

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 1st June 2020.

Present: Cllrs. S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and, S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. County & District Cllr. K May.
0 members of the public.

150/20 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, A Homer and, G Parsons.

151/20 Declarations of Interest None. **152/20 Dispensations** None requested.

153/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 4th May 2020.

154/20 Reports

Planning Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2020.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2020.

Clerk's Report:

Dolfor House Wildmoor - Representations have been made to the Planning Inspectorate supporting both the County and District Councils' positions following appeals by the appellant Mr James Williams seeking to appeal breaches of planning (W.C.C.) and the refusal of a 'Certificate of Lawful Use' (B.D.C).

Belbroughton Recreation Centre – playground improvements: The project managers have produced a plan and are now seeking local residents' comments.

The P.C. has not yet been approached to release the agreed funding (up to £20,000).

Ram Ally, Belbroughton – Local residents Mark and Marj Workman have put in plants adjacent to the Belbroughton sign.

Conifer – The Green, Belbroughton – The application to have this removed and replaced has been received by B.D.C. and they advise of a decision date of 24th June. This said, the tree is now showing signs of life and the P.C. is not obliged to remove it.

Stourbridge Rd Fairfield – The hardstanding installed by the P.C. has already been used by the mobile speed camera team.

Bell Heath – W.C.C. Highways have agreed to put down speed monitoring strips on Heath End Rd. following residents' concerns that traffic speed is too high.

155/20 Internal audit

Council noted the previously circulated internal auditor's report compiled by Mr John Benner, Chartered Management Accountant, and agreed that it was an entirely satisfactory report. Council thanked the clerk for his work on managing the finances of the Parish Council.

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156/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

Council agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 and further agreed that the Chairman and clerk should sign 'Section 1' of the 'Return' on behalf of the Parish Council.

157/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2019/20 and agreed that the Chairman should sign 'Section 2' of the 'Return' on behalf of the Parish Council.

158/20 Traffic issues – Fairfield

- a. Council noted comments from Cllr. Mabbett on the progress on traffic calming measures detailed in C.Cllr. Webb's recent paper.
Council agreed to request WCC Highways' comments on:-
 - i. The northern entrance: what consultation has taken place with the Safety Road Partnership concerning the proposed moving of the 30mph zone and their ongoing ability to carry out speed monitoring.
 - ii. Why was the installation of speed tables dismissed without alternative provision being considered. Could there not be a change in road surface type/colour to indicate to users the changes of speed limit.
(The P.C. would provide examples of such).
 - iii. Council is unhappy with the proposal for dropped kerbs to enable residents to cross Yew Tree Lane since it would necessitate crossing the busy Stourbridge Road twice.
 - a. Could the WCC compulsorily purchase a corner of the homeowner's garden at the Yew Tree Lane junction and thus enable adequate sight lines by taking down vegetation?
 - b. Could Yew Tree Lane become a one way usage road, thus with no emerging traffic solving the lack of an adequate sight line?
 - iv. When will the advisory signs for lorries to not use the road during certain times be erected?
 - v. When will the promised widening of the footways occur?
- b. Council noted the expected re-opening of the school and also noted the 23rd May 2020 government fresh 'directives' under the Traffic Management Act 2004 designed to assist with social distancing. This required local authorities to make road systems more friendly and thus assist in social distancing. Measures can include: Widening of footways, temporary closing roads at school times, banning pavement parking and using 20 mph mandatory speed limits.
Council agreed that both the County Council via C.Cllr. S. Webb and the Fairfield First School via Mr S. Smith would be contacted to ascertain what actions were being taken to improve social distancing.

County and District Cllr. May joined the meeting:

159/20 County and District Cllr. report:

Cllr. May advised:

- Covid-19 hospital admissions in Worcester remained stable, the current R rate was 0.85.
- District Council grass mowing contractors were back at work.
- 'Bulky' waste collections had been re-started.
- Carpark charges are not yet being re-introduced.
- The Artrix: ongoing discussions were being held with the insolvency practitioner, the District Council may purchase some fittings.
- The Burcot Lane housing development was proceeding.
- The County Council had 14 new I.T. platforms for communications.
- 30 enquiries a day were still being taken on the 'Here to Help' website.
- Foodbanks are still receiving funding from the County Council.
- Individuals must adhere to socially distancing otherwise local lockdowns could take place in future.
- The District Council has received a grant of £40k from the B'ham and Solihull LEP to produce a vision on what transport links and the retail sector would look like in 2040.
- The District Council was aware that its carpark charging pay machines were some 8 years old and will need replacement.
- Talbot P.H. Belbroughton: she has asked B.D.C. licensing to ensure correct procedures had been adhered to by the landowners when installing signage and cameras for car parking charging.

160/20 Little Bell Hall Pool, Drayton Rd. Belbroughton

- a. Council noted the March 2020 report from the structural engineer.
Council approved carrying out remedial works as detailed in the report. Firstly, to the dam archway brickwork and secondly in principle to the removal of trees adjacent to the footway boundary of the former pool area. It would aim to confirm its action on these trees after receiving requested comment from the District Council's Tree Officer as regards future slippage of the footway and safety to the public.
- b. Council agreed unanimously a resolution, that the Little Bell Hall Pool should not be refilled.
- c. Council agreed a revised maintenance schedule for the area following the receipt of the structural engineer's report. It noted that in addition to regular trash screen clearance, strimming of the area would probably be required up to three times a year at a cost of circa £1.000.

Action: the clerk to source a contractor and arrange a visit for the Tree Officer.

161/20 Parish Room, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton

Council approved a request from the tenants seeking the Parish Council's consent to proceed with an application to the District Council for an alcohol license for the retail sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption off site only.

Action: the clerk to inform the tenants.

162/20 Council's Annual Report – Year ended 31st March 2020

Council agreed to retain the existing format for the Annual Report and the Chairman and the clerk would aim to have this year's report uploaded to the Council's website by the end of June. Residents who have requested paper copies of communications would be sent the report by post.

Action: The Chairman asked members to supply the clerk with suggested inputs as soon as possible.

163/20 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Pawley advised that the Belbroughton Recreation Centre are seeking clarification on ownership of and the ultimate entity responsible for the driveway leading to the Centre. The Recreation Centre trustees felt that the driveway now required expensive maintenance, the Centre having over prior years spent minimal sums on patching work. The clerk would investigate and Cllr. Pawley would report back to Council.

Cllr. Danks advised of an 'addendum' regarding the 'Dolfor House Appeals'.

- a. In May 2017 the Environment Agency planning specialist advised the District Council that it had visited the site in 2013 and had advised the operators that permits were required for the trading activities present on the site.
- b. The operators advertised that they handled asbestos waste. While it was not known what types of asbestos were handled it would be a serious matter if the required permits were not held.

Cllr. Patchell advised that we should celebrate what a beautiful area in which we lived.

Cllr. Nock wished to record the Council's thanks to Cllr. Danks for his work on the Dolfor House Appeals representations to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.