

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023, 7.00PM AT BELBROUGHTON RECREATION  
GROUND**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Carter, Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Danks, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Wilkes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clerk – Ruth Mullett  
There was one member of the public in attendance.

**354/23 – APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mabbett and reason for absence agreed 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.

**354/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 14.1, Fairfield Villa due to their proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

**355/23 – DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr. Clarke, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Wilkes requested a dispensation on agenda item 14.1, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to grant this dispensation.

**356/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 as a true record. The Chairman duly signed them.

**357/23 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

**Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman confirmed the resignation of Ex-Cllr. Allan Hood. Allan had been a Parish Councillor for many years and had a fantastic knowledge of the Parish Council’s community assets. His knowledge and expertise will be missed. It was agreed for the Clerk to send a card thanking him for all his efforts over the years and wishing him every success for the future.

The Chairman confirmed that Cllr. Sherrey had decided not to stand again as a District Councillor and that he had been selected as one of the two Conservative Councillor candidates for the Belbroughton and Romsley Ward. If elected, he confirmed that he would step down as Chairman of the Parish Council but would remain a Parish Councillor if re-elected.

## **Planning Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated and these were noted with no further comments.

## **Finance Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting had been circulated and these were noted with no further comments.

## **358/23 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree payments made in December.
- To approve Capital Grants of: -  
Belbroughton Cricket Club – extension of high safety fence that protects the road users on Hackman's Gate Lane - £1,300.00  
Belbroughton History Society – to replace old history board on the Village Green - £1,000.00  
Holy Trinity Church – one-off uplift in maintenance grant - £1,000.00
- To approve Minor Grants of: -  
Friends for Lunch – to purchase lightweight cups, saucers, and plates - £150.00.  
Holy Trinity Church – help towards heating costs of coffee mornings - £240.00.  
Fairfield Village Association – to assist marketing of Community Association Initiatives - £305.00  
Belbroughton United Charities – upkeep around the orchard including trees and hedges - £305.00.

## **359/23 – COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

### **Cllr. May**

- The new VAS sign installed on Hartle Lane is not in the correct position and Cllr. May is consulting with WCC Highways to get it relocated.
- Currently collaborating with residents of Bellamy Close with regards building control issues.
- The County Council budget is now out for consultation, and it is pleasing to note that after a £67.9m deficit it is now a balanced budget with a proposed 2.94% council tax increase.
- A list of outstanding maintenance issues for Belbroughton had been produced by the working party and Cllr. May went through the list ascertaining issues County Council will deal with. The full list of outstanding issues will be under agenda item 10.

### **Cllr. Webb**

- With regards highways issues raised by Cllr. Wilkes, these have been reported to WCC Highways and should be rectified shortly.
- The VAS sign on the Stourbridge Road has been installed in the incorrect place. Do we want the sign moved or another pole installed to allow the sign to be moved? The recordings can be downloaded if any councillor would like a key?
- Cllr. Danks confirmed he had attended a Chadwick Quarry Liaison meeting along with Cllr. Webb and will circulate the minutes via the Clerk once in receipt of them.

- Cllr. Danks stated on behalf of Wildmoor residents he would like to thank the County Council for the resurfacing of Middle Road. The residents below the bottom of the road is unadopted, but County did not resurface this area. Cllr. Webb confirmed she would investigate the issue and report back.
- Cllr. Pawley raised concerns by residents that McColl's, the village shop was to be sold by Morrison's. Cllr. May advised us to list this as an Asset of Community Value. Clerk to place on the next Finance Agenda for agreement.

**Cllr. Sherrey** – apologies given, and no report received.

### **360/23 – CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS**

- Clerk confirmed that due to District Council elections taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, we would have to move our May Annual Meeting.
- It was agreed to draft an article about the planters outside The Talbot, together with a photograph. Cllr. May agreed to send the Clerk some suitable wording. Cllr. Wilkes also agreed to write some words asking for more volunteers for the Fairfield Community Shop Working Party.

### **361/23 – HIGHWAYS/MAINTENANCE**

- Cllr. Pawley confirmed that after numerous complaints the wheelie bins stored by a resident on Silvester's Corner had now been taken into the curtilage of their property. She also confirmed that the trees need pruning. Clerk to arrange a meeting with BDC Tree Officer.
- **Platinum Jubilee Trees** – Cllr. Pawley and Cllr. Allington will let Clerk know the location for the tree on the village green and will choose a suitable tree from Beechcroft Nurseries. Cllr. Wilkes, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Mabbett will decide the location for Fairfield. Clerk to take this item off the agenda. Once the trees have been planted it was agreed for Clerk to order two commemoration plaques.
- **Little Bell Hall Pool** – The working party are to arrange a meeting and report back to Full Council.
- **Belbroughton Maintenance Working Party** – The Working Party had met and have identified the following areas in need of maintenance work.

Area of grass on Hartle Lane by the Deli often overlooked by Highways – **Cllr. May to liaise with BDC.**

#### **Pavements**

Pavement from Memorial to Bradford House – **Cllr. May to organise road sweeper.**

Pavement from entrance to Recreation Ground to second turn on bridleway - **Cllr. May to consult with the landowner.**

Pavement from entrance to Dark Lane to where becomes Holy Cross Lane – **Clerk to instruct Lengthsman.**

Pavement on Hackman's Gate Lane until the Cricket Club – **Cllr. May to consult with WCC.**

Sinking on road corner of Woodhouse Orchard causing persistent flooding – **Cllr. May to consult with WCC.**

Broken manhole cover Lower High Street located by The Talbot railings – **Cllr. May confirmed this was an ingress of trees and will consult with the utility company.**

Trees out of control on Hartle Lane/corner of Woodhouse Orchard – **Cllr. May has confirmed that WCC have written to the landowner.**

Both bus shelters in the parish need maintenance – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

Redundant street furniture on Hartle Lane by entrance to The Talbot – **Cllr. May confirmed these are still in use and cannot be moved.**

### **Belbroughton Village Green**

Query as to when the next scheduled check is due on the trees under the remit of the parish council – **Clerk to consult with BDC Tree Officer.**

The hedge-line that backs onto the Talbot carpark needs pruning to allow better light for the newly planted replacement trees. Plus, on the other side of the boundary general pruning and clearing – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

Rubbish has been left on the Village Green – **Clerk to check Maintenance Contract and report back.**

Graffiti on the bench – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

The fir tree is overhanging the pavement and could be impacting the line of vision for drivers coming up Lower High Street – **Clerk to consult with BDC Tree Officer.**

### **Silvester's Corner**

Whole area needs maintenance work – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

Crumbling brick weeds – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

Waste bin has fallen over – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

Pavement on Bellem Cottage on Church Road needs urgent repair – **Cllr. May to consult with WCC.**

### **Road Signs**

Several road signs in need of repair – **Cllr. May to consult with WCC.**

Church Hill

Sign by entrance to Drayton Road

Hackmans Gate Lane

High Street by McColl's.

Overhanging residents' tree on Hackman's Gate – **Cllr. May to consult with WCC.**

Ash tree growing out of war memorial – **Clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.**

## **362/23 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr. Danks** – When you access Middle Road from Third Road, ditch needs clearing out – Clerk to instruct Lengthsman.

**Cllr. Wilkes** – the Community Shop Working Group has elected a new Chairman and there is a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 8.00pm at The Swan and more volunteers are always welcome.

**Cllr. Wilkes** – the bus stop on Wood Lane needs repairing – Cllr. Wilkes to report to BDC.

**Cllr. Gibbs** – drainage at Fairfield Recreation Ground to be placed on next agenda.

**Cllr. Knight** – the Parish Council post box is still on the wall outside the deli, and it is sometimes used as a post-box. It was agreed for Cllr. Knight to seal the box and place a note on the front.

**Cllr. Pawley** – Confirmed that the new panel for the History Board on Belbroughton Village Green has now gone to print. Clerk to circulate a copy to all councillors.

**Cllr. Gibbs** – Lengthsman to remove noticeboard outside of Fairfield Shop and relocate on Fairfield Recreation Ground. Cllr. Gibbs to inform Clerk of new location.

**363/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7.00pm at Fairfield First School.

## **364/23 – 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.

Numerous letters complaining about anti-social behaviour have been received. Clerk to write to Fairfield Villa outlining our concerns.

**The meeting closed at 8.28pm**

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

**Signed .....**