

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10TH JANUARY 2022, 7.00PM AT BELBROUGHTON CHURCH HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Baldwin, Cllr. Boswell, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Morgan (Chairman), Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Clerk – Ruth Mullett
Cllr. May – District and County Councillor
There were seven members of the public in attendance

209/22 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mabbett 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.

210/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Chairman asked all members present to declare any personal or prejudicial interest on any items on the agenda – there were no declarations of interest reported.

211/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr. Allington requested the minutes be amended in sections:
207/21 – second and third sentences to be removed.

Subject to the above amendments it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2021 as a true record.

212/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report

The Chairman confirmed that the previous Clerk had now left the Council and apologised for the situation the council has found themselves in with regards administration and accounting procedures. He asked that everyone bear with us in this interim period while we get back up to date and compliant.

Planning Committee Meeting – 13th December 2021

Cllr. Danks gave an update of the meeting held on 13th December 2021. It was noted the minutes had never been approved and circulated. Clerk to locate a copy for approval by Cllr. Danks, then distribute to all councillors for information.

Finance Committee Meeting – 13th December 2021

Cllr. Nock gave an update of the meeting held on 13th December 2021. Again, it was noted the minutes had never been approved and circulated. Clerk to locate a copy for approval by Cllr. Mabbett, then distribute to all councillors for information.

213/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies were received from Cllr. Sherrey with the following report sent, which Clerk read out to the Council: -

“Waste collections are running with full staffing although we still have a number of staff still isolating. The Place Team are working well but still have a couple of absences, we are planning how we manage should we have more than 25% of staff off. The Depot are putting staff on notice that they may need to be used on the waste again, this will enable us to maintain our waste collection.”

Apologies were received from Cllr. Webb with the following report sent which Clerk read out to the Council: -

- *“I am awaiting an update on the Yew Tree Lane dropped kerb, there are some concerns over the line of sight.*
- *The FTTP Wildmoor is now covered, the residents have arranged the leaflets and distribution and have set the scheme up. No need for input from the Parish Council now.*
- *Sandy Lane A491 cleansing – I have requested this is done again but Cllr. May is also looking into BDC to cleanse. As you can imagine work has been prioritised with staff shortages the last few weeks.*
- *Our Local Safer Neighbourhood Team have arranged a PACT meeting for Wednesday 19th January 2022, 2.00pm at the Village Hall of which I am hoping to attend. It would be good if any Parish Councillors could attend to be held at Fairfield Village Hall.”*

Cllr. May was in attendance and gave the following report: -

- *Running 3% staff absences at BDC due to Covid, Cllr. May also gave an update on Covid cases within the region and encouraged all residents to get a vaccination.*
- *CC are in the process of setting the budget with a proposed Precept increase of 3.94% which is currently out for consultation.*
- *Have asked for an increase in the budget for the Lengthsman Scheme. Cllr. May also asked whether the Lengthsman could look at clearing up Bradford Lane. Clerk to instruct.*
- *Highways and road surveys are still a key priority of the council, especially potholes.*
- *Demand Response Transport which involves downloading an app and calling for a bus to take you from one location to another has been on trial in the district and has been a great success. The aim is to carry this forward into our rural communities, and we have applied for a government grant to enable us to introduce this scheme within our wider rural communities.*

214/22 – PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2022/23

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set the precept at £70,000.00, an increase of £5,000.00. This motion was agreed on a caveat that an Action Plan is agreed for more maintenance work to be conducted within Belbroughton and Fairfield parishes.

215/22 – BROADBAND – FTTP FOR THE WILDMOOR AREA

Cllr. Danks asked that the Parish Council support the whole parish in obtaining Superfast Broadband and gave an update on progress to date. Clerk was asked to write to Sajid Javid MP for his support on this item to allow rollout to the whole of the parish.

216/22 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

Cllr. Gibbs gave an update on progress with regards drafting the questionnaire and it was agreed once completed, it would be presented to the Finance Committee then to Full Council for approval.

217/22 – CLERK'S REPORT

- Following advice from Worcestershire CALC with regards Covid restrictions it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council meet via Zoom due to rises in Covid cases. The Council duly delegated further Council actions to the Acting Clerk until face-to-face meetings resume or until the Council meet to fulfil the requirement to attend a meeting within six months of the Annual Meeting, whichever occurs first.
- New Councillor appointments to Planning Committee and Finance Committee were agreed. Acting Clerk to circulate an updated Committee's List to all councillors.
- **Acting Clerk's Outstanding Action List** – Clerk circulated copy to all councillors and gave a verbal update on outstanding items.
- **Date for Annual Parish Meeting** – this item was deferred.
- **Scoping Opinion Ref. 21/000043/SCO – Expansion of Wildmoor Quarry** – Council was unanimously against any expansion to Wildmoor Quarry. It was agreed that Cllr. Danks would produce a written response on behalf of the Council and circulate to all for comments/approval before submission by Clerk to Worcestershire County Council.

218/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Christmas Lights** – following advice from BDC a quotation had been received from Blachere Illumination for replacement Christmas lights. It was discussed that due to the health of the existing Christmas tree that the lights be moved to the cherry tree on Belbroughton Village Green. Cllr. Allington asked whether we could also look at laser/uplighter lights. Clerk to speak to Blachere and obtain a quotation and report back to the next meeting,
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to instruct the Lengthsman to strip back and revarnish nine benches within the parish.
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to instruct the Lengthsman to repair the missing wooden bollards around Fairfield Recreation car park and drive from Stourbridge Road.
- Cllr. Baldwin gave an update on the Parking in Fairfield Working Party, and it was agreed for Clerk to arrange another Zoom meeting.

219/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Nock – bollard needs replacing opposite Belbroughton School – Clerk to instruct Lengthsman to replace.
- Cllr. Wilkes – pavement needs cleaning from The Swan to Fairfield Court – Clerk to instruct Lengthsman.
- Cllr. Wilkes asked if we wanted to use the Recreation Ground for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee would this impact on the football season. It was confirmed this would not. Clerk instructed to place the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the next agenda to ascertain whether the Council would be interested in marking this occasion.
- Cllr. Gibbs – when would there be a Post Office Closure follow-up meeting – awaiting report back from Cllr. May.

The meeting closed at 21.35pm.

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

Signed