

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JULY 2022, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Clerk – Ruth Mullett
Cllr. May, Cllr. Sherrey and Cllr. Webb
There were four members of the public in attendance

Before the meeting commenced the Council observed a minute's silence in memory of the Chairman, Dr Bob Morgan.

277/22 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Nock as Chairman who duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr. Mabbett as Vice Chairman.

278/22 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Boswell and in her absence her husband tendered her resignation due to ill health. All Councillors thanked Cllr. Boswell for her contribution to the Parish Council and sent their best regards.

279/22 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Nick Carter as a Councillor for the Belbroughton Ward. He duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr. Carter agreed to sit on both the Finance and Planning Committees.

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

280/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 17.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

281/22 – DISPENSATIONS

Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 17.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

282/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2022 as a true record and the Chairman duly signed them.

283/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman's Report

The newly elected Chairman thanked the Parish Council for expressing their confidence in him taking on this role and pledged to do his best for the Council.

Planning Committee Meeting

Due to no applications being received the Planning Committee Meeting was cancelled this month. Any applications that do come in will be circulated to the Planning Committee by the Clerk.

Finance Committee Meeting – 18th July 2022

Cllr. Nock gave an update of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 18th July 2022 and Council noted the minutes.

284/22 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Adoption of The Financial and Investment Strategy – on the recommendation of the Finance Committee it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt this Strategy.

Adoption of the Grant Policy 2022/23 – on recommendation of the Finance Committee it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt this policy.

285/22 – MINOR GRANT APPLICATION

This item was deferred. Clerk was instructed to promote the Minor and Capital Grant's available for 2022/23 on the website and parish magazine with an end date of 31st October 2022. Then all grants will be dealt with on block by the Finance Committee.

286/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Webb

- The County at present still has no Highways Liaison Officer due to long-term sick but someone is due to start shortly on a temporary basis.
- The Member's Portal for reporting highways issues is not working correctly so asked for any highway concerns to be reported directly to the County Councillors.

Cllr. May

- Is still working with highways on speeding in Belbroughton but after two road surveys there is not sufficient evidence. She will continue to push but is facing challenges.
- Has agreed for two flower planters to be placed outside The Talbot to deter parking on the pavement for safety issues. The Talbot will maintain the planters.
- After a site visit, blocked gullies are now in the process of being cleaned.
- Could the Lengthsman cut back the overgrown hedge/brambles from Belbroughton Rec on Hartle Lane to the public footpath. Clerk to instruct.
- Drayton Road from the Cricket Club needs cutting back and better signage. Cllr. May to report.

- District will be launching a UK Care prosperity Fund in late September and details will be circulated to the Clerk.
- Cllr. Pawley reported the condition of the pavement and hedge on Bradford Lane down to the school – Cllr. May to report.

Cllr. Sherrey

- Fly tipping is still an issue but certainly not as bad. If anyone sees any, please report direct to Cllr. Sherrey.

287/22 – 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.
- **Reports for Parish Magazine** – it was agreed for Clerk to promote the Minor and Capital Grants available to the community.
- **Local Government Association – Model Code of Conduct** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the new Model Code of Conduct as recommended by NALC and Worcestershire CALC.
- It was agreed to approve the letters drafted by Fairfield Councillors to be sent with regards usage of Fairfield Recreation Centre.
- A request had been received from FVCA to use the recreation ground for community events on:

Saturday 18th February 2023

Sunday 9th July 2023

Saturday 19th August 2023

It was agreed for Clerk to write to Fairfield Villa as the Leaseholder to ask if they would be prepared to grant this request.

288/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Christmas Lights** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to purchase new Christmas Lights from Blachere Illuminations to be installed on the cherry tree on Belbroughton Village Green and for BDC to erect them and take down each year.
- **Parking in Fairfield Working Party/Speeding Traffic** – Nothing to report.
- **Smartwater Signage** – Cllr. May is still looking into this matter.
- **Conifers on Wood House Orchard** – Cllr. May has met with County but no-one can ascertain who owns the trees but has instructed Highways to cut them back for safety reasons.
- **20’s Plenty for Worcestershire Campaign** – this item was deferred pending further clarification.
- **Hedge Cutting Process** – it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the Hedge Cutting Process.

289/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Danks – thanked Cllr. May on behalf of Wildmoor Residents Association for the £150.00 grant from her Divisional Fund towards the Platinum Jubilee Event.
- Cllr. Mabbett – recently read an article from the Fire Officer that they were banning BBQs on open land and suggested this should be placed on our agenda to debate.

- Cllr. Wilkes – clarification as to what the Council would need to debate the Community Shop.
- Cllr. Pawley – concerned with the lack of maintenance in the parishes and asked whether this could be placed on the next agenda to look at solutions on how we can improve the villages.
- Cllr. Carter – redesign of Parish Council website to be placed on next agenda.

290/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

A working party is being held after this meeting to discuss the next steps with regards applicants and interviews.

291/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5th September 2022, 7.00pm at Fairfield First School.

292/22 – 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.

We have received indication that the Fairfield Villa will accept a one-year lease extension and are awaiting official confirmation from our Solicitors. They are also querying the RPI rent increase which is being dealt with by our Solicitor.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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

Signed