

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre Monday 7th November 2016.**

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, S MacDonald, P Margetts, S Nock, S Pawley, D Roberts and, C Scurrrell. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 7 members of the public also attended.

343/16 Apologies - Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. Mabbett - unwell, Morgan - work commitments and, Parsons unwell.

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.

344/16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Margetts declared an other disclosable interest in agenda item 16 since a family member had been involved in a design. Cllr. Scurrrell declared an other disclosable interest in agenda item 11 as he had over 6 months previously expressed a pre-determined view.

345/16 Dispensations:

Cllr. Margetts requested a dispensation to remain in the meeting and speak but not to vote during agenda item 16. Council agreed the dispensation request.

Cllr. Scurrrell requested a dispensation to remain in the meeting, speak and to vote during agenda item 11. Council agreed the dispensation request.

346/16 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of Council 3rd October 2016 after agreeing an amendment to Minute 298/16 - clerks report - *'Cllr. Scurrrell would not be attending the Calc AGM due to holiday commitments'* and the Chairman signed the minute book.

Further to an enquiry by Cllr. MacDonald - the clerk advised that members requesting consideration of amendments to draft minutes may do so either in person at the next council meeting or prior by e mail should they not be able to be present at the next council meeting. Any amendments requested to published draft minutes must be approved by the Council.

347/16 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Bradley advised members of the M.P. Sajid Javid's Bromsgrove Pensioner's Fair Friday 25th November 10.00am – 1.00pm at Parkside Market St Bromsgrove.

He also informed members that second robbery had taken place at the shop and Post Office in Belbroughton on Sunday 6th November.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 17th October 2016

Finance Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 17th October 2016.

79.

Agricultural Holdings Committee report: Cllr. Hood advised that the issue of as to whether tenants claimed the subsidy 'entitlements' on the farmland would be investigated. He also advised that the Council has been asked to re-consider the level of farm rents by a number of tenants. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 17th October 2016.

Clerk's Report:

1. New dog waste bins have been installed at Pepper Wood and Pepperwood Close Fairfield and the contractor instructed to add these to the collection rota. The Fairfield Community Association has written expressing thanks.

2. Veolia ES Ltd - Seven Cllrs. and the clerk attended the W.C.C. Planning Committee meeting on 1st November and heard the deliberations of the Committee which unanimously rejected the proposal for the Incinerator Bottom Ash facility in Sandy Lane Wildmoor.

3. The tree condition survey took place 3rd November with one cllr. and the clerk in attendance. The report from Jeff Marlow is due later this week. His verbal observations suggested several trees, now suitably tagged, required varying degrees of work including due to disease the felling of the lime at Dark Lane/Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton junction. The report covers Sylvester's Corner, Belbroughton where a lime also requires work with likely requirement for a 5m reduction to the crown. The Finance Committee will consider the report later this month and also address the concerns of a resident adjacent to Sylvester's Corner. The surveyor anticipated likely tree surgeon costs of £6,000 for the works.

4. Two Cllrs. and the clerk met with a resident of Chaddesley Corbett on 20th October who had raised a complaint with the council concerning the draining of the Little Bell Hall Pool, the Scarecrow Weekend and litter on the Drayton Road. The Cllrs advised the resident that his concerns plus a further issue would be mentioned to council:

- a. The resident maintained that silt from the pool had entered his pool and felt he should have been contacted prior to the pool's draining.
- b. The Scarecrow Committee should not be permitted to close roads during its annual event.
- c. The levels of litter on Drayton were intolerable.
- d. The council should recommend double yellow lines are painted on the route through Belbroughton along Queens Hill and High St to enable traffic to flow.

Responses:

a. The Cllrs. had advised the resident that the pool had been drained as an emergency measure to protect the dam structure following reporting in June of the 'sink hole' in the dam to W.C.C. / E.A. / B.D.C. / N.W.W.M. Also, the council's commissioned structural engineer had endorsed the action. They did not comment on whether any silt had drained from the pool. The Cllrs advised the resident that a trash screen design was in process of being approved by the N.W.W.M. They also committed to informing the resident of approved future actions relating to the stream and the dam.

- b. Cllrs. advised that the PC did not run the event.
- c. Cllrs. advised that District Council should deal with this and that the narrowness of the lane and the lack of 30 mph speed limit would prevent any voluntary litter pick should the council feel such was needed.
- d. Cllrs. advised this would be mentioned to council but felt that most residents had little option but to park sensibly on the roads available.

5. Four Cllrs. and the clerk met 18th October with Graham Cutler from the District Council. He informed that leaf collections will take place on at least two occasions during the autumn. His issue is lack of operatives but also the machinery which requires access to a lot of water which means an onsite working time of just 2 hrs a day when in this parish due to distance from the depot.

80.

At Fairfield Recreation Ground he felt there could be a suitable stand pipe point installed with Council & Severn Trent agreement. This would enable a longer working day and enhance the service. Fairfield Cllrs. may wish to investigate costs and bring this formally to council for consideration. Mr Cutler also advised that his operatives regularly emptied the litter bins and also he felt some of the Parish Council owned dog waste bins. He has offered to quote for collecting from all P.C .bins.

Although BDC could action the Lengthsman has agreed to take away the broken concrete bench in Hartle Lane. The 'tributes' on a tree in the layby of the A491 will not be removed by B.D.C. as they feel it insensitive to do so.

6. A reminder that the next meeting regarding the Wildmoor Quarry is at B.D.C. at 1.00pm Friday 9th December.

7. The damaged fence adjacent to the lane running between the school and the Fairfield Rec. Ground – the farmer has responded to the request 'to repair or remove' that he felt that the fence had been erected many years ago by the P.C. when the play area was installed and while he would check with his landlord the W.C.C., the action required is probably the council's responsibility. Fairfield Cllrs. will request the Lengthsman's assistance in its removal.

District Cllr.: Cllr M. Sherrey commented on Neighbourhood Plans and felt that any joint plan produced involving adjacent parish councils would be cumbersome. She advised that Mike Dunphy from the District Council would be available to meet with council members to discuss from a BDC perspective.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Morgan was absent and thus Cllr. Scurrrell reported that information had been circulated from Cllr. Morgan giving an overview of the processes involved plus for information a copy of the Chaddesley Corbett working document.

He advised that a Plan was not compulsory. The council could however be the catalyst for a Plan but it is a community document involving many local bodies. A major issue in compiling a Plan was the public attitude to housing development. The Plan would need to have its decisions evidenced based and it was likely considerable outside 'professional' assistance would be necessary to produce it. Plans require to be put to a national inspector and then to a referendum of the residents before adoption. The working group would aim to meet before Christmas.

Paul Hardcastle – footpaths: Paul advised that he had not been able to devote as much time to the footpaths in 2016 as he had in previous years. There had however been a continuing close working relationship with the County Council seeing a bridge replaced on the footpath between Hurst Farm and Wood Lane along with the installation of new steps. Discussions were ongoing with the County for further support during 2017 and he would keep the parish council informed regarding what future works they were prepared to assist with in both funding and staffing.

The wet and warm summer had seen a great deal of vegetation growth and from his 120 hours worked between April and the end of October 57hrs had been spent on 'strimming'. Paul advised that he was available to discuss specific projects on actions that cllrs. may wish to progress to improve pathways.

348/16 Footpaths

Council noted the comments from the volunteer warden Paul Hardcastle and approved considering providing support for additional vegetation control on the footpaths for 2017. This could involve employing contractors rather than seeking further volunteers due to the resulting need to provide training and additional machinery. No action though would be taken until the warden had informed the council of the availability and levels of the County Council support for his role which may include path vegetation clearance. This information should be available by Christmas. The Council thanked Paul for his assistance and contribution to the parish.

349/16 Meetings

Council approved for 2017 the existing format of holding monthly council and, planning and finance committee meetings on the first and third Mondays respectively. Excepting on the occasions of a bank holiday when the following Monday would be used. There would not be Committee meetings in August. The present venues of the Jubilee Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre and Fairfield First School would be used on the current rotational basis. The Annual Parish Meeting was scheduled for Monday 22nd May and would be held in Fairfield Village Hall subject to availability.

Action: the clerk to confirm availability with the venues and then publish the meetings dates.

350/16 Letting of the Parish Room

Council noted the expected planning application that had been submitted, by the proposed new tenant, to the District Council for a change of use of the premises from A3 to A1 plus a number of minor changes to the building and fencing surrounds.

As landlord the Council agreed that the application covered points that were anticipated following the decision to approve the new tenancy and would confirm this to the District Council.

Council approved that it would have no objection to the application if and when the District Council sought a formal consultation on the application.

Action: the clerk to inform the District Council.

351/16 Little Bell Hall Pool – Belne Brook

a. Council noted that the new trash screen design had been approved by the North Worcestershire Water Management and following receipt of three quotations for the work a contractor had been commissioned to design, manufacture and install the screen. Subsequently following an onsite meeting with the contractor a slight alteration to the design had been required and had been advised to the N.W.W.M. but it was expected that the body would be content.

Council approved an advance payment of up to £1000 from the £3000 allocated to the costs should the company require this to cover their already incurred design costs.

b. Council deferred a decision to place a limit on an amount that could be spent on future repair works, if any were approved by a future council, to the dam and requested that the Working Group present a report in due course outlining the council's options.

Council approved a motion to investigate the market for selling of the site.

The Chairman thanked the Working Group for its work to date.

352/16 Belbroughton Defibrillator

Council approved installing a lock to the cabinet housing the defibrillator since on balance it felt that this would give security to the kit and not unduly hinder the speed of gaining access. There would though need to be acknowledgment and agreement of the Scarecrow Committee and the British Heart Foundation whom had supplied the unit and cabinet.

Action: the clerk to contact the parties concerned and arrange the lock purchase and installation.

82.

353/16 'Smartwater'

Council noted the circulation of a paper from the Working Group regarding the purchase and delivery of 'property marking kits' to each household in the parish.

A motion however was tabled to consider the use of parish council funds for the purchase of products that the public could purchase themselves albeit that the council would be able to purchase such products at a discounted rate.

5 members voted in favour and 5 members voted against with 1 abstention. The Chairman declined to use his casting vote and therefore the motion was not passed.

Council thus did not consider further the agenda item since there could be no approval for the matter. Cllr. Roberts left the meeting.

354/16 The Green Belbroughton

Council declined a motion to decide to install a 6ft high 'Larch lap' type fence to the rear of the Green Belbroughton.

355/16 Working Groups - Ways of Working

The agenda item was deferred due to insufficient time to consider.

356/16 Christmas Lights – Belbroughton

Council noted that there remained to be works completed to the lights following vandalism. Council agreed that the tree lights should be lit on 1st December. A request received by the chairman from Mrs G Hadley of the donkey sanctuary for use of The Green for a carol service was approved.

357/16 Parish Council Logo

The agenda item was deferred due to insufficient time to consider.

358/16 Councillor Items

Cllr. Ingram requested that a future council consider further maintenance matters at the Fairfield Recreation Ground were additional wooden posts required replacement.

Cllr. Hood advised that further to the Agricultural Holdings Committee meeting he would obtain quotes for the farm track improvements and present these to a future council for consideration.

Cllr. Hood advised that it may be possible to obtain funds from the New Homes Bonus fund at BDC to assist with a notice board for Wildmoor residents.

Action: the clerk to enquire of B.D.C.

Cllr. MacDonald requested that the long promised B.D.C. new road sign for 'Galtons Lane' is chased.

Action: the clerk to make further enquiries of B.D.C.

Cllr. MacDonald requested that the owner of property at Woodcote Lane is asked to trim overgrown vegetation.

Action: the clerk to contact the resident / property owner.

Cllr. Margetts advised that despite requests the water leak on the A 491 had still not been attended to by Severn Trent.

Action: the clerk would chase again.

Cllr. Pawley requested that the consideration of maintenance of Sylvesters Corner Belbroughton be placed on the next agenda following the receipt of the tree survey and to consider a local resident's requests.

The Meeting was closed at 10.00 p.m. Signed Chairman