b. Council confirmed its eligibility for the exercise of the 'General Power of Competence' for the next two years.

#### **133/17 Membership of Committees, Working Groups and, appointment of members to outside bodies**

- a. Council agreed renewal of the membership of the Finance, Planning and Agricultural Holdings Committees for the year ahead with the addition of Cllr. S Boss to the Finance Committee and Cllr. G Ingram to the Agricultural Holdings Committee.
- b. Council agreed renewal of the membership of the 'Working Groups' in addition Cllr. S Boss would join the 'traffic calming' and 'communication' groups
- c. Council agreed renewal of the representatives to outside bodies and the points of contact for contractors.

#### **134/17 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Morgan advised that the questionnaire had been printed and thanked the working group for its enthusiasm and members and associates who would be delivering the survey.

The proposal to use a Facebook page for obtaining responses was not going to proceed as it would constitute a business activity and was not allowable. The questionnaire was now available on the website. He reminded members that the survey was a low level enquiry document aiming to pick up themes from residents and thus guide the direction on what the council should be examining. The working group would be meeting again shortly to consider its assessment processes of the responses. Small businesses were to be contacted and their input also requested. He confirmed that the two post boxes were in place for receipt of paper responses. The Chairman thanked the group and Cllr. Morgan for their work.

#### **135/17 Little Bell Hall Pool**

Cllr. Morgan advised that the group had met to review the past and more recent history of actions at the site. It also wanted to thank Cllrs. Paul Margetts and Allan Hood for their extensive work in stabilising and making the site safe. It will obtain more expert engineering advice including guidance from the North Worcestershire Water Management through whose consent would very likely be needed to any work affecting the dam. There remains a lot of 'homework' to do including assessing for example 'silt traps' and costs of various options of re-establishing the pool. Also, the option of an auction sale of the site would be included in the assessment. He confirmed that consultation with local residents would be a further consideration. Lottery backed funding were options being examined and forming of a 'Friends of the Pool' to attract interest and funds.

#### **136/17 The Green, Belbroughton**

Council declined to plant fast growing Leylandii to the rear of The Green to create a visual screen. Council hoped however that the development would be commenced shortly as it could then plan with consultation future improvements to the area.

#### **137/17 Parish Room, Belbroughton**

Council agreed to the removal of the 2002 Golden Jubilee plaque at the premises as the shrubbery involved was no longer insitu. Council declined to reinstate a shrubbery on the site.

**Action:** the clerk to liaise with the tenants at the premises for the removal.

#### **138/17 W.W.1. 11/11/1918 Centenary Commemoration Activities.**

Council agreed to set up a small 'Working Group' of Cllrs. S Boss, J Bradley and S Pawley to assess options for the commemoration and also to make contact with local parish bodies seeking their views. The working group may invite non councillors to join the group for advisory purposes.

#### **139/17 Display of flags**

Council approved the permanent flying of the union flag on both flagpoles. It would review the decision in one month after assessing public reaction.

#### **140/17 Councillors Items**

Cllr. Boswell advised that there were questionable activities taking place on land adjacent to the roundabout at Wildmoor.

**Action:** the clerk was asked to raise concerns with the District Council and to seek their clarification on whether any planning rules were being breached.

**Cllr. Margetts** - Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton – cllr. advised that he would ask the lengthsman to assess cleaning of the site of the former B.T. telephone box, putting down a concrete base and bricking up a retaining wall there to provide a suitable base for a bench to be installed.

**Cllr. Margetts** noted that the work would be instructed on felling the lime tree at Ram Ally along with the removal of the sycamore tree on The Green.

**Cllr. Bradley** advised that the footway from Yew Tree Avenue into Belbroughton village was felt by some residents now to be too narrow to be used safely by residents.

The Lengthsman and the County Council would be asked for their assessment.

Cllr. Morgan requested that the Traffic Calming Working Group assesses speed restrictions on the Madeley Road in Bell Heath as residents had informed speeding was an ongoing issue.

**Cllr. Macdonald** advised that a lighting column on Holy Cross Lane appeared to be at an incorrect angle. **Action:** the clerk will report into W.C.C. / Prysman for their assessment.

**Cllr. Parsons** informed Council of the application deadline of 16<sup>th</sup> June from the District Council for New Homes Bonus funds which were available for parish community projects. Community groups and parish councils could apply for funds. The Chairman advised that members should progress projects / activities that they felt would benefit and potentially qualify for such funding and present such cases to future Finance Committee and Council meetings for consideration.

**Cllr. Scurrall** enquired when the replacement road name sign at Yew Tree Avenue Fairfield would be installed. The clerk advised that the District Council had been informed of the disappearing posts and we await their attention to the matter. A reminder would be sent.

**The Meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.**

**Signed** ..... **Chairman.**