

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Fairfield First School on 3rd December 2018.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.
Clerk, J Farrell and three members of the public.

341/18 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr. A Hood and County Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for the ‘Open Surgery’ and also to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening’s agenda.

The meeting re-opened.

342/18 Declarations of Interest - Cllr. Mabbett declared an Other Disclosable Interest (ODI) in agenda item 7 - Consultation on the Proposed Expansion to 1FE of Fairfield First School - as his wife was a governor of the Fairfield First School.

343/18 Dispensations – Cllr. Mabbett had requested to remain in the meeting, speak and vote if required during agenda item 7. Council agreed to the dispensation request.

344/18 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 5th November 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

345/18 Reports

Chairman’s report: Cllr. Bradley advised that the First World War centenary events in Belbroughton had finished with a well-attended showing in the church hall of the film ‘Warhorse’. This and other events in November had been a success. And, from the Parish Council £500 grant a surplus of £100 remained plus a further surplus of £100 from raffle ticket sales. The organising group would be donating the surpluses to the Belbroughton Recreation Centre’s playground improvement fund. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Margetts for the sculpture placed on the Green, Belbroughton.

Agricultural Holdings Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 5th November 2018.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 19th November 2018.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 19th November 2018.

Clerk’s Report:

- 1. Fairfield Rec. Ground Play Area** - Cllrs. Ingram, Jones and the clerk will meet Wicksteeds Monday 10th December to assess repairs to the play area highlighted by the Rospa report and arrange a quote for the works envisaged. Should this be for more than £1000 then two other assessments and quotes will be obtained.
- 2. The Green Belbroughton** – Applications are with the District Council for the seven cypress trees to come out and also to carry out the safety work on the oak and a sycamore. A further application is in regarding tree safety work at Bradford Lane. B.D.C. have acknowledged receipt of both and advise that decisions will be made by 21st Jan 2019.

3. **Traffic:** Following the Parish Council's requests the County Council has put up speed camera warning signs on both Hartle Lane Belbroughton and Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield.
4. **Belbroughton Recreation Centre – Playground :** the B.R.C. have an application lodged with Biffa PLC for a grant of up to 90% of £75k. The Parish Council has approved previously a contribution of up to £20k provided matched funding was achieved. Biffa have been informed of the P.C. commitment – Biffa requiring confirmation that a sum of £7.5k is available before assessing the application.
5. **Meetings 2019** – the venues (Fairfield First School and Bel. Rec.) for the council and committee meetings have confirmed availability. However the Fairfield Village Hall is not available for the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Monday 29th April and January council will need to reassess either the date or the venue.

Little Bell Hall Pool report: Cllr. Morgan referred to his below updating report and Council agreed that a full discussion on the options for the site would take place at a future Council.

“The working group continues to monitor the current situation. A bi-annual trees review and site meeting has taken place. The overall management of the site is currently controversial. The following action has however been agreed.

1. *The lengthsman has cleared the roadside and up to a metre inside our boundary. He has been asked to prioritise this work. Clippings etc will be left onsite but in a careful manner. Removal of some ivy, from the trees and the effectiveness of this action will be reviewed in the spring of 2019. Ivy is an important winter food source for wildlife.*
 2. *A risk assessment survey with a qualified arboriculture consultant was carried out on Tuesday 6th November. (This being just one part of the bi-ennial assessment of all trees on Parish Council land). Only the trees for which we are responsible, were assessed with particular reference requested to those in and around the former pool. Quotes are being obtained for Health & Safety items identified in the survey.*
 3. *The finance committee, as a matter of principle, has agreed to look sympathetically on any costs involved in complying with the survey's recommendations. Thus, enabling swift action where appropriate*
 4. *The Parish Council has previously agreed to allow the pool to return to a natural wetland, but at all times open to reviewing other options. We are consulting with Worcestershire County Council and Worcester Wildlife Trust. We have successfully registered for the Natural Networks scheme on active ways of managing the site, balancing the appearance and ecological demands. A meeting with them, involving a site survey, took place the 8th November 2018. We are awaiting their report. The working group will assess this and I propose it forms part of a full Council discussion in due course.*
 5. *The desire of returning the former mill pool to its pre-June 2016 status is still an aspiration for some residents*
 6. *The Parish Council agreed to be open to listen and support any group of residents wishing to organise another restoration project. At the last review in 2017, the costs of restoration, both the initial project and ongoing maintenance, were assessed as too large for the Parish Council.*
 7. *The Parish Council must consult with 'North Worcester Water Management' on any proposed change and follow its guidance. This is ongoing. There was a site visit on 28th November 2018. This organisation has been recently contacted and an updated review of the situation and outline updated cost will be reassessed. The legal liability is vast.*
 8. *A sale of the pool will also be assessed. (This is to be considered again at a future full council meeting).*
- The 'Working Group' will report on our progress, keeping residents informed by all means.”.*

346/18 Councillor Vacancy

Council considered the one applicant and voted to co-opt Mr Adrian Homer to represent the Belbroughton Ward. He signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Undertaking to Observe the Code of Conduct' and then took his seat on the Council. The Chairman welcomed him to the Council.

347/18 Consultation on the Proposed Expansion to 1FE of Fairfield First School

The Council passed a motion by a majority vote to support in principle the proposed expansion. The Council passed a further motion unanimously making this support conditional upon proper consideration together by W.C.C. Highways Dept. and W.C.C. Education Dept. of the safety of the Stourbridge Road in order to minimise any risk to children and other road users due to the consequent increase in traffic, and the proper consideration of providing adequate parking facilities.

348/18 Council Budget and Precept 2019/20

- a. Council approved the budget 2019/20 recommendation of the Finance Committee.
- b. Council approved an unchanged Precept of £65,000 for 2019/20. Council agreed that this could be reviewed at the January 2019 Council should there have been a material change in spending requirements.

349/18 'Smartwater' - Fairfield Ward

Cllr. Mabbett advised of a 68.5% take up for security marking kits in the immediate centre of the village with overall take up standing at 56%. On 24th November a door knocking exercise had been successful and this would be repeated with a further house visits in the New Year. Signs will be going up in next couple of weeks which would also raise the profile and likely lead to further take up. A further update will be given at February Council.

350/18 Traffic Calming

Cllr. Mabbett advised of two meetings at Catshill Church:
12th November, involving County Cllr Shirley Webb, WCC Highways Richard Clewer, P.C. Commissioner's office Tracey Onslow and adjacent parish councils' representatives. Traffic data was given out and many questions raised on speeding issues although no conclusions were reached.
21st November meeting with the Safer Roads Partnership and WCC Highways Jon Fraser. Again views exchanged but a lack of joined up thinking was perceived between agencies. Cllr. Webb is due to supply a summary of possible actions.
The Traffic Working group met 14th November and he would provide an updating report to January council along with the County Cllr's report.

351/18 Communications

Cllr. Morgan representing the Working Group commented on his circulated report on the Group's 29th November meeting.
Overall the current channels used were felt appropriate.

Council agreed to investigate with the owners future usage by the Parish Council of space at the little used notice boards situated outside the Belbroughton shop and to assess whether a new replacement board funded by the Council could be sited at the location.

Council agreed that all current notice boards should signpost residents to the parish council website and also highlight the 15 minutes 'Open Surgery' part of Council meetings.

Council agreed that the website was currently fit for purpose and a significant improvement on the old site. Members were advised that any posts to it or onto other local websites or facebook pages should be made through the clerk. This did not mean members could not make comment in a personal capacity.

Councillors were encouraged meet residents by visiting local lunch clubs and other similar established groups both to seek feedback on the Parish Council and inform on any issues of interest. Current Council processes were felt appropriate.

Council agreed to promote County and District Council initiatives.

352/18 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Allington questioned the erection of dog fouling signs at Fairfield Recreation Ground as to whether they were sited correctly.

Action: Cllrs. Allington and Jones to assess and arrange to re-site if necessary.

Cllr. Margetts advised of a large lorry stuck on Waystone Lane / Berrow Hill earlier in the day - and requested that WCC should assess signage to keep larger vehicles away by potentially making a 7.5t limit restriction.

Action: the clerk to contact W.C.C. Highways and request.

Cllr. Margetts was pleased that W.C.C. had repaired railings on Hartle Lane close to the junction with A491 but surprised despite Parish Council requests that similarly damaged railings at the Hartle Lane close to Galton Lane had not been repaired at the same time.

Action: the clerk to again request W.C.C. take the required action.

Cllr. Margetts felt that the recent heavy rains had highlighted flooding in Bradford Lane / Hockley Brook lane due to gullies not being clear.

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

Cllr. Margetts advised that the amalgamation of road signs at Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton had not been carried out.

Action: the clerk to remind W.C.C. Highways

Cllr. Margetts was pleased to report that potholes in the area appeared to be being repaired quickly after being reported.

Cllr. Parsons questioned whether the parish council, should operate its own facebook page.

Action: the Communications Working Group to consider.

Cllr Pawley advised that the Belbroughton Christmas lights were switched on from 1st Dec.

Cllr Boswell advised that the footway running alongside the A491 from the 'Fairfield' roundabout to the petrol station needed to be cleared of leaves to enable a disabled resident to use it.

Action: the clerk to report to W.C.C. as the Lengthsman could not work adjacent to this road due to the 60 MPH speed limit.

Cllr. Boswell advised that the Belbroughton United Charities have funds available for grants for qualifying individuals.

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Cllr. Ingram advised that overgrown vegetation at Wood Lane Fairfield had still not been cut back.
Action: the clerk would report to W.C.C.

Cllt. Bradley requested that the W.C.C. library consultation was placed on the January council agenda for consideration of a response.

The meeting was closed at 8.57 pm

Signed Chairman

DRAFT