

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at  
The Fairfield First School on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.**

**Present:** Cllrs. J Boswell, S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr. R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Patchell and, S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. County & District Cllr. K. May. 4 members of the public.

**32/20 Apologies**

Apologies had been received by the clerk from Cllrs. B Allington and A Homer 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.*

**33/20 Declarations of Interest** - None.      **34/20 Dispensations** - None requested.

**35/20 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.  
The Chairman signed the minute book.

**36/20 Reports**

*Chairman's report:* Cllr. Morgan said he was delighted at the activity levels in the council.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

*Financial Committee report:* Council noted the minutes of the Committee meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

*Clerk's Report:*

1. **Planning:** We await a response from Paul Robinson, Worcestershire County Council chief exec. to the request to meet or to send a Planning Committee representative to discuss the rationale behind the recent Wildmoor Quarry decisions.
2. **Quotes:** We still await quotes from one consultant for the assessment of the refilling the Little Bell Hall Pool, Belbroughton; and the options for the potential CCTV installation in Belbroughton. Lighting columns Health and Safety checks: I have two quotes of £3k and £1.5k respectively and await the third for comparison.
3. **Waste:** The new dog bin for Top Rd. Wildmoor has been delivered and will be installed shortly by contractor Nigel Williamson. The District Council have not responded regarding advising of the potential costs they wish to pass onto the P.C. for emptying litter bins.
4. **Notice board:** new board in High St. Belbroughton is ready for use. The old one on Hartle Lane outside the Parish Room is to be removed.
5. **Glebe Fields development:** St Philips Homes have advised by e mail that they have the required permissions from the respective landowners for erecting their three sales boards in Belbroughton.

### *County and District Cllrs:*

C. Cllr. Karen May advised the District Council had put together a balanced budget and that a New Homes Bonus fund of £150k was available to bid for.

County Council Highways will be surface dressing in Belbroughton in the early part of the new financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April) covering areas of Dark Lane, Mearse Lane, Hockley Brook Lane, Church Road and, Waystone Lane.

She has requested a full review gullies in Belbroughton. An updated maintenance programme was required.

The new 'traffic regulation order' at the school will come into force in spring and lines will also be re-painted on Bradford Lane.

Road signage (e.g. cul-de-sac) at the new Glebe Fields, Belbroughton development will 'happen' via the District Council when development was completed.

### **37/20 Parish Gardeners work schedules**

Council had no amendments to make to the current schedules but would re-visit these in future months as felt necessary. Any changes would be referred initially to the Finance Committee.

### **38/20 Traffic Calming / Maintenance issues – Fairfield**

a. Council noted a report on the 15<sup>th</sup> January meeting with C.Cllr Webb and W.C.C. Highways and agreed that the issues raised should be regularly chased for resolution.

**Action:** The clerk to check progress with C.Cllr. Webb and W.C.C. within 2 months.

b. Council approved funding of £2,500 to cover the costs of installing an area of hardstanding including a dropped kerb alongside the Stourbridge Road on land owned by the County Council. The space to be used by the Safer Roads Partnership for locating speed camera vehicles.

C.Cllr. Webb has agreed to consider a financial contribution from her 2020/21 'Divisional Fund'.

**Action:** The clerk to instruct the County Council to install the hardstanding area and access point. And, to apply for 'Divisional Funding' from C.Cllr. Webb.

### **39/20 Parish Room, Hartle Lane Belbroughton**

Council approved the £800 cost of carrying out roof and gutter repairs to the building fabric.

It noted in addition that there was a small amount of asbestos that would require specialist disposal, which the roofing contractor would arrange, and that there was wiring that needed sheathing.

**Action:** The clerk would instruct the roofing contractor and arrange an electrical contractor to carry out required maintenance.

### **40/20 The Green, Belbroughton - Improvements**

Council noted a detailed presentation by Cllr. Pawley on behalf of the Working Group advising of the history of the adjacent Hartle Lane housing development, its effect on The Green. Also, detailing the present position and proposals for improvements and carrying out the requirements of the tree preservation order which necessitates trees being planted to replace the previously removed trees to the northern boundary.

Council approved unanimously an overall ceiling spend of £18,300 for the recommended phases of tree replacement, new hedging, new litter bin, site pruning, lighting, bench and notice board installations. The total funds allocated including the prior year's removal of conifers (£3,200) would equate to the funds raised from the Boundary Agreement with the developer of the adjacent residential construction site.

**Action:** The Working Group would work up a timeline for various phases of the work and refer quotations for specific items for future Finance Committees to consider.

**10.**

#### **41/20 Donation**

Council declined, by 5 votes against, to 4 votes in favour, with 1 abstention, a motion requesting supporting the Bromsgrove Lions with a donation of £100 for their 'Australia Bush Fires Relief fund'. Council members would however individually promote awareness of the fund.

#### **42/20 New Code of Conduct**

Council noted the previously circulated 'National Association of Local Councils' recommended new Code of Conduct and approved its immediate adoption by the Council.

**Action:** The clerk to seek formal acknowledgement from each member of the Council that they accepted the new Code of Conduct.

#### **43/20 Annual Parish Meeting - 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Council deferred finalising the content and format for the Annual Meeting until the March Council.

**Action:** The Chairman would develop a format and suggested agenda, based on the comments made by members, for consideration at the March Council.

#### **44/20 Councillors' items**

Cllr. Ingram advised that flooding on the Fairfield Recreation Ground garden and footpath areas continues to occur. Council agreed it would ask the Finance Committee at its next meeting to consider some changes to the garden area and agreed that the March Council should more fully consider actions to be taken on the wider flooding issue.

Cllr. Boswell enquired whether the Church of England could apply to the Parish Council for capital grant assistance. The clerk advised that the grant application processes would open in March and while it was at liberty to apply, historically there were legal restrictions on parish councils giving funds towards church buildings repairs. It was open to question whether the 'General Power of Competence' which this Parish Council held now overrode this.

Cllr. Patchell questioned the apparent slow arrival of quotes for various projects.

The clerk advised that the consultancy work on the dam and pool refilling processes at Little Bell Hall Pool required specialist people and the one quote outstanding had been regularly chased. The Finance Committee would decide whether to await the promised quote (*from Birch Bros.*) or go with an existing quote held for this work.

Cllr. Danks advised that the Chadwich Lane quarry application remained pending due to water issues. He reminded members of the 'Pinches Phase 4' quarry planning application now with the County Council and the short timescale available (5 weeks) in which to provide a response. Council agreed would seek an extension of one month to the deadline for replies.

**Action:** The clerk to contact John Spurling in W.C.C. Planning Dept. and ask for an extension.

Cllr. Danks advised that despite recent road cleaning accumulated mud was again significant on the A491. He believed it was coming from vehicles using the Dolfer House and Wildmoor Quarry site entrances.

**Action:** The clerk will request W.C.C. Highways clean again, also suggesting to the County Council that the quarry and other industry operators are charged fees for such cleaning.

Cllr. Danks advised that on Top Road, Wildmoor a further marker post on the verge was required as vehicles were using the grassed area and leaving unsightly tyre marks.

**Action:** The clerk to contact W.C.C. requesting a further post is installed.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that a resident had found it difficult to exit Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield due to inconsiderate car parking. This is a dangerous junction and the matter had been reported by him to C.Cllr Webb to assess if an alteration to the traffic regulations was possible and a section of double yellow lines painted.

Cllr.Pawley advised that the conifer on The Green, Belbroughton which had the Christmas lights attached will need to come down at some point since it was now dead, due to accumulated drought.

**The meeting was closed at 9.50 pm**

Signed ..... Chairman

DRAFT