

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2023, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Carter, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk – Ruth Mullett  
There was five members of the public in attendance.

**387/23 – APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Cllr. Knight and reason for absence approved 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.

**388/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 12.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

**389/23 – DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 12.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

**390/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and the Chairman duly signed them.

**391/23 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Chairman’s Report** – nothing to report.

**Planning Committee Meeting**

Minutes will be circulated in due course.

**Finance Committee Meeting**

Recommendations of the Finance Committee will be covered under minutes item 392. Minutes will be circulated in due course.

**392/23 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree payments made in March.

- To reinvest the United Trust Bond of £51,500 into a one-year bond @ 3.36% with Charity Bank.
- To appoint Ruth Mullett as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### **393/23 – CLERK’S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS**

- It was agreed to change the date of June’s meeting to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- Permission was granted for the History Society for an unveiling of the new sign on Belbroughton Village Green on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Clerk to once again chase Worcestershire County Council to see when the heritage lantern would be installed.

### **394/23 – HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Cllr. Allington confirmed that cars were parking at the top of Yew Tree Avenue and this is a turning circle. Cllr. May agreed to visit with Worcestershire County Council Highways Engineer.

### **395/23 – SOCIAL MEDIA**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Social Media Policy drafted by Cllr. Carter and to set up a Parish Council Facebook account. This would give the council more of a voice in the community.

### **396/23 – REPORT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr. Webb** – gave her apologies but sent the following report: -

**VAS Signs** - Highways currently looking for different options to replace the one near the Swan Pub. Pole will be placed on Top Road for a VAS.

The bus stop on Top Road is not Worcestershire County Council or District Council. Therefore, the Parish Council can remove it and WCC will replace with a pole as it is still a working bus stop. Clerk will instruct the new Maintenance Man when he has been selected. Flower box looks beautiful, thanks to residents.

**Sandy Lane** – at the recent Chadwich Liaison meeting we discussed the verges near to the quarry entrance. WCC has raised an advisory to place grass and verge masters in this area.

**Stourbridge Road** – highways looking at parking restrictions on match days, conscious this will push the issue further along the road and could restrict residents. Consultation will have to take place if traffic management agree.

### **Cllr. May**

The Planning Committee have deferred the planning application for Perryfields requesting further information.

Broadband issues in Belbroughton – there are currently two commercially viable companies competing and it is hoped fibre broadband will be installed earlier than anticipated.

Cllr. Pawley thanked Cllr. May and BDC Tree Officer for the swift response with regarding the cutting down of trees by the developer at Belbroughton Recreation Ground carpark. The Hall Trustees are looking at safety measures with regards the gate and entrance.

Cllr. Danks confirmed that at present no plans for Chadwich Quarry had been submitted to WCC, but they are expected imminently. Cllr. Danks thanked Cllr. May and Cllr. Webb in her absence on behalf of Wildmoor Residents Association for all the hard work they had done with regards the quarries.

### 397/23 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Cllr. Danks** – confirmed that due to personal reasons he would not be seeking re-election to the Parish Council. He has also resigned as Chairman of Wildmoor Residents Association. The Chairman on behalf of all councillors thanked Cllr. Danks, stating he had been an invaluable member of the Council, especially his knowledge with regards the quarries.

**Cllr. Allington** – a reminder to order the plaques for the memorial trees. Also suggested whether we could have a plaque for the two new benches at Silvester’s Corner to commemorate the Coronation. Clerk to source a cost.

**Cllr. Pawley** – Asked to see evidence of the Lengthsman’s timesheet. Clerk to circulate.

**Cllr. Carter** – confirmed he too was not standing for re-election as he had moved outside of the Parish. Again, the Chairman thanked Cllr. Carter, especially for his IT knowledge.

**Cllr. Mabbett** – Confirmed that Severn Trent had put a road closure in for Rocky Lane and the diversion will be via Brook Road and was anticipating some disruption.

**Cllr. Mabbett** – Confirmed that maintenance works will be taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> May at Fairfield Recreation Ground and asked Clerk to inform the village. It was also agreed to fund some maintenance consumables for the works.

**Cllr. Mabbett** – Confirmed the picnic for the summer has been cancelled due to a toxic atmosphere in the village.

**Cllr. Wilkes** – has now sourced a tree guard for the Platinum Jubilee tree and this should be planted soon.

**898/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.00pm at Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

### 399/22 – 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.

Key conditions to be included in the term of the new lease were agreed subject to legal approval. These will be presented to Fairfield Villa as our full and final offer.

**The meeting closed at 21.27pm**

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

**Signed .....**