

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held in the Barton Room, Fairfield Village Hall on Monday 4th April 2016.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, G Parsons S Pawley and, C Scurrall.

In attendance: J Farrell Clerk.

District Cllr. M.Sherrey. 7 members of the public also attended.

104/16 Apologies had been received from Cllr. Nock and were accepted. Apologies were also received from District Cllr. Chris Allen-Jones.

The Meeting was then adjourned for an 'Open Surgery' period for members of the public to discuss issues with the Council.

The meeting was re-opened.

105/16 Declarations of Interest: None. **106/16 Dispensations:** None requested.

The Meeting was then further adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.

The meeting was re-opened.

107/16 Minutes

The minutes of the council meeting held 7th March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

108/16 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts advised that the Chairman of the District Council's Civic Charity Dinner Dance was being held 22nd April 2016.

He congratulated the clerk on his successful completion of the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification and confirmed the 'One Point' incremental salary increase resulting.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 21st March 2016.

Finance Committee: Cllr. Bradley re-affirmed the expected surplus in the year end accounts as set out in the committee minutes. Council noted these minutes of the meeting of 21st March 2016.

Clerk's Report:

1. The new parish Lengthsman is confirmed as Nigel Williamson who has had a two hour hand over session with the former Lengthsman, Cllrs. Roberts, Mabbett and the clerk. Nigel's contract will not be as an employee as he is self-employed and thus he will supply the timesheets and an invoice each month. A three month probation review will be required.

2. 'Digital Engagement' five free drop in sessions are confirmed with Bromsgrove District Housing Trust – Belbroughton Rec Jubilee Room (3) Tues 5th April 10am-12pm Tues 31st May 10am – 12pm and Tues 14th June 2pm – 4pm -- Fairfield Villa F.C. (2) Tues 3rd May 10am-12pm and Tues 17th May 10am-12pm. Their aim to promote computer usage and assist those new to the digital age.

In addition their 'Community Bus' offering further free help with computers will be on site Monday 18th April - 10am-12pm at the Bel. Rec. Centre carpark and 1pm- 3pm at the Fairfield Rec Ground.

3. Mrs Diane Malley has confirmed she will act as the internal auditor for the Parish Council.

4. Walton and Hipkiss land agents are now marketing the Parish Room, Belbroughton seeking a new tenant. The present tenancy expires 30th June 2016.

5. The mobility classes at Bel. Rec. have ceased due to lack of take up by the public.

6.The Green Belbroughton. The council's solicitors are awaiting payment of o/s fees by the Developer so there is no progress to report. The Council's surveyor will be reporting back on the adverse comments made by the Developer's advisors on his report. Cllr. Bob Morgan has agreed to join Cllrs. Roberts and Bradley as the group which will continue liaising with the council's solicitors.

7.Both parish gardeners have accepted their terms of engagement for 2016.

8.Parish Council change of name. The B.D.C. Elections Manager, Darren Whitney, has confirmed that all of the statutory bodies have been notified by him of the name-change (Secretary of State, Ordnance Survey, the Register General and the County Council).

9.A reminder that the 9th May Council meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting when the Council officer positions and composition of the Committees are considered for the next 12 months.

District Cllr. M Sherrey Report:

Plans had been passed for a new Aldi supermarket on the former Clarke's garage site.

A planning application from Waitrose for the old market hall site was due to be heard.

A consultation process was commencing to look at needs for markets.

A 'Centre Manager' is to be employed to assess areas for business development.

109/16 Fairfield Community Association

The Council approved a donation of £75 to assist the Association with its events on 12th June celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. The Association would be asked to inform the council of its resulting income and expenditure for the events.

110/16 Fairfield – Pedestrian Crossing Request

Council noted the County Council comments made following the registering of the request for Stourbridge Rd. County funding for 2016/17 was already allocated. The County will advise the council in June if the site would become one of their top ten being 'scored' and if further funding streams had been identified. There would need to be analysis of traffic speeds and flows, accident statistics and pedestrian movements. The County also advised of siting issues such as present lack of lighting, the effect on current legal on road parking and the many access points off the highway.

Council requested that the Traffic Calming 'Working Group' take the matter forward, acquiring the required statistics to enable further consideration of the request and to report back to council.

Council agreed to seek the views of the public at the Annual Parish Meeting on 25th April.

Action: the clerk to advise WCC that the parish council acknowledged the position but still wished to progress the request and seek clarity on the exact statistical information required to give the matter further consideration.

111/16 The Queen's 90th Birthday

A motion from Cllr. Boswell to purchase commemorative medals at £2 each for every under 16 child in the parish was defeated by four votes to two votes with six abstentions.

Cllr. Bradley offered to explore with the former 'Diamond Jubilee' group the possibility of holding a celebration event on The Green Belbroughton.

112/16 Spring Clean for the Queen.

Cllr. Roberts thanked Cllr. Margetts for the recent self-initiated litter pick with volunteers in Belbroughton. He also acknowledged the litter picks carried out by the Fairfield Community Association. Council approved holding a formal litter pick in Belbroughton in conjunction with the District Council and would advise of proposed dates and request volunteers at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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113/16 Parish Room, Belbroughton

Council noted outstanding rental arrears of £355 plus the rent for March and April (2 x £479) despite reminder requests for payments sent to the tenant by the clerk.

Council noted the continuing issues with rent payments and approved enacting the legal processes as outlined in the terms of the lease to seek payment including recourse to the tenant's guarantor.

Action: the clerk to commence the process, initially informing the tenant of the actions and seeking advice on costs and allocation of these from its legal advisors.

114/16 Ballast Phoenix Ltd / Veolia PLC – Incinerator Bottom Ash Facility

No information was available as to when the fresh planning application from Veolia PLC to the County Council would be available for assessment and the subsequent consultation processes.

115/16 Dog Waste Bins

a. Council noted that the contractor who emptied the waste bins for the council was aware of some duplication of work as the District Council occasionally, in error, was also emptying some of the bins. Council was content with the service its contractor provided and agreed to continue with the present contract terms.

b. Council approved the purchase and installation of an additional bin in Fairfield (Dordale Rd / Pepperwood junction). The Woodland Trust would be contacted to inform them of this decision and enquire if there were any issues.

Action: Fairfield Cllrs. to confirm the precise site and the clerk to progress the Woodland Trust enquiry and then the expected purchase.

116/16 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Council approved the recommendation of the Planning Committee to agree to the request by an adjacent property's tenant to dig a trench across part of the recreation ground to enable burial of cable so that an electrical connection could be made to his property provided, a suitable plan was supplied by the applicant and that the required legal documentation is drawn up to protect both the applicant and Council.

Action the clerk and Fairfield Cllrs. to progress.

117/16 Spring Newsletter

Council noted the draft newsletter and approved the content with amendments. Cllrs. would distribute the newsletter to residents prior to the Annual Parish Meeting.

118/16 Councillor items.

Cllr. Pawley requested the monitoring processes for the parish council contractors is considered at the next Council.

Cllr. Parsons requested that flooding on the Fairfield Recreation Ground is discussed at the next Council.

Cllr. Boswell advised that there was fly tipping on Mearse Lane Belbroughton.

Action: the clerk to request that BDC attend and remove.

Cllr. Bradley requested that the continued usage of the Barton Room is considered at the next Council since it was increasingly difficult to accommodate members and the public satisfactorily.

Cllr. Roberts reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting was 25th April and they should advise him of any items that they would like him to include in his report.

The Meeting was closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed Chairman.

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