

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2022, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Nock,
and Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk – Ruth Mullett
There was one member of the public in attendance

341/22 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Carter, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Knight, and Cllr. Pawley and reasons for absence agreed by all Councillors.

Chairman adjourned the meeting for an ‘open surgery’ to enable residents to discuss any issues with their councillors and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda, this does not form part of the formal meeting.

The meeting re-opened

342/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 14.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

343/22 – DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 14.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

344/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2022 as a true record. The Chairman duly signed them.

345/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report

A letter had been received from Bromsgrove District Council informing that Fairfield Post Office/Shop was no longer on the Register as an Asset of Community value as it was now in fact a residential property. This information is in fact incorrect, and Clerk was asked to advise BDC of this omission.

Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated and these were noted with no further comments.

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated. Cllr. Mabbett confirmed that it was a substantial meeting with a lot of time spent on the draft Fairfield Recreation Working Paper Recommendations and Draft Budget.

346/22 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree payments made in November.
- To agree for two replacement benches at Silvester's Corner, Belbroughton from the Maintenance budget heading.
- To agree the Parish Council budget for 2023/24 and agree to Precept £70,000.00 to BDC for the financial year 2023/24.
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree to remove James Bradbury and Robert Morgan from the United Trust Bank mandate as they were no longer councillors of the Parish Council. For Councillor Alan Mabbett to remain and to include the Chairman Simon Nock. Both Councillors signed the updated Bank Mandate.

347/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. May- apologies given, and no report received.

Cllr. Webb – apologies given, and no report received.

Cllr. Sherrey – apologies given, and no report received.

348/22 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

- It was agreed for Clerk to write an article on how to report highways/maintenance/fly-tipping issues to County and District Council and an update on the new planters outside The Talbot, Belbroughton.
- It was agreed to hold meetings on alternative months at Fairfield First School and the Jubilee Room at Belbroughton Recreation Ground. Clerk to book the halls.

349/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- It was agreed to order a "**Please Close the Gate**" sign for Fairfield Recreation Ground.
- Hedges at Madeley Road and Stoneybridge Farm had been reported by a resident. Clerk to try and get them cut.
- Clerk confirmed the RoSPA Play Safety Report had been received for Fairfield Recreation Ground with minor items. Clerk has instructed Nigel Williamson to rectify the issues.
- **Platinum Jubilee trees** – this item was deferred.
- **Little Bell Hall Pool** – it was agreed to set-up a working party consisting of Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Wilkes, Cllr. Knight and Cllr. Pawley to look at options of whether the pool could be refilled and report findings back to Full Council.

350/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Danks

- confirmed he had attended the Chadwich Quarry Liaison Meeting on 28th November 2022 and would circulate the minutes when received.
- The grass verge at the top of Top Road had only been cut once this year. Clerk informed Cllr. Danks of BDC's Cabinet's decision to leave them as wildflower verges. Clerk to inform District that we would like it cut more frequently.
- Still awaiting the removal of the bus shelter on Top Road.

Cllr. Mabbett

- Anonymous letter received from resident complaining about overgrown hedges, overhanging trees and state of the pavements. Chairman stated that residents could always report issues themselves on the Hub. Clerk agreed to put contact details in the parish magazine.

351/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Two applications have been received and Clerk to arrange interviews for mid-January 2023.

352/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9th January 2023, 7.00pm at Jubilee Room, Fairfield Recreation Ground.

353/22 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public are excluded from the meeting for the duration of the above item on the basis that the information disclosed will be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

A Summary Report for Recommendation's 6 on the Future of Fairfield Recreation Ground was debated. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve these recommendations.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

To be agreed as a true record by Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council

Signed