

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 8th January 2018.**

Present: Cllrs. J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, T Jones, S MacDonald, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley, and, C Scurrrell. **Clerk:** J Farrell. Seventeen members of the public.

001/18 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S Boss, A Mabbett and P Margetts. Apologies were also received from County Cllrs. K May, S Webb and District Cllrs. M Sherrey and C Allen-Jones.

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.

002/18 Declarations of Interest – None. **003/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

004/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 4th December 2017 after approving the amendment of the first sentence of minute 365/17 to read: ‘Council noted that there was renewed interest in these schemes from ~~a number of~~ several Fairfield residents.’, and the Chairman signed the minute book.

005/18 Reports

Chairman’s report:

Cllr. Bradley noted the work carried out during his absence by vice chairman Cllr. Morgan and thanked him. He also noted that ‘Working Groups’ were meeting and recommending actions which he hoped would benefit residents.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee Meeting held 18th December 2017.

Clerk’s Report:

1. There have been no applications for the Fairfield ward councillor vacancy which thus remains open. Provided there are applications then Council will consider these at the 5th February 2018 Council meeting.
2. Central Buses will replace Diamond to deliver the 318 bus service. There will be no break in service. We will clarify that the existing timetable is to continue. The new bench for the Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield bus shelter has been ordered.
3. The request to ‘Designate’ the parish council area as the extent of the Neighbourhood Plan area has been submitted to the District Council. This does not mean that a ‘Plan’ will be progressed that decision is to be taken by a ‘Steering Group’ which subject to community interest is to be formed over the next two months.
4. The Green Belbroughton – The proposed agreement with the adjacent developer still awaits completion. The P.C.s lawyers advise that they await confirmation of acceptance of the terms from the developer’s lawyers and also their further undertaking for payment of additional accrued fees. The P.C. is not liable for any of these costs.
5. B’ham Velo – Cllr. Morgan is attending a meeting of Parish and Town Councils at County Hall on 10th January to discuss the Sept 2017 event.
6. Following a site visit the County Council have agreed the Parish Council’s requested locations for three place name road signs for Broom Hill – they await advice from the Parish Council on the wording to be added to the signs and will then install.

County and District councillors:

Cllrs. May and Webb supplied a written report from the County Council for the minutes:

Open for Business

An important scheme to reduce flooding and keep Worcester city centre 'Open for Business' will start on January 8th

The scheme will help to keep New Road open for longer during times of flooding and particularly help to ensure that flood water recedes much quicker than it currently does.

A majority of the funding for this project is coming from the Local Enterprise Partnership. This recognises is in recognition of the contribution the scheme will make to the local economy, helping to keep Worcester high on the list of locations for new investors and reducing congestion during flood events.

The scheme will see nearly 200metres of New Road and its footpaths raised, as well as cycle paths.

They will be raised by up to a maximum of nearly 400mm (16 inches).

Drainage along the road will also be improved as part of the scheme and the whole of New Road will be resurfaced.

Some trees will need to be removed from New Road to allow for construction but most of the existing avenue will remain. A new avenue of 13 trees will be planted within Cripplegate Park to help compensate for those being lost.

Other improvements associated with the scheme include amendments to the traffic light islands which will allow New Road to be easily opened up to two way traffic when Hylton Road and Tybridge Street are closed by floodwater, a new landscaped entrance to Cripplegate Park with some other landscape as well as facility improvements within the park.

Health and Wellbeing

*During December the Council actively supported the **16 Days of Action, White Ribbon campaign** to tackle domestic violence.*

*This year the campaign sought to raise awareness of the **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)**. This is also known as Clare's Law. Clare Wood was murdered in February 2009 by a man she met on an internet dating site who had a history of violence. Clare's Law aims to prevent domestic abuse by offering men and women a process through which they can ask the police about the background of their new partner.*

Concerned members of the public, such as relatives and friends, can also make enquiries about someone's partner. You can find out more about support available and Clare's Law on our [website](#).

The Environment

Residents across Worcestershire have been encouraged to think green this New Year following the festive break.

Whether it's cards, wrapping paper, trees or simply leftover food, we all produce a lot more waste with the average family throwing out an extra five bags of waste over Christmas.

This adds an additional 700,000 tonnes to the UK's waste stream. Household Recycling Centres are open as normal after New Year's Day for people to take their recycling along to.

Children and Families

The next stage of deciding how Children's Social Care Services are to be delivered in the future will be agreed by Worcestershire County Council's in the coming months.

The alternative way of delivering these services means more focus on improving services and keeping children and young people safe from harm.

In September 2017, following the Worcestershire Children's Commissioner report, the Department of Education directed that the County Council should move the operational delivery of Social Care Services for children to an Alternative Delivery Model (ADM). This means that the Council will no longer have the responsibility of operationally delivering these services it currently provides and will voluntarily move to an alternative way of delivering these services.

The Council had already completed a review earlier in the year into introducing a new way of delivering Children's Social Care services to help accelerate and sustain improvements in Children's Social Care.

A programme of works to support the move to an ADM has begun. There are 2 key phases; Phase 1 involves a complete review of the types of ADMs available with recommended options agreed by Cabinet, subject to ministerial approval. Phase 2 will include a detailed explanation on how the recommended models will be put into place and what's included in scope. This phase needs to be completed by the end of March 2018.

There are 2 types of ADM being recommended for Cabinet to take forward to Phase 2. They are a Strategic Partnership, which would involve a formalised relationship with another Local Authority, and a Wholly Owned Council Company that would see the creation of a new company to take responsibility for delivering elements of Children's Services.

To read more about the ADM go to <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrensadm>

Council News:

Celebrating Social Workers Week

We know that our 350 Social Workers in Worcestershire make a difference to people's lives every single day, often in difficult circumstances.

In January, we are going to dedicate a whole week to celebrate the achievements of our Social Work teams and the work that they do.

Worcestershire County Council's Celebrating Social Workers Week will begin on Monday 15 January. During the week there will be workshops everyday run by guest speakers to help improve skills and build stronger connections across our Children and Adult departments. There will also be a Celebration Event to feature Social Work Awards.

The Social Work Academy will also be launched as part of the week-long event. the Academy will be a one-stop-shop for Social Workers across their career, whether you are a student starting out here at Worcestershire on placement or you are an experienced worker – this resource will bring together resources and training to support your knowledge and skills.

More details about these events will be available shortly..

New WCC Chief Executive

Shortly before Christmas WCC unanimously approved Paul Robinson as the Council's new Chief Executive. The appointment was discussed at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.

Mr Robinson is currently the Chief Executive of Derby City Council. He has held senior positions at a number of local authorities. He joined Derby City Council in 2008 and became the council's Chief Executive in 2015. Mr Robinson will take up his new post in Worcestershire in the spring.

006/87 Planning Application:

Application type:	Full Application
Planning Reference:	17/01224/FUL
Proposal:	Residential development with associated access point and landscaping.
Location:	Land North Of, Glebe Fields, Belbroughton, Bromsgrove,

The Parish Council Objects to the application:

The Council is concerned that the current proposal may not comply with 'limited infill numbers' for what is a Green Belt location and which sits outside the 'Village Envelope' and has not demonstrated exceptional special circumstances to override policy:

It questions where the evidence is that there has been adequate consideration and prior consultation on Belbroughton's needs in respect of the mix of property types proposed and also as to whether the mix proposed is in line with the requirements of the District Council for the village. The Council feels that the properties should be a mix of two and three bedroom homes to include bungalows.

3.

There is no detail on what basis 'comparisons' were made on the proposed building types, in respect of heights of properties. There are potential losses of natural light for existing adjacent properties and this point and adherence to District Council sightline guidelines needed to be addressed.

There are issues with the availability of adequate pedestrian pavements and thus safety, plus the availability of space for 'tradesmens' vehicles' visits appears lacking. Part of the access road 'Glebe Fields' is an unadopted road, this point does not appear to have been addressed.

Transport movements numbers quoted are felt questionable and are deemed to be too low. There are not the numerous public transport measures quoted available, and again vehicle movements would be greater than forecast, this affects the safety and wellbeing of existing residents and children. The recent Parish Council survey results highlighted that residents felt that traffic issues were a major concern. Children are encouraged to use space, and the dual use of the current road space has not been considered in the light of greater usage.

We should wish the Worcestershire Highways to reassess the current traffic movements, to include the doctor's surgery site when it is in use, and relate this fresh assessment to the applicant's statements. There should also have been consideration of traffic calming measures on The Glebe and Glebe Fields access roads and, the proposed new development in the light of increased use.

There is no mention of the lighting, and resultant light pollution, which would need to be such that it meets regulatory requirements.

Additional comments:

There is no volunteering of construction operation working times – albeit these may follow as attached conditions applicable should planning permission be granted.

The site is contiguous with a site where permission has been granted for the construction of 11 properties, which when built will result in further traffic movement increases.

007/18 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Morgan advised that a meeting open to all residents has been arranged for 7.00pm Monday 22nd January at the Barn Room at The Bell, Belbroughton to assess if there is interest from the public in the forming of a 'Steering Group'. This group to comprise of both councillors and residents would then, after consultation with the community, consider whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan should be progressed.

008/18 Minor Grant

Council authorised the signing of a cheque for £250 for Belbroughton Live Savers who had now set up courses in conjunction with St John's Ambulance.

009/18 Trees

Council declined a motion to purchase and plant a weeping willow tree at Ram Ally. Council awaits the supply of the promised oak sapling for the site from the District Council.

Cllr. Parsons left the meeting due to family commitments.

010/18 Annual Parish Meeting – 30th April 2018

Council agreed to continue to give reports on Council business in the previous year and would invite one parish organisation each from Belbroughton and Fairfield. There would be an update from the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Action: The clerk will canvass the parish organisations.

011/18 Fairfield Recreation Ground – footpath flooding.

Council deferred consideration of this item due to the involved members’ absences from the Council meeting.

012/18 Footpaths

Cllr. Bradley advised Council that the footpath running from Drayton Rd. Belbroughton towards Drayton village had a section of about 30 metres where the drainage is very poor due to the close proximity of the stream. The section was actually in the Chaddesley Corbett parish area but the path is used very much by Belbroughton residents. Upon examination by the footpath warden, Paul Hardcastle he had felt that the drainage could be improved.

Council approved in principle such work and quotes would be obtained. Chaddesley Corbett P.C. would be asked to contribute.

Action: Cllr. Bradley to inform Paul Hardcastle.

013/18 First World War – Commemorations

Council noted that Cllrs. Bradley, Boswell would be meeting with members of the Belbroughton History Society on 15th January to commence discussions on options for events this year. Other parties from across the Parish would be asked to attend future discussions.

Action: The Group will report progress to a future Council.

014/18 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Council deferred for one month considering setting up a ‘Working Group’ to oversee the introduction of new regulations, pending expected implementation information from the Worcestershire Association of Local Councils.

015/18 Use of Funds

Council approved by five votes to four votes to discontinue the principle of not using Parish Council funds for the purchase of products that the public could purchase themselves notwithstanding that the Council may be able to purchase such products at a discounted rate.

016/18 Councillors Items

Cllr. Boswell requested that potholes in Mearse Lane are reported to the W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Pawley advised that a tree had come down on The Green Belbroughton and had been cleared away by the Lengthsman, Council agreed that it would not look to replace this immediately, awaiting, the landscape re-assessment of the whole area after the agreement with the adjacent development was completed.

The Meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed Chairman