

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held in the Jubilee Room, Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.**

**Present:** Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, S Pawley, S MacDonald, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons and, C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk.

9 members of the public also attended.

**068/16** Apologies had been received and were accepted from, Cllr. McFarling - work commitments.

The Meeting was then adjourned for an 'Open Surgery' time for members of the public to discuss issues with the Council.

The meeting was re-opened.

**069/16 Declarations of Interest:** None. **070/16 Dispensations:** None requested.

The Meeting was then further adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.

The meeting was re-opened.

**071/16 Minutes**

The minutes of the council meeting held 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 were amended in respect of minute 048/16 to which was added " Councillors voting against the motion did so because they felt that the poster for the 'Jobsfair' was overtly political and not that they objected in principle to job creation events ". The minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

**071/16 Reports**

*Chairman's Report:* Cllr. Roberts advised that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee had now received confirmation from the British Heart Foundation that they would supply the defibrillator. Therefore the way is now clear for this to be installed.

Ha advised that the spring newsletter would be produced shortly and asked councillors to inform the clerk of inputs required.

*Planning Committee:*

Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

*Finance Committee:*

Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

*Clerk's Report:*

**1.**The County Council has made a "temporary closure" on footpath BB568. This is a long but well used path between Hurst Farm and Wood Lane in Fairfield. The closure is due to a footbridge collapsing - the supports have been washed away by high floodwaters during the winter. The County Council have contracted out for a new bridge to be installed but this may take a while due to difficulty of access due to current ground conditions.

**2.** Commonwealth Day 14<sup>th</sup> March - flags have been purchased as requested and will be displayed next Monday.

**3.**The Bromsgrove District Housing Trust I.T. drop in session from their 'Digital Engagement Bus' is set up for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April - 10.00 -12.00 at Belbroughton Rec carpark and 1.00 – 3.00 at Fairfield Rec ground carpark. Further sessions indoors await confirmation. The 18/4 sessions are awaiting promotional information from B.D.H.T. which the P.C. will publicise.

**16.**

**4. Correspondence received included :**

- a. Request to publicise a volunteer recruitment session at Breach House Residential Care home on 15<sup>th</sup> March – note has been placed onto the website. Also a request for a ‘Minor Grant’ for consideration under the council’s scheme.
- b. Fairfield Community Association have requested support for a ‘Clean for the Queen day’ and the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration event. The requests have been passed to Fairfield Cllrs. to bring to a future council for consideration.
- c. A resident has complained at vehicles parked in double yellow lines outside the Horseshoe P.H. – The Council has no powers here but can request the police investigate.
- d. Alleged mess created by contractors when they installed the new broadband cabinet opposite to the bottom end of The Glebe on Hartle Lane. Request for Council to re seed/ plant bulbs. This is not PC land but a cllr. may wish to bring to council after the ownership of the site is ascertained – the liability here would appear to be the contractor for B.T. Outreach.

**5. B’ham Resilience Project (Pipeline) -** Severn Trent advise of a further public drop in session on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 3.00pm - 8.00pm at St Kenelms Church Hall Bromsgrove Rd Romsley.

**6. Wildmoor Quarry –** The council is invited to send representatives to a further meeting on the review of activities and the future of the quarry site on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am – 12.00pm at Parkside

**072/16 Pedestrian Crossing**

Council approved approaching the County Council requesting that a pedestrian crossing is installed on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield close to the lane leading to the primary school. It was noted that the County Council would have to inform the parish council of the both the necessary criteria to fulfil and regulations to comply with for the proposed crossing. In addition, it was not known what funding was available from the County Council should the criteria be met.

**Action:** Cllrs. Parsons and Mabbett to progress.

**073/16 Finance**

a. Council approved the Finance Committee recommendation that the Council’s Investment Strategy is varied to increase the maximum investment permitted in any one institution, party to the Financial Services compensation Scheme, from £50,000 to £75,000.

b. Council approved the Finance Committee recommendation to exit the investment in the Henderson Multi-Manager Absolute Return fund.

**Action:** the clerk to arrange the closure of the account and re-investment as set out by the Finance Committee minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

c. Council approved the Finance Committee recommendation that Mrs Diane Malley is appointed as internal auditor for 2016.

**Action:** the clerk to confirm and send a letter of appointment to Mrs Malley.

d. Council approved overtime and mileage payments to the clerk totalling £397.81 following receipt from B.T. of compensation monies of £373.70 and refunds of £421.93 following the disruption of phone and broadband services during October and November 2015. This disruption had led to extra time being spent by the clerk at different premises ensuring that the council business was maintained.

#### **074/16 New Parish Lengthsman**

Council noted that the cllrs. on the appointment panel had assessed five applications for the role and had subsequently held interviews with three of the applicants. The panel had now made their selection subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Council approved the payment of a gratuity of £100 to David Aldridge the present lengthsman who would be retiring from the role at the end of March.

#### **075/16 'Smartwater'**

Council noted a report from Cllr. Roberts on the Smartwater initiative but deferred a decision on setting up a parish project to progress the supply of the 'Smartwater' kits to residents.

A motion to invite a representative from the Police to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to further explain the scheme and to take questions on its effectiveness was approved by 11 votes to 2.

**Action:** the clerk to send the invite to Police.

#### **076/16 Parish Room, Belbroughton**

Council noted the market appraisal from agents Walton and Hipkiss regarding the current capital values and rental potential for the premises and approved continuing to offer the parish room for rent. It further approved appointing Walton and Hipkiss as agents to seek a leaseholder for the premises.

**Action:** the clerk to instruct the agents.

#### **077/16 People and Communities Together**

Council approved hosting the next area P.A.C.T. meeting at the Fairfield Village Hall during July. It noted that hosting is to be on a rotating basis between this council, Bournheath and, the Dodford and Grafton parish councils.

**Action:** the clerk to arrange the date with the police and the hall.

#### **078/16 The Green Belbroughton**

Council noted the update received from its legal advisors which firstly, informed the council that the Developer was disputing figures produced by the council's surveyor whom had assessed the two costings for the drainage routes from the new development and that the Developer had made an offer of a payment well below the figure the council's surveyors report implied should be payable. And secondly, that the solicitor had not been paid their agreed and invoiced fees by the Developer and therefore were requesting that no further legal work was carried out until those fees were paid. In addition the council's solicitor would seek a formal undertaking from the Developer's solicitor for the payment of further fees which were now accruing and likely to accrue in the future.

Council approved:

- a. Advising the council's solicitor that the formula agreed by both parties in the Heads of Terms for payments in respect of the drainage route were not changed. The surveyor would be asked to comment on the Developers comments on the report.
- b. Confirming that the solicitor should not carry out further work until both their outstanding bill for costs had been paid by the developer and they had received an undertaking from the Developer's solicitor regarding the further costs that would be incurred in further progressing matters.
- c. The council chairman and chairman of the finance committee continuing to represent the council with the council's solicitor. A third councillor would be welcome to join this group.

**Action:** the clerk to inform the council's solicitor.

### **079/16 Ballast Phoenix Ltd / Veolia PLC – Incinerator Bottom Ash facility**

Council noted that the expected fresh planning application by Veolia PLC at the Sandy Lane site had not yet been received by the County Council.

### **080/16 Spring Clean for the Queen**

Council deferred a decision on any actions until the next council meeting. It noted that the Fairfield Community Association were holding two 'spring clean' days and therefore the council if agreeing any actions at the next meeting these would not cover Fairfield as this would duplicate effort.

### **081/16 Mobility Classes**

Council approved promoting through its communication channels the District Council Mobility and Tai Chi classes which were being held at the Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

### **082/16 Parish Logo**

Council approved launching a competition to seek suggestions for a new parish logo to represent the parish area following the recent change of name of the parish council. The competition would run until the end of July. A prize of £100 would be awarded.

### **083/16 Councillor items.**

Cllr. Morgan advised that the replacement light in Bell Heath remained unlit. It was understood that Western Power were aware of this and electrical connections were imminent.

Cllr. Boswell requested that actions to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday are placed on the next council agenda.

Cllr. Pawley advised that the Scarecrow Committee had been asked to remove wood left on site after Christmas at Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton.

Cllr. Parsons reminded Cllrs that the various 'Working Groups' should meet up shortly.

Cllr. MacDonald advised that a poorly set manhole cover in Church Rd Belbroughton had yet to be repaired.

**Action:** the clerk would chase Highways dept. at the County Council

Cllr. MacDonald sought an update on the District Council's previous commitment to input a road name sign at Galtons Lane.

**Action:** the clerk to chase District Council.

Cllr. MacDonald requested information on the receipt and usage of the Section 106 funds linked to the Nash Court, Belbroughton building development which was now seeing a number of property sales completions.

**Action:** the clerk to contact the District Council planning dept.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that a future Council agenda includes consideration of a request for funding from the Fairfield Community Association for the event it was planning for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that in Fairfield two planters had been ordered and two of the three bus shelters were to have the remediation works carried out shortly.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that following a referral by the clerk the Fairfield primary school had been successful with a bid for support for outdoor improvements with £8,000 being confirmed under the Tesco PLC scheme.

Cllr. Margetts advised that following intervention by District Cllr. Margaret Sherrey Dark Lane Belbroughton had received a useful cleansing.

**Action:** the clerk to write to Cllr. Sherrey thanking her.

**19.**

Cllr. Margetts advised that there remained many pot holes in the Bradford Lane / Waystone Lane area despite prior reporting to the County Council.

**Action:** the clerk to chase WCC Highways dept.

The Meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed ..... Chairman.

DRAFT