

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 1st March 2021.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. 1 member of the public.
County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb. District Cllr. M Sherrey.

62/21 Apologies

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. A Homer and G Parsons.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for the 'Open Surgery' and to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening's agenda.

The meeting re-opened.

63/21 Declarations of Interest None. **64/21 Dispensations** None.

65/21 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 1st February 2021.

66/21 Reports

Chairman's report:

Cllr. Morgan was grateful for members support and was pleased that the Council is progressing its projects.

Planning Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 15th February 2021.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 15th February 2021.

Clerk's Report:

- 1. Natural Networks, Worcestershire:** invite all to a free webinar on 17th March - 'Creating a welcoming space for humans and wildlife'.
Registration info is with the clerk.
- 2. Hartle Lane Housing Development:** The Belbroughton History Society are to liaise with the developer over naming of the new road. Ownership of the site has changed, however all terms and conditions of the 2018 Boundary Agreement with the Parish Council continue to apply to the new owners.
- 3. Bus shelters:** The District Council have acknowledged the requests for the Top Road / A491 shelter to be removed and replaced with a pole and, the refurbishment of the 'green' shelter Stourbridge Road / Wood Lane. No dates are given for these works.
- 4. Grit bins:** A further grit / salt refill is underway this week.
- 5. F.T.T.P:** The Parish Council has been registered as a 'Community Lead 'with OpenReach.
- 6. The Green, Belbroughton:** The outstanding yew hedging plants are due to be planted by the contractor. The new benches installation is delayed due to the contractor pulling out of the job, new contractors are being sought. Mr Williamson will install the four millstones once the ground conditions are more favourable.

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7. **Planning:** The District Council advise that there are investigations in hand concerning building works at 44 Hartle Lane, Belbroughton.
8. **Risk:** The Health and Safety tree works have been completed.
9. **Diary dates:** Weds. 10th March 6.30pm Quarterly Bromsgrove area Calc meeting.
: Tues. 16th March 10.00am Worcs. Councillors Meeting; space to come together and discuss issues and gain advice on the problems they and their Councils are facing. (Hosted by Chris Wayman - Worcs. Calc.)
The video conference joining details are available from the clerk.
10. **Training:** Two members had requested and are now registered for the April sessions on 'Planning' being run by Worcs. Calc.
11. After seven and a half years in post the clerk has tendered his resignation to the Chairman. A Working Group of councillors will be formed by the Chairman to conduct the recruitment of a successor over the next two months.

County and District Councillors reports:

C.Cllr. May advised:

Covid -19 : Current rates per 100k - Bromsgrove 104, Malvern 132, Redditch 218, Worcs. City 115, Wychavon 127 Wyre Forest 126. The overall Worcestershire rate is 136.

For Bromsgrove a welcome achievement with the lowest rates countywide.

The NHS however remains under pressure.

Over 60 age group cases are high in Malvern with a 16% increase which is concerning.

50 care homes across the County have outbreaks. (2 or more cases defines an outbreak.).

Lateral flow testing continues at The Ryland Centre along with the vaccination programme at the Artrix Centre.

The 'Hear 2 Help' service remains available.

Under the Health and Safety Road Act plans are being drawn up for realigning the visibility at Drayton Rd and Hackmans Gate Lane, Belbroughton junction following two incidents in recent months of lorries hitting a property.

County Councillors move into 'Purdah' from 22nd March prior to the election on 6th May.

Mrs May would thus attend the next Parish Council meeting solely as one of the areas District Councillors.

District matters:

A drain close The Queens public house has been cleared at last!

5000 people remain on furlough in the Bromsgrove District.

A new initiative - Demand Response Transport – a shuttle bus call up scheme via a app. is due to be launched in six weeks. e.g. people could call up requesting a trip from the railway station into the town centre.

Libraries – looking to use these assets as community hubs. e.g to include access to Citizens Advice Bureau.

A serious drainage issue at Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton had been dealt with via a temporary solution with 'Highways'. A longerterm repair is under consideration.

D.Cllr. Sherrey advised;

The bus shelter works promised may be held over until the next financial year, The collection of 'bulky waste' should recommence this month following an improvement in staffing levels.

New covert cameras are to be used in an effort to reduce fly tipping which is seeing a recent upsurge.

She and D.Cllr. May are aware of issues of inconsiderate parking on roads at Client Hills with some blocking of access for emergency vehicles and damage caused to verges and other infrastructure. Enforcement is being attempted working with the police and the National Trust.

C.Cllr. Webb advised:

The Traffic Regulation Order reducing the speed limit from the National speed limit (60 MPH) to 40 MPH on Stourbridge Rd. from the Stoneybridge Roundabout will be implemented 25th March.

Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield dropped kerb: Discussions are to take place with the resident on removing the hedge.

Parking Issues Fairfield: an onsite meeting will be arranged shortly with herself and Mr. Clewer from WCC Highways and Cllr. Mabbett.

67/21 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Appeal: Dolfor House, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor.

The Council noted the decision of the planning inspector to agree the Appeal by the applicant against the refusal by B.D.C. to grant a 'Certificate of Lawful Use' for commercial activities at Dolfor House.

Council was concerned that District Council failed to bring forward all evidence to the inquiry to defend its position and questioned whether it therefore is negligent in this respect.

District Cllr. May shared and acknowledged the frustrations the Parish Council has, and she was awaiting a formal response to her enquiries asking for an explanation from the B.D.C. Head of Planning. She confirmed that the Inspector's decision cannot be appealed.

D.Cllr. May upon request of the Parish Council, advised that she would request that the Head of Planning attends a meeting with the Parish Council to give an explanation of omissions from the District Council's case presentation.

68/21 Fairfield Villa F.C.

Council noted the additional financial information provided by the football club and agreed by 9 votes in favour to 1 vote against to offer the tenant a rent freeze for the three months commencing March 2021. The position would be reviewed at the June Council meeting. Council noted that at that point the outcome of the Club's request for grant assistance from the District Council should be known.

Action: the clerk to inform the F.V.F.C.

22.

69/21 Broadband - 'Fibre To The Property'

- a. Council noted that the National Government voucher scheme was not currently applicable for DY9 9.. postcodes, which covers the majority of the properties in Belbroughton.

Council noted that C.Cllr. May had requested from the Mr Javid M.P. that new funding comes forward asap. He was apparently supportive and had committed to discuss the matter with the Sec. of State.

- b. Council approved continuing to seek expressions of interest and register these with Openreach in advance of a hoped-for fresh voucher scheme.

Council approved uploading website information plus organising a leaflet drop to promote local interest.

Council noted that the resident organised scheme for Wildmoor was proceeding and C.Cllr Webb had donated £100 to aid promotion of it in recruiting interest.

70/21 Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership (WCRP)

Council approved its response to a consultation on increasing usage of the rail network:

"In order for more people to be encouraged to use the trains locally you need to consider:

Improving bus connections to the Bromsgrove station – for example but not exclusively, and with support funding promote usage of the Bromsgrove District Council's new initiative of 'Demand Response Transport' linking individual needs to a call up shuttle bus service.

Improvement to the parking at local stations namely Hagley, Blakedown and Longbridge. Since without adequate parking users require to go to Stourbridge and get a train that takes three times longer to get into Birmingham.

Improvements of the safety features such as lighting in rural stations in relation to personal safety."

Action: the clerk to send the response.

71/21 Belbroughton Village security

Council noted a video conference meeting held with David Rischmiller the B.D.C. Community Safety Projects Officer where C.Cllr. May was also in attendance. The meeting was called further to site visits to Belbroughton after a further robbery at the village shop. While the meeting was welcomed there was little of substance to offer to address issues. Mr Rischmiller had felt that C.C.T.V. would not be effective in tracing perpetrators.

The community should remain vigilant and report unusual behaviour.

Council noted however that A.N.P.R. cameras were installed on a number of major routes in and out of the area and police officers did patrol in unmarked vehicles and thus there was 'unseen' proactive action being undertaken.

Action: C.Cllr May advised of a meeting with John Campion the Police and Crime Commissioner on a video call Saturday 6th March to discuss local issues. Members are welcome to join this meeting.

23.

72/21 Situation Reports on outstanding projects and work streams

Members reported on their individual activities:

Cllr Morgan aimed to keep supporting individual members with their activities.

Cllr. Patchell would act as a point of contact with contractors Greenaways for any issues concerning their parish upkeep contract.

Council agreed it would seek a 'standby general maintenance contractor'.

Action: Members to advise the clerk of potential contractors.

Cllr Pawley advised of progress on the Belbroughton Village Green improvements with attention now on the lighting column replacement. She also has the commitment of representing the Parish Council on the Belbroughton Recreation Centre Committee.

Cllr Mabbett advised of the Fairfield Recreation Ground improvements where drainage works quotes were now being sought. He will be working on the lease renewal with the football club. He continues to press for resolution of various traffic calming matters in Fairfield dealing closely with the County member and Worcs. Highways. Presently examining the VAS speed warning signs replacements. He also represents the Parish Council on the Fairfield Village Hall Committee.

Cllr.Ingram was involved in the Fairfield Recreation Ground improvements and the lease renewal negotiations with the football club.

Cllr. Hood was involved in reparatory works at the dam at Drayton Rd.

Cllr. Danks remains heavily involved in quarry issues and assesses traffic issues in the Wildmoor area.

73/21 Meetings

Council noted that due to the health crisis 'virtual' meetings would be required for the foreseeable future.

Council approved the renewal of the Zoom video conferencing facility licence for a further twelve months.

74/21 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Allington requested that vegetation cleared from the trash screen at Belne Brook Drayton Rd. sitting on the grassed area above is removed.

Cllr. Allington wished to organise a litter pick in Belbroughton however Council advised that this would have to await the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Cllr. Allington requested that the footway from Swan Lane to the Stoneybridge roundabout in Fairfield is cleared of debris.

Action: the clerk would refer items 1 and 3 to Mr Williamson.

24.

Cllr. Boswell requested that both Councillors and the public report fly tipping promptly. While incidences can be reported to the B.D.C. Hub. D.Cllrs. May and Sherrey would also be happy to take email reports of issues:

k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk m.sherrey@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Cllr Pawley informed Council that the Belbroughton History Society are to recommend to the developer that the new road on the housing development off Hartle Lane be named Bellamy 'Drive' or 'Close' after former resident Sarah Bellamy. The Council felt this would be a very acceptable choice of name and 'Close' would be appropriate.

Meeting closed at 8.49pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.

DRAFT