

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022, 7.30PM AT BELBROUGHTON CHURCH HALL**

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

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

**245/22 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr. Morgan as Chairman. Cllr. Morgan duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**246/22 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to re-elect Cllr. Nock as Vice Chairman.

**247/22 – APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Boswell and Cllr. Danks and reasons for absence were accepted 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.**

The meeting re-opened

**248/22 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Baldwin, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 19.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

**249/22 – DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. Baldwin, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 19.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

**250/22 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 as a true record with one amendment in item 22/239, switch councillor names the other way round.

**251/22 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Chairman’s Report**

Chairman thanked the parish council for electing him as Chairman of the Council for a further year and is keen that the council remain active in the community throughout the council year.

## **Planning Committee Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Cllr. Pawley gave an update of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting.

## **Finance Committee Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

Cllr. Mabbett gave an update of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and accepted the minutes as an accurate account of the meeting.

## **252/22 – PARISH COUNCIL GOVERNANCE**

Council noted the following policies and procedures and approved their adoption for the Council year:

Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information Policy, Press and Media Policy, Filming and Recording Procedures, and Data Protection Policy (GDPR), Equality-Diversity Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Publications Scheme and Death of National Figure Procedures.

## **253/22 - MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

- a. Council agreed Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Morgan and Cllr. Wilkes to be members of the Finance Committee.  
Council agreed Cllr. Pawley, Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Baldwin, Cllr. Boswell, Cllr. Clarke and Cllr. Danks to be members of the Planning Committee.  
Council agreed Cllr. Hood, Cllr. Nock and Cllr. Morgan to be members of the Agricultural Holdings Committee.  
The Chairmen of the Committees would be appointed by the said Committees at their first meetings.
- b. Council approved the following Working Groups:  
The Green, Belbroughton improvements – Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Morgan, Cllr. Nock and Cllr. Pawley  
Traffic Calming – Cllr. Mabbett  
Little Bell Hall Pool – Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Nock and Cllr. Pawley  
Local Quarries – Cllr. Danks and Cllr. Hood
- c. Membership to outside bodies were confirmed as:  
Worcestershire CALC – Cllr. Morgan and Cllr. Nock  
Belbroughton Recreation Centre – Cllr. Pawley  
Belbroughton United Charities – Cllr. Boswell  
Wildmoor Residents Association – Cllr. Hood

## **254/22 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the following recommendation from the Finance Committee:

- a. To accept the quotation from Acer Trees of £870.00 for the removal of the fallen tree and debris at Bell Hall Pool.
- b. To allocate £250.00 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant Application to Friends for Lunch (Belbroughton) – LGA 1972, s145.

- c. To allocate £50.00 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant Application to Holy Trinity Church (Belbroughton) – LGA 1972, s145.
- d. To allocate £40.00 Minor Grant Application to Glyn Ashman – LGA 1972, s145.
- e. To pay one year's subscription to the Plunkett Foundation of £200.00 plus VAT with regards community shop/Post Office – LGA 1972, s139.

## **255/22 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr. Webb was in attendance and gave the following report from County Council: -

- Met with Cllr. Baldwin to discuss traffic and parking issues in Fairfield.
- Requested speed monitoring strips for the Stourbridge Road, this will then allow us to look at the data to take to a meeting of Traffic and Highways Officers to decide if anything further can be done.
- Swan Lane – we are doing more drainage work to protect the gullies, with placing some kerbing in to stop them filling up with soil etc. off the verges.

Cllr. May was in attendance and gave the following report from District and County Council: -

*As we now learn to live with Covid I thought I would highlight some of your District and County Council achievements over the past twelve months.*

*The District Council has obtained £14.5m from the levelling up fund from Central Government. This is money that was not expected, in fact I was informed that it was highly unlikely that any funding via this route would be granted. It is important that we addressed the issue of two vacant brownfield sites in the town centre which we were having great difficulty bringing forward for development. Whilst I recognise that these sites are in the centre of Bromsgrove it is anticipated that the investment of this level will be the catalyst for driving further investment throughout the district.*

*More than £30m of grant funding has been passed through the District Council to support businesses throughout the district. This is one of the largest amounts to have been assigned to any Council and I am delighted that we have been able to support businesses in what I recognise as a particularly challenging time.*

*The development of the old council building site in Burcot Lane is now well underway. There are sixty-one new properties under construction. Having visited the site last week one can clearly see the benefit that this will bring to Bromsgrove District. The development will not only provide housing for social rent but will also go part way to addressing the 'levelling up' agenda. On average, in Bromsgrove District, our house prices to earnings ratio stands at 14.3:1 whereas nationally it is 4:1. This makes it exceedingly difficult for our young people to find suitable housing within the district. We received a million-pound grant from central government to support this initiative as part of the accelerated homes England grant funding, again having lobbied to enable this finance to come through from Central Government. It is anticipated that this site will be completed by December 2022.*

*I have been instrumental in introducing a project which is known as Asset-based Community Development not only across the district but also across Worcestershire County. This initiative is around the sustainability and enabling of communities. The prevention of social isolation and social interaction is fundamental to enabling communities to interact, protecting our communities into the future. Age UK is currently running a road show which will take place in Romsley on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30 to 13.00, at the Scout Centre. The goal is to enable residents to live fulfilled, independent lives in their own homes.*

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*Following my re-election as your County Councillor for Clent Hills Division I was appointed to the cabinet with responsibility for Health and Wellbeing. May I take this opportunity to thank those residents who kindly supported me. It is very much appreciated and something that I never take for granted.*

*As the cabinet member one of the first matters, I addressed was the roll out of a consultation document seeking residents' opinions as to the strategy for health and well-being for this county for the next 10 years. We have obtained funding from the NHS to support the County Council with this project which is something that has never happened historically. Adult social care and special educational needs are two of the largest major spends at Worcestershire County Council. Currently around 72% of our budget is spent on 2% of the population. For this reason, it is of importance that we look at what can be done in the preventative sphere.*

*On Friday I met with the Under-Secretary of State, Nigel Huddleston MP to discuss the broadband roll out across my County Division. I made it clear my concerns about the lack of broadband connectivity in the rural communities. I will continue to push on this matter as it is one of the most fundamental challenges that we locally face.*

*In closing I once again want to thank you for your support in the work that I do. I can always be contacted both by email and telephone. My email address at Bromsgrove District Council is [k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:k.may@bromsgrove.gov.uk) and for Worcestershire County Council [kmay@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:kmay@worcestershire.gov.uk). My telephone number is 07818 085140.*

Cllr. Sherrey was in attendance and gave the following report from District Council:

- There are fifteen fixed-penalty prosecutions currently going through the court for fly-tipping in the District.
- District is working with local tyre companies using Smartwater as a deterrent.
- Enforcement is now back off long-term sick so hopefully will be working more closely to stop fly-tipping with more covert cameras being installed.

## **256/22 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS**

- **Clerk's Outstanding Action List** – Clerk circulated copy to all councillors and gave a verbal update on outstanding items.
- **Reports for Parish Magazine** – it was agreed for Clerk to produce an article advertising the two parish council vacancies in Belbroughton and asking for candidates to come forward.
- **Venue for June, July, and September parish council meetings** – Fairfield School are now happy to welcome us back, so it was agreed to hold the said meetings there. Clerk to book the dates.
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** for Clerk to purchase a Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book.
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant £500.00 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant Application to Fairfield Community Association (Fairfield) – LGA 1972, s145.
- It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant £200.00 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Grant to Belbroughton Cricket Club (Belbroughton). Cllr. May agreed to grant the remaining request of £550.00 from her Divisional Fund.

## 257/22 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE

- **Christmas Lights** – In light of the health of the Christmas Tree, it was agreed to defer the purchase of new Christmas lights and for Clerk to arrange with BDC Tree Officer to come and survey the tree.
- **Replacement Heritage LED Lantern on Belbroughton Village Green** – it was **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation received from Worcestershire County Council for replacement of the light.
- **Parking in Fairfield Working Party/Speeding Traffic** – Proposal of new road markings to indicate different speed zones rejected by Highways – Highways say road markings sufficient – this included proposal to add rumble strips at either end of the village.  
Following meeting with Cllr. Webb – speed monitoring strips to be placed outside 155 Stourbridge Road to collect data from outside the village envelope – date to be confirmed for installation.  
New VAR speed cameras to be proposed – quote provided to update the current 3 VARs, two Fairfield and one Belbroughton – quotes to be submitted to Finance – need further quotations for installation and maintenance from County Council.  
Traffic Working Group to be regrouped following results from the survey to address residents' concerns.  
Parking – suggested donut vehicle access with village hall and school – rejected due to legal issues by Cllr. Mabbett. Suggested meeting with Head at school to discuss alternative options e.g., walking bus.
- **Smartwater Signage** – Cllr. May agreed to ascertain who put the signs up around the village.
- A request had been received from a resident for more planting/village maintenance and a precept explanation. Clerk agreed to contact the resident direct and discuss the matter with her.
- **Removal of Pillar Box in Fairfield** – unfortunately, the pillar box in Fairfield has been removed by the Post Office without any consultation with the Parish Council or residents. It was agreed that this is a vital amenity for the residents of Fairfield. Clerk to write back to the District Council and Post Office asking for their support in getting a new pillar box reinstated in the village.
- **Conifers on Wood House Orchard** – a request had been received as to whether we could lower the height of the conifer trees on the corner of Wood House Orchard. Cllr. May agreed to research who owned the land and report back to the Council.

## 258/22 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Allington – reminder to erect the flags on Belbroughton Village Green. Clerk to order two flags to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Cllr. Allington – reminder to Greenways that Bell Hall Pool is mowed in May.
- Cllr. Allington – there is a litter-pick on 29<sup>th</sup> May meeting at The Talbot carpark.
- Cllr. Wilkes – will be attending 20's Plenty Road Speeding Zoom Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.00am and invited other councillors to attend.
- Cllr. Wilkes – state of the pavements in Fairfield. Cllr. Webb advised Cllr. Wilkes to let her know the specific pavements and she will action.

## 259/22 – RECRUITMENT OF NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The revised job advertisement to be agreed this week and sent out with a deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

**260/22 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – To be the Annual Parish Meeting to be held 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022, 7.30pm at Belbroughton Church Hall.

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**261/22 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public are excluded from the meeting for the duration of the above item on the basis that the information disclosed will be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

A request had been received from Fairfield Villa FC to agree to another ten-year lease on the same conditions. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** not to accept this amendment to our existing offer.

An informal working party was set up to continue the consultation with the community with regards the Community Survey results.

**The meeting closed at 21.50pm.**

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

**Signed .....**