

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 7th MARCH 2022, 7.30PM AT BELBROUGHTON CHURCH HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Boswell, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Morgan (Chairman), Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Clerk – Ruth Mullett
Cllr. Webb – County Councillor
There were three members of the public in attendance

232/22 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Baldwin and reason for absence was accepted 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.

233/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

234/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2022 as a true record.

235/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report

Chairman commented on how pleasing it was to see the newly appointed councillors working so actively for the community.

Planning Committee Meeting – 21st February 2022

Cllr. Danks gave an update of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21st February 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting.

Cllr. Danks asked for the following statement to be minuted with regards planning application 22/00060 – Pepperwood Bungalow, Wood Lane, Fairfield – conversion of an outbuilding (existing swimming pool) into a detached three-bedroom dwelling.

“Our decision as a committee was to approve this application by three votes to one objection. I believe the existing dwelling lies in the green belt of northern Worcestershire and is I think outside the Fairfield envelope (Bromsgrove District Plan February 2014). If the dwelling is within the greenbelt, then Section 13 of the NPPF will apply. The Highways Authority referenced this in their statement recommending refusal.

With the exceptions mentioned in clause 149 of the NPPF the above application would appear to sit outside those that are permissible. I view this as a significant future determination regarding

consideration of a new detached dwelling in the greenbelt of our Parish Council area and that of northern Worcestershire.”

Clerk confirmed that she had received confirmation from Bromsgrove District Council Planning that the application had been granted.

Finance Committee Meeting – 21st February 2022

Cllr. Mabbett gave an update of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 21st February 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting.

236/22 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree a sum of up to £175.00 per village for a tree to commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and an allocation of up to £500.00 per village for any community groups who request grant funding.

237/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies were received from Cllr. May and Cllr. Sherrey with no reports submitted.

Cllr. Webb was in attendance and gave the following report from County Council: -

- Had a meeting with Cllr. Baldwin to discuss issues that were put forward to the Traffic Management Team with regards Fairfield.
- Fairfield School is going to commence a Walking to School Initiative to try and alleviate parking issues, encouraging parents to use The Swan and the layby to park their cars.
- Yew Tree Lane – this has finally got the go ahead for a dropped kerb and signage to show a tight bend.
- Cllr. Mabbett asked if there was any update on the road markings from Stoneybridge Island through Fairfield to make the road seem narrower – Cllr. Webb to get any update from County.
- Cllr. Mabbett – the road sweeper vehicles haven’t made an impact with regards the compacted mud and debris in the roads and a more adapted vehicle is needed.

238/22 – CLERK’S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

- **Clerk’s Outstanding Action List** – Clerk circulated copy to all councillors and gave a verbal update on outstanding items.
- **Date for Annual Parish Meeting** – 23rd April 2022, 7.30pm at Belbroughton Church Hall
- **Reports for Parish Magazine** – it was agreed for Clerk to produce an article informing residents of the grants available for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- **Venue for future parish council meetings** – it was agreed to continue holding future meetings at Belbroughton Church Hall. Clerk to book the dates.

239/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Christmas Lights** – Blachere Illuminations have confirmed we would not be able to have uplighters in the Christmas Tree as the branches are too dense. Clerk to chase BDC for a quotation for putting up and taking down the lights every year and storage and bring costs back to the next full council meeting for approval.
- **Parking in Fairfield Working Party** – In Cllr. Wilkes’ absence, Cllr. Baldwin gave an update on the Parking in Fairfield Working Party.

Speeding/volume and type of traffic – “speeding has been identified as not just a village issue but a national trend/issue and even today it is becoming harder and harder to enforce with resources available. There is a national initiative as pointed out by Cllr. May to restrict speed to 20mph outside all schools which is positive and will satisfy partially our proposal request.

Engineering works such as chicanes/and the other engineering proposals would still cause disruption and would impact residents where located and although would slow the flow of traffic there is the environmental impact and pollution issues.

Possibility of rumble strips and a change in the colour/tarmac of the road to indicate where the speed is reduced could be a potential option. Cllr. Webb is to investigate and let us know once the new Highways Engineer is on board. Although the potential of the tarmac change could also be noise reducing.

The addition of VAS speed/vehicle recording signs to replace existing electronic sign was proposed with the ability to gather additional information that would support the Police/authorities for further enforcement strategies, and I have asked for quotations. It was suggested that we use the existing posts as no further permission would be required. In addition, we have the new VAS sign at Brook Road – so three signs in total. This would also be supported by the mobile speed camera vans that are in the village from time to time.

Parking – In regard to parking issues with the freeing up of two Enforcement Officers from ASDA and an additional head there is now more scope to police the parking in the village.

Regarding support from the school re. walking bus, they are happy once the weather improves to start this again – there is a requirement for three volunteers to work with the school to supervise. If we can get more volunteers to support the school, then this is a good option and meets some of the proposals we have suggested”.

240/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Danks – There are serious dips and damage to the tarmac with the road falling away into the old gully on Middle Road – reported to Cllr. Webb for investigation.
- Cllr. Pawley – Clerk and I met with Worcestershire County Council Highways Engineer to look at replacing the light on the village green for a heritage type and are awaiting quotation.
- Cllr. Pawley – The Sarah Bellamy plaque has been restored and erected in the entrance to the new development on the village green. Clerk has contacted the developers for a meeting on site, but we are awaiting a reply.
- Cllr. Pawley – Email from residents with regards Smartwater signs. It was confirmed that the Parish Council was not involved in erecting the signs and Cllr. Webb confirmed that this had been instigated by the Police Crime Commissioner.
- Cllr. Boswell – potholes Mearse Lane.
- Cllr. Wilkes – large mobile home on A492 – Cllr. Webb confirmed this had been reported to enforcement.

241/22 – PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

This item was deferred.

242/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

A working party meeting was held between Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Pawley, Cllr. Nock and Clerk. Clerk is to update the job advertisement with a more targeted and focused advertisement with amended hours of 20 as opposed to 24 per week and circulate for agreement from the Working Party.

243/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – To be held on 4th April 2022, 7.30pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

244/22 – 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.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to offer to Fairfield Villa FC a one-year extension to the existing lease.

The meeting closed at 21.35pm.

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

Signed