

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at
The Jubilee Room, Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 2nd March 2020.**

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks, A Homer, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr. R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and, S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. County & District Cllr. K. May. 2 members of the public.

67/20 Apologies

Apologies had been received by the clerk from Cllrs. A Hood and G Parsons and were accepted by Council.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for: 'Open Surgery' to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening's agenda or any other issues.

68/20 Declarations of Interest - None. **69/20 Dispensations** - None requested.

70/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 3rd February 2020.
The Chairman signed the minute book.

71/20 Reports

Chairman's report: Cllr. Morgan thanked members for the activity levels in the council.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 17th February 2020.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 17th February 2020.

Clerk's Report:

1. C.Cllr. May 'Divisional fund': - We have received the £1,500 grant funds and this will contra the expenses incurred by the Parish Council with the improvements made to the footpath between the Belbroughton Primary School and the Recreation Centre.
2. The Spring Parish Council Conference will be taking place on 18th March 2020 in the Council Chamber, County Hall with a 6.30pm start. W.C.C. will detail it's budgets for 2020/21.
3. County Council Hub notice on 'reports' uploads: *"We have received a high volume of drainage and flooding enquiries following the recent rainfall, which we are prioritising. There will be a delay in providing a full response to you."* We are therefore expecting a delay to confirmation of for example, pothole repairs.
4. Church Road, Belbroughton - The new traffic regulation comes into effect 19th March - (No Stopping on School Keep Clear Markings).
5. The Green, Belbroughton – Dead conifer – I will be applying to the District Council for permission for the tree to be removed and replaced with a tree minimum 3 metres tall. The site is in the village 'Conservation Area' and therefore this process is required. B.D.C. will grant permission, it just requires the formalities to be complied with and is likely to take 2 to 3 months to work through the District Council bureaucracy.

6. Fairfield School Expansion: The Head advises that contractors begin some work from Monday 2nd March. This will be creating their compound and installing their welfare units. A more accurate timeline will be supplied by the school in next 2 weeks.
(After talking with the builder he does not see a need for any contractors to park in any other areas if the village, at any point of the build, we will of course keep an eye on this).

County and District Cllrs:

C. Cllr. Karen May confirmed that resurfacing works on areas of Hockley Brook Lane and Mearse Lane Belbroughton were scheduled and that the road closure notices had been issued effective in May.

She had resolved an issue raised by Cllr. Ingram on behalf of a resident relating to the Bromsgrove District Housing Association.

She confirmed that the Church Road, Belbroughton new traffic regulation comes into effect 19th March.

72/20 Perryfields Housing Development

Council noted an invitation to a meeting with District Cllr. Webb, and Mike Dunphy Bromsgrove District Council Planning Dept. to include other adjacent Parish Council representatives, to discuss the Perryfields Development and its effect on the locality.

It agreed that Cllr. Mabbett would attend this meeting and ask the following eight specific questions regarding the development:-

1. *What is the evidence to suggest that the development will have no impact on the existing medical, dental and care services in Bromsgrove given the statements made in the planning meetings? If there is evidence to the contrary, then what steps will be taken to ensure that provision will meet the increase in demand?*
2. *What is the evidence to suggest that the local emergency services will have the capacity to meet any increase demand generated by an increase in housing stock?*
3. *What is the evidence to suggest that the local infrastructure is currently capable of handling such an increase in dwellings e.g. water, sewage, water run-off management in the area, school provision, road capacity, services?*
4. *Given the pressure on school places within Bromsgrove, how will capacity be increased to meet the demand?*
5. *What money will be forthcoming from central government and WCC to ensure that the infrastructure in its widest definition will be expanded to meet the increased demands generated by expansion of the housing stock?*
6. *What changes are planned for improvements in local bus services?*

7. *What evidence has been collected to suggest that the development will have minimal impact on the traffic volumes in all the surrounding roads and in particular on the feeder roads linking the development to the main artery network?*

Bromsgrove has limited road networks with the A38 and the B4091 running through the centre and the Kidderminster Road the A448 coming into the town from the north west. The other roads which make up the north western side before the M5 boundary are Perryfields / Whitford Road and Fox Lane linking onto the B4091 towards Droitwich.

Thus, instead of improving the route on the north western side of the town, as say a relief road to avoid the centre, the proposal is to "block it" along Perryfields and create a bottle neck or no through road scenario. The consequences are such that traffic will increase through the town and on the A38 and we will lose any benefit to both existing and future development.

Strategically this is a fundamental error.

In its present form this planning proposal is flawed and should be reworked to primarily accommodate a north western relief highway from which infrastructure can distribute to proposed housing, primary school provision and light industrial sites etc.

8. *What improvements to traffic management on the Stourbridge Road can residents expect to see in Fairfield as the B4091 is clearly not only a commuter route but a road being increasingly used by HGVs?*

Action: Cllr. Mabbett would provide feedback at the April Council.

73/20 Worcestershire Pollinator Strategy for 2020/25 - Consultation

Council noted the consultation and fully agreed with its strategy. It did not add any further comment.

Action: The clerk to respond to the consultation.

74/20 Fairfield Recreation Ground - footpath flooding

Council noted that a site meeting was set for 9th March with a representative of North Worcestershire Water Management (A shared District Council service covering Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest) with the aim of assessing solutions to the regular flooding of part of the site.

Cllr. Mabbett was seeking input from other advisors covering drainage and the carpark extension. No further actions were agreed until the results of the meeting were known.

Action: Attending Cllrs. Ingram, Mabbett and the clerk to report the findings of 'N.W.W.M.' any other inputs from contractors to the April Council.

75/20 The Green, Belbroughton – Improvements

The Chairman thanked Cllr Pawley for her work on this matter.

Cllr. Pawley gave a update on behalf of the Working Group of councillors and residents.

The contract for the replacement tree planting and for the new yew hedging had been set up.

It was expected that the trees would be planted before April.

Preparation work would be carried out on the Eastern border prior to the yew hedge being put in.

The shrubs on the Western boundary were to be pruned to reduce the height to around 3 metres and the width returned to the original border margins.

Further works to install millstones for display and a replacement for the existing lighting column plus possible additional lighting continued to be under consideration.

76/20 Annual Parish Meeting - 29th April 2020

Council noted the Chairman's suggested format of the meeting.

Council agreed that the meeting was to be a consultation opportunity for residents and not as in previous years largely a presentation from the Parish Council. Residents would be asked to form into small groups and discuss topics of interest that the community and the Parish Council could act on during the following 12 months.

Information on the Parish council's activities in the prior 12 months would be available to view.

The Chairman requested that all councillors be available on the evening to facilitate discussions with residents.

Action: The Chairman would produce the agenda and assess methods of making information available, with assistance of the clerk.

77/20 Councillors' items

Cllr. Mabbett requested that Council again ask that the County Council representatives appear in person at a Council meeting to explain the rationale behind approving the recent 'Quarry site – industrial activities' planning applications.

Notwithstanding the decision of the Planning Committee 17th February Council approved that the clerk again contacts the County Council seeking a meeting.

Action: The clerk to contact W.C.C. requesting the meeting.

Cllr. Danks advised that a light in Wildmoor Lane close to the Chapel was unlit.

Action: the clerk to report to the W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Danks advised that drains were blocked in Wildmoor Lane and Mill Road.

Action: the clerk to report to the W.C.C. Hub

Cllr. Boswell advised that the Belbroughton Lunch Club was doing very well with some 60 attending the February event.

Cllr. Ingram advised that there was a dangerous tree in Pepperwood Close, Fairfield very close to the bungalows.

Action: District Cllr. May advised that she would visit the site and then approach Bromsgrove District Housing Trust, who owned the properties, seeking a solution.

The meeting was closed at 8.40 pm

Signed Chairman