

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at Fairfield First School on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>	<b>County &amp; District Council</b>	<b>Public</b>
	<b>Councillors:</b> B Allington, J Boswell, S Clarke, S Danks, M Gibbs, A Hood, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Pawley  Clerk: C Powell and R. Mullett (observing)	<b>Councillors:</b>	There were 7 members of public in attendance

**196/21. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors S Nock, K May, M Sherrey, S Wilkes and S Webb.

***Meeting to adjourn for an 'Open Surgery' for up to 15 minutes to enable residents to discuss any issues with their councillors and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda***

**197/21. Resignation of Councillor**

The Parish Council notes that Councillor Simon Patchell had resigned from the Parish Council. The notice of a casual vacancy will be advertised.

**198/21. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

**199/21. Minutes.**

Councillor Pawley requested the minutes be amended to show the benches on the village green had been agreed and no further permission would be required from the Finance Committee

Councillor Mabbett requested the following amendments in sections:

195/21 - clearly identify the tree and its location for the purpose of the minutes.

193/21 iv – a questionnaire was discussed and should clearly not that this would be online and paper based.

## **200/21. Reports - for information:**

- **Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman noted the current Clerk had resigned. The arrangement going forward would involve assistance from CALC through a locum clerk.

- **Planning Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.**

Council noted the Committee did not meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November as the meeting was not quorate.

- **Finance Committee meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021.**

Councillor Mabbett discussed:

QuickBooks will be moving to the Cloud

£250 cheque had been presented to the Fairfield Toddler Group

£500 cheque had been presented to the Fairfield Community Group

## **201/21 County and District Councillors.**

- Due to apologies, there was nothing reported.

## **202/21 Update on outstanding items from previous meetings**

- **Post Office Closure Working Group**

After the meeting takes place on the 13<sup>th</sup> December all participants will report back to their respective bodies. It was noted that an update will be provided to the Parish Council in January 2022.

- **Parking in Fairfield Working Group**

A zoom meeting will be convened on 9<sup>th</sup> December to discuss actions to date with a view to providing recommendations to the Parish Council in January 2022.

- **Benches for the Village Green**

The Clerk stated the minutes of the previous meeting will be amended to reflect Councillor Pawley's comments and would pursue the purchase of the two benches.

- **Heritage Light**

Councillor Pawley reported her discussion with operatives regarding the green and access to the green. Conversation with Matthew Mead continue and progress will be reported back to Councillors.

- **Overgrown Tree adjacent to the public footpath 541(A) ref 178324**

The Clerk had spoken to BDC and is the process of arranging a site visit to understand the severity of the tree.

## **201/21. Parish Council Budget and Precept 2022/23**

Councillor Mabbett discussed the work required to understand the position of the budget, namely:

- The QuickBooks background review was postponed due to Councillor Nock being unwell

- The costs of the lighting columns has been circulated for phase 1, however there are 2 further phases that have not been fully budgeted for.
- The Parish Council are suggesting an increase to the precept of £5,000.00 (from £65,000 to £70,000)

Ruth Mullett also noted the possibility of another lockdown which would influence how the Parish Council ratify the budget as this would need to be agreed at a Full Parish Council Meeting.

Councillor Pawley suggested the reserve could be used to maintain the village in a better condition, justifying the increase to the precept

Councillor Mabbett proposed the precept was increased by £5,000.00 and was seconded by Councillor Morgan. Councillor Morgan also expressed his gratitude to Councillor Mabbett notably towards all the sterling work he does for the Parish Council.

**ACTION: The Budget be deferred to the meeting in January.**

#### **202/21. Broadband – FTTP for the Wildmoor Area**

Councillor Danks queried the wording of the item stating the Parish Council would do what it could for all of the Parish.

Councillor Mabbett noted that parts of the Parish are effected by different switches. Members of the community would need to individually pledge an interest in the FTTP in their area.

**ACTION: For the Parish Council to discuss BroadBand – FTTP for the Wildmoor Area at its next scheduled meeting.**

#### **203/21. Fairfield Villa Lease Negotiations**

Councillor Gibbs discussed the initial progress of drafting the survey. It was noted that the survey would be carried out first before any subsequent community involvement efforts would be arranged.

Councillor Morgan assured members of the public in attendance that draft copies of the survey would be circulated for discussion and comment during the consultation process.

Councillor Mabbett stated the questionnaire would be focused on the use of Fairfield Villa Recreation Ground and not Fairfield Villa Football Club. In this instance, the survey's terms of reference would need to highlight this.

#### **204/21. Clerks report on items not otherwise on the agenda.**

The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity wished the Parish Council well.

## **205/21. Report of Parish Councillors**

- i. Councillor Allington discussed the purchase of wooden bollards from Romsley Parish Council. Ruth Mallet stated that this could not be agreed as this was not on the agenda for discussion, especially if there is money to be spent. Mrs Mallet reminded Councillors that this part of the agenda should be used by Councillors to schedule items on future agendas. Mrs Mallet suggested a section on the agenda for Highways and Footpaths would need to be included in future iterations of the Parish Council's agenda.
- ii. Councillor Mabbett requested a letter is sent to the County Council regarding road markings between Stanley Bridge Island and the 30mph sign. Councillor Mabbett also requested an update regarding the drop kerb at Yew Tree Lane. Councillor Mabbett stated he had requested this of the Clerk some time ago and felt this had fell by the wayside.
- iii. Councillor Danks requested a better PA system for use at the meeting as he felt the current system was not effective. He also discussed the slush and sand on the A491 as this appears to getting worse. Councillor Danks noted the deterioration of the road and tarmac which could lead to an accident if not properly reviewed. Councillor Danks noted a date for a quarry liaison meeting which will be held via zoom in the new year.
- iv. Councillor Clarke suggested the Parish Council urge the owner of the quarry to take on the responsibility of cleaning the surrounding highways, outlining the health and consequences noted by members of the public. Councillor Mabbett suggested this is placed on the next scheduled agenda in January.

Due the absence of Councillor Wilkes, Councillor Gibbs discussed the following on her behalf:

### **v. Management and maintenance of road gullies.**

"A parishioner has raised a concern about the state of the road gullies on Stourbridge Road, Fairfield between the Swan pub and the entrance to the recreation ground. Along this stretch there are two blocked gullies and one partially blocked ( all on the southbound side of the road). I have been and checked these myself and I have reported these via the online county council portal. In addition, the parishioner also mentioned that the gutters / roadside needs sweeping on Stourbridge Road which I agree with, as this build up of debris and fallen leaves is contributing to the blockages of the gullies. Consequently I have also reported this via the County Council online reporting facility but Is road sweeping responsibility of County or District Council?"

Councillor Wilkes has advised the parishioner of the actions taken.

### **vi. Signage on Stourbridge Road**

A parishioner has asked me to raise the question about whether there could be signage on the Stourbridge Road in Fairfield ( or at the approach) warning of farm machinery and horses. This person has also asked if there is anything more Parish Council can do to address the issue of speeding through Fairfield.

### **vii. Facilities for Young People**

The same parishioner has raised the question of what we can provide for young people as outdoor recreation facilities as there is currently only a basketball net on the recreation ground.

**206/21. Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Councillors were requested to pass a resolution to exclude the public under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, to discuss the following confidential matters –

Following resignation of the Clerk/RFO, agree to take on the services of a Locum Clerk as recommended by Worcestershire CALC in the interim while a recruitment process takes place.

It was agreed that Mrs Mullett is appointed to carry out the duties of the Clerk whilst a suitable replacement is recruited.

**The Meeting closed at 20:09.**

**To be agreed as a true record by future Committee Meeting.**

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

DRAFT

<b>Minute Ref.</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action Required</b>	<b>Correspondence Sent</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
N/A	Open Surgery	Post Office Closure Working Group to be organised and membership to include Conrad Palmer, Julie Allen, Mary Gibbs and Sue Wilkes. Outcomes to be discussed at the next Parish Council Meeting.	N/A	10.01.22	In Progress
N/A	Parking in Fairfield	Working Group to to include Councillor Mabbett (Chairman) as well as Councillors Baldwin, Clarke, Gibbs and Wilkes, providing recommendations to the Parish Council in January 2022	N/A	10.01.22	In Progress