

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Fairfield First School on 1st October 2018.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, P Margetts and, S Pawley. Clerk, J Farrell and one member of the public.
County Cllr. K May was also in attendance.

269/18 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, C Scurrell and, G Parsons.
Apologies were also received from County Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

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.

270/18 Declarations of Interest - None. **271/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

272/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd September 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

273/18 Reports

Chairman’s report: The order for the footpath diversion September at Brookfield farm was finally made on 19th September. An inaugural walk would be held on Sunday 21st October starting at the Talbot at 11.30am. Councillors and County cllrs. would be welcome along with members of the public. *(Start time later altered to 10.30am.)*

The Council thanked Cllr. Bradley for his work over a number of years on the diversion processes. The Chairman added his thanks to the volunteer footpath warden and the local farmer for assistance.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 17th September 2018.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 17th September 2018. Council accepted the recommendation on Risk Management Policy.

Clerk’s Report:

1. County Cllr. K May has agreed to the request for a grant of £240 from her Divisional Fund towards the costs of the repainting of the ‘library’ former telephone box in Belbroughton. The Council will pass these funds to the Belbroughton History Society whom have custody of the phone box and it will arrange the work.
2. Bromsgrove District Council Plan Review- Issues and Options Consultation has begun with a request for comments from the Parish Council by 19th November. Cllr. Morgan has organised two events for residents in the parish area (1st Oct in Fairfield and 29th Oct in Belbroughton) to be run by the District Council strategic planners. He will update the November Council with a summary of residents’ comments and it would consider a response to the District Council.

3. Council insurance – in accordance with the Finance Committee request 17th Sept., the Council Chairman and Chairman of the committee have assessed the options and agreed a revised quotation from brokers Came and Co, which would now include a more realistic ‘street furniture’ cover level but an increased level of ‘financial employee dishonesty’ cover amount in line with N.a.l.c. guidelines. (These being ½ of the Precept plus cash reserves held). The Cllrs. have assessed quotes from two other providers and have chosen Inspire-Axa for the next 12 month period. The premium payable £1,797.73. (the initial quote being £2.6k).
4. Belbroughton Rec. Play area improvements 2017 approved grant £20,000: Mrs Sam Benbow has sent an update on the additional (matched) funding being sought from other bodies suggesting that it will be into next year before the amount raised will be clearer.
5. Bench repainting and repairs in Fairfield are being arranged through James Callaghan.
6. A reminder of the Parish Conference on Tuesday 9th October 6.00pm at County Hall, with a half hour available prior to view exhibits.
7. A farm walk over the Council’s holdings was undertaken by cllrs. on 25th Sept. The clerk will shortly summon an Agricultural Holdings Committee meeting liaising with the chairman Cllr. Hood, to consider matters brought up on the walk.

274/18 Smartwater – Fairfield Ward

Members noted that the two distribution events and subsequent initial ‘mop up’ activities had resulted in a take up from 44% of households in just an 8 day period. Further distribution is being organised by the Fairfield Community Association over the coming weeks.

Council wished to thank all those involved in the operation.

Cllr. Jones wished to thank Cllr. Mabbett, the clerk and Mr Palmer of the F.C.A. for their work at the events.

Action: Cllrs. Jones and Mabbett will provide a progress report at the November Council.

275/18 Traffic Calming – Fairfield Ward

Council noted the following outcomes from a meeting with County Cllr. Webb and Mr Clewer of Highways Dept. County Council:

Present: Cllr Webb, Cllr. Mabbett, R Clewer WCC, J Farrell PC Clerk.

1. Cllr. Webb felt able to recommend £1250 from her Divisional Fund towards a £2,500 cost of a VAS roundabout/ slow down sign which Richard Clewer could procure for Stourbridge Rd.
2. Richard Clewer has agreed to sort the speed camera warning signs (full 30mph and camera on blue background).
3. Richard Clewer has agreed the white lining close to the mini roundabout and more expansively on the northern entrance to the village.
4. Also, a buffer 40 MPH limit is to be sought for a short run just off the A491.
5. The hardstanding will also be put in as he assessed three weeks ago, on the southern edge of the village.
6. No other engineering works were planned by the County.

Council – at the written request of Cllr. Mabbett prior to the meeting - agreed that the ‘Traffic Calming Working Group’ would assess these points and recommend back to Council any specific actions especially the offer of funds from C. Cllr. Webb since it wished to discuss what type of signage was purchased.

Action: Cllr. Mabbett would hold a Traffic Calming Working Group meeting and report back to the December Council. It was also agreed that Cllr. Margetts would join this group to assess Belbroughton ward needs.

276/18 Parish Room, Belbroughton

Council noted a request by the tenant to make improvements to the frontage of the premises. Council acknowledged that these were worthwhile and would improve both access and the appearance of the site and approved the tenant's requested changes. It noted that the tenant should ensure that the Conservation Officer was content with the improvements. It was pleased that the tenant had the confidence to make these improvements.

Action: The clerk will inform the tenant.

277/18 Little Bell Hall Pool

Council decided that the 'Working Group' should re-convene to assess what works – immediate, medium and longer term should be undertaken to both maintain the safety of the site and its adjacent path & road and also to consider any changes to the site.

Cllr. Bradley suggested and council agreed that the Wildlife Trust, wetland officer be contacted for input. Cllrs. Ingram and Pawley agreed to join the 'Working Group'.

Action: the group to report recommendations on for what purpose it felt the site was held for and changes to it including a review of signage, to a future Council.

278/18 The Green Belbroughton – Replacement planting and landscaping scheme

Council noted that members of the 'Working Group' had met with the District Council Tree Officer who was flexible on changes from the current Decision Notice detailing replacement planting.

An open invitation had been made for residents to join the group, including leafletting adjacent properties, and so far three individuals were willing to join the Council's 'Working Group'.

Action: The Group would hold a first community consultation in the coming month and refer initial recommendations to a future Council.

279/18 Parish Action Plan

Council assessed the current plan line by line and agreed:

Green spaces: the footpath warden's post would in future most likely require to become a paid for service. Council agreed that an assessment was needed on the job specification, seasonality and number of hours involved in this roll. The roll could involve additional responsibilities in addition to current footpath maintenance.

Actions: the clerk would discuss this with Mr Hardcastle and report to the Finance Committee. The Committee will be mindful that the County Council has prime responsibility for maintenance and any additional resource would need to liaise with the County Council officer - presently Mr Patrick White.

Footway lighting:

Actions: Cllr. Hood will conduct a survey of the columns.

The clerk will assess whether the lighting contract includes periodic checks by Prysmian on the quality of the lighting columns.

Parish Grants:

Council had not released its budgeted amount this year and the Chairman urged that members contact local groups to advise that funds circa £4,500 were still available to be applied for.

280/18 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Allington advised that the vegetation adjacent to The Farthings, Holy Cross Lane remained overgrown despite chasing.

Action: the clerk will continue to chase and refer again to the County Council.

Cllr. Ingram advised that vegetation at left hand side Wood Lane was encroaching on the footway.

Action: the clerk will write to the property owner.

Cllr. Margetts enquired as to whether there would be any further grass cuts this year, the clerk confirmed cuts would be made in October.

Cllr. Margetts requested that a finger post sign located at Dark Lane and Galtons Lane junction at Hollies Hill was replaced by the County Council as it is in a poor state.

Action: the clerk would report into the Hub.

The meeting was closed at 9.21pm

Signed Chairman