

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre Monday 9th January 2017.**

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, S MacDonald, A Mabbett, P Margetts, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 4 members of the public also attended.

001/17 Apologies - Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllr. Jones.

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.

002/17 Declarations of Interest None. **003/17 Dispensations** None.

005/17 The Chairman invited Cllr. Scurrrell to make an announcement. Cllr. Scurrrell informed the meeting of the death of Mr Ken Lees a former parish councillor and requested that the Council consider holding a one minute silence in his memory. The Chairman also informed the meeting of the death of Mrs Jean Griffiths a former chairman of the Parish Council. The Council agreed to hold a one minute silence in both their memories.

006/17 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of Council 5th December 2016 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

007/17 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Bradley had nothing further to report.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 12th December 2016.

Finance Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett advised that the main item was the review of the 2017/18 budget and precept. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 12th December 2016.

Agricultural Holdings Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 19th December 2016.

Clerk's Report:

1. Little Bell Hall Pool / Belne Stream. The new trash screen has been successfully installed and the supplier has been paid.
2. Defibrillator - The British Heart Foundation via the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee have yet to respond to the request for acknowledgment that a lock can be fitted to the cabinet.
3. The Belbroughton tree lights were repaired with the assistance of the District Council.
4. The February Council should consider applications for the member vacancy in Belbroughton ward under the co-option procedures. Closing date for applications is 30th January.
5. Parish Room, Belbroughton – The change of use planning decision is due from the District Council today. The lease subject to council's lawyers confirmation of the terms is ready for signing. We gather the tenant is hoping to open for business on 14th February.

6. The Green Belbroughton – the Council’s surveyor has given his further comment on the drainage route options and these have been sent to the council’s solicitor. Aside to this the agreement between the Council and the Developer remains unsigned as the council’s lawyers await the Developer’s commitment to complete.
7. Representatives from the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group will meet with Mike Dunphy BDC Senior Strategic Planning Officer at Parkside on 1st February to discuss the advice and assistance the District Council can provide.
8. I have met with Graham Cutler B.D.C. on 5th Jan. to discuss options for future dog waste bin collections further to the retirement of the contractor at the end of March. We will receive a schedule of proposed changes to the set up with options for replacing some bins with dual purpose units.
9. M.P. Sajid Javid’s office have acknowledged the request for a meeting and say he is agreeable to this on a Friday evening but are yet to offer the council specific dates.
10. The Lengthsman has been asked to work on certain gullies and footways in Belbroughton. I have been able to acquire a part of the W.C.C. ‘Belbroughton ‘gullies’ map’ which Nigel now has a copy of to work with.
11. WORCESTERSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN: THIRD STAGE CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THIRD CALL FOR SITES) The consultation on draft proposals policies and submitted sites for mineral extraction in Worcestershire runs from 14TH December 2016 – 8TH March 2017.
12. W.C.C. - Local Transport Plan is now available on line and is open to consultation also until 17th March 2017.

008/17 Agricultural Holdings Rent Review

Council agreed to consider this agenda item as the last item of the meeting.

009/17 Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2017/18

Council noted the budget recommendation of the Finance Committee and the consequent recommendation to increase the Precept for the financial year to 31st March 2018 from £60,000 to £65,000.

Council approved a Precept of £65,000 for 2017/18 by eleven votes in favour and one vote against.

010/17 Fairfield Recreation Ground car park extension.

- a. A report from Cllr. Mabbett had been circulated and was considered at some length by the Council. The points were noted and a motion proposed: To in principle, spend approximately £20,000 on extending the car park with appropriate materials and to apply for the necessary planning permission. The motion was passed by 9 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions, with a request for a recorded named vote - (In Favour Cllrs. Boswell, Hood, Ingram, MacDonald, Mabbett, Margetts, Morgan, Nock and Pawley Against Cllr. Scurrall - Abstentions Cllrs. Bradley and Parsons.).
The council will continue to assess the differing options for the types of surface to be installed.
- b. Council deferred a decision on the source of funding for the car park extension costs and will consider at future Council various options which would include investigating the availability of grant assistance.

011/17 Trees

- a. Council approved a request from Western Power to reduce certain trees on parish council land in Stoneybridge and Wildmoor to ensure power lines are not endangered.
Action: the clerk will request that Western Power advise local residents of the works required.

2.

- b. Council approved that if the lime tree on Ram Ally requires to be removed in totality due to disease, a request will be made to Hartle Lane Sawmill for the removal of the bench surrounding the tree, its storage, and its re-erection at another location on the grassed area. Cllr. Pawley advised that she and the clerk would be meeting with the District Council's tree officer on 18th January in order that the officer can appraise the works required in the Belbroughton conservation area. They would also be meeting with a resident who had questions to ask on additional tree works at Sylvester's Corner.

012/17 Working Groups –Ways of working

Council agreed to changes to certain Working Groups following Cllr. Roberts resignation:

Cllr. Mabbett will join the Little Bell Hall Pool Working Group.

Cllr. Pawley will lead and Cllr. Margetts will join the Footway Lighting Working Group.

Cllr. Margetts will join the Clent Hills liaison Group.

Cllr. Bradley will join the Parish Projects Working Group.

Council noted though that the vacancy for a new member for Belbroughton was likely to be filled shortly and thus the working groups' membership would be assessed again.

Council agreed that Cllr. Nock would join Chairman and vice Chairman in dealing with the issues at The Green, Belbroughton and the adjacent residential development.

013/17 Winter Newsletter

The Chairman asked members to send their requests for content to be included, along with their comments on his initial draft to the clerk in good time to enable a final draft to be considered at the February Council.

014/17 Annual Parish Meeting

a. The clerk advised that there had been uncertainty as to the timing of the availability of the Fairfield Village Hall for the date requested for the 2017 meeting. However, the Council decided it would proceed with the agreed date of Wednesday 3rd May unless this subsequently proved unworkable.

b. The Council deferred a decision on the format for the meeting but agreed that it would invite 'Birmingham Velo' to discuss their Sept 2017 event that involves usage of some Belbroughton roads and Severn Trent Plc to discuss their operations involving the installation of the new water pipeline.

015/17 Fairfield War Memorial

Council, by seven votes for to five against, approved in principle to the cleaning the war memorial provided that assurances can be received that the cleaning would not damage either the stonework or the plaque.

Action: Cllr. Parsons to progress the research and report back to Council.

016/17 Councillor Items

Cllr Pawley advised that residents were grateful for the Council funding a replacement litter bin lid in High St. Belbroughton

Cllr. Morgan advised that he and Cllr. Scurrrell had been invited to visit Hagley P.C. who were hosting a meeting with M.P. Sajid Javid to discuss Green Belt and Neighbourhood Plans issues.

Cllr. MacDonald advise that users of Pepperwood were grateful for the council installation of the dog waste bin.

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Cllr. MacDonald advised that Nash Lane development signage remain insitu although all units on the development had been sold some time ago.

Action: The developers/ agents to be contacted by Cllr. Bradley.

Cllr. MacDonald requested that a future agenda considers installing 'Broom Hill' signs, similar to the type installed in Bell Heath.

Cllr. Parsons advised that the footpath from Fairfield Rec. to Swan Lane which includes a range of steps required leaf and moss removal and that the wooden style was broken.

Action: The clerk would ask the footpath wardens to investigate and report back.

Cllr. Margetts requested a review of the procedures for instructing and the monitoring of the Lengthsman. The Chairman advised that the February Council would consider the procedures.

Cllr. Boswell advised that the choir using The Green Belbroughton had a successful event assisted by the excellent tree lights provided by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Pawley advised that one string of bulbs on the tree wasn't working and would need attention.

Action: The clerk to assess the repairs required.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the outstanding Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield 'dropped kerb' request remained with W.C.C. but that C.Cllr. Sheila Blagg had now informed him that the issue for declining it was traffic flows. This differed from the previous report back from the County stating that the issue was proximity to a B.T. cabinet. However, she had suggested that the Parish Council recommend a different position on the road. He requested that the Council required assistance on what was legally possible to enable a case to be put again to the County Council. The matter and future actions would be considered at the February Council.

Cllr. Pawley requested that a future agenda considers a report from a resident on remedial action to a house that abuts The Green, Belbroughton.

017/17 Agricultural Holdings Rent Review.

The meeting was closed to the public due to the confidential nature of the agenda item.

Cllr. Hood advised that the Agricultural Holdings Committee had met and as per the draft minutes noted earlier, had recommended a reduced increase in the new rent applicable from September 2017.

Council approved the Committee's recommendation, with 10 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, that the new rental to be sought from the tenants from September 2017 would be £90 per acre. This is a £5 per acre increase on the present rent.

Action: the clerk to write to the tenants seeking their agreement.

The Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed **Chairman**