

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 2nd November 2020.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, S Patchell and G Parsons. Clerk J Farrell. 1 member of the public.
County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

290/20 Apologies

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. A Homer, A Hood and S Pawley.

291/20 Declarations of Interest None. **292/20 Dispensations** None.

293/20 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meetings held on 5th October 2020.

294/20 Reports

Chairman's report:

Cllr. Morgan advised that we were living in challenging times. And, during the second lockdown we should assist the community taking account of where our District and County Councillors felt there was need.

Planning Committee report:

Cllr Danks on behalf of Cllr. Pawley advised that an application: 20/00106/FUL Brookfield Nurseries, Quantry Lane, Belbroughton had gone to appeal following B.D.C.s refusal of permission. The Committee would be reviewing its own decision on this application at its next meeting on 16th November.

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 19th October 2020.

Financial Committee report:

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 19th October 2020.

Clerk's Report:

1. The Deli, Belbroughton: Under direction of the Council, Cllrs. Nock and Pawley have seen and approved the plans which gave indicative illustrations of the improvements requested by the tenants to the frontage of the property. The tenants have been informed.
2. Parish Upkeep: schedules are being finalised and should go out to potential contractors for tendering in the next fortnight. The Finance Committee will review progress and then make its contractor recommendation to Council.
3. Lighting upgrades: C.Cllr. Shirley Webb has donated £1,500 from her Divisional Fund to assist with the costs.
4. Christmas on The Green, Belbroughton: the Belbroughton Animal Sanctuary will not be holding their carol service this year due to the health crisis.
5. A resident has expressed a wish for the P.C. to act as 'Community lead' for Broadband improvements via. <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/community-fibre-partnerships/> The December Council can consider this request and assess what assistance is available from W.C.C.

6. Footpaths: The pipeline work around New Barn area has now been completed and the surface re-instated. The landowner states that it will take some time yet to “mature” enough to maintain properly - possibly in the spring. However, the diversion fences have been removed and the original footpath routes can now be used. Paul Hardcastle has re-signed the paths accordingly and has installed a new waymarker post at the critical point.

County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. Webb advised:

Signage around lampposts urging social distancing is due to go up in Fairfield. The Headteacher of the First School will emphasise to parents the need for social distancing at drop off and pick up times.

Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield dropped kerb work is now due to start 20th Nov. when the hedge will be also be cut back, and it will be taken out entirely by the resident in Spring 2021.

Cllr. May

Covid -19: The Silver Command meeting has had concerns at case levels in Bromsgrove and were looking to place the area potentially into the Birmingham tier. (Tier 2).

However, since then case figures for all Worcestershire indicated the weekly increase of 3% had risen to an increase of 34% in the last week.

Latest figures per 100k of population: 193 in Bromsgrove, 118 Malvern Hills, 177 Redditch, 154 Worcester, 124 Wychavon and 158 Wyre Forest. County average 150.

Bromsgrove itself though had seen the lowest percentage increase.

Worcs. Heath Trust is nearing capacity – I.C.U. beds require 6 nurses.

Death rate however has dropped.

The message is please stay local and shop local as the ‘R’ number needs to reduce.

Residents requiring assistance should visit the ‘Here to Help’ website or indeed contact the C.Cllrs direct. Foodbanks being supported by W.C.C. 19,000 people have been furloughed in Bromsgrove District.

A Testing Centre (walk in but via an appoint) is set to operate from early November in the central Stourbridge Rd. Bromsgrove car park.

Provision for a vaccination centre has been made - at Bromsgrove Recreation ground with availability for 250 days from 1st January 2021. Dependent upon sign off ‘Triumph’ and ‘Ambush’ vaccines to be available - both require two jabs 28 days apart. Also, any Covid vaccinations must be 28 days after an influenza vaccination.

Public Health Worcestershire has received £37k for Covid marshalling activities.– However, Bromsgrove High St. markings on block paving is not possible due to the sandy surface under the block paving. But other signage could be put up.

Free school meals – B.D.C. and W.C.C. will fund 50% each of the costs during the schools Christmas holiday period. This involves 1600 children.

Car park machines could be updated to contactless only in due course, but individuals should anyway also carry sanitiser after using the touch screens.

Other points: A parking enforcement officer will be employed for 30 hours per week during school terms across the Bromsgrove District.

Road patching works have or are about to be carried out in Belbroughton on Hockley Brook Lane, Mearse Lane, Dark Lane and, Harbours Hill.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their endeavours.

Council agreed that it would wish to assist District initiatives during the second 'Lockdown' and C.Cllr Webb agreed to send details of the 'Starting Well' meals project.

Council agreed to delegate to the Finance Committee on 16th Nov. consideration of any financial assistance it felt appropriate.

295/20 Shop robbery, Belbroughton

Council noted that a further robbery had taken place at R.S. McColls.

C.Cllr. K May advised that she had referred the incident to the Crime Commissioner, John Campion and was pushing him for assistance for funding external C.C.T.V. possibly on feeder roads and she would advise on progress on this at a future Council meeting.

296/20 Speeding / Parking - Fairfield

a.Council noted recent updates from C.Cllr Webb on proposed actions on the speed limit reduction on the Stourbridge Road – the T.R.O. was in consultation process.

Further issues were discussed and Council agreed to consider two motions:

1. A motion was proposed seconded and then passed by two votes in favour and one against with six members abstaining: The County Council should be requested to put down double yellow lines on the Stourbridge Road from the exit of village hall to the mini-roundabout.

2. A further motion proposed seconded and then passed by two votes in favour to one against with six abstentions: The County Council to promote social distancing should impose a timed parking restriction to cover school drop off and pick up times, from the 'bus box' at the Village Hall to the School Lane entrance.

Actions: clerk to request from WCC.

Council requested that C.Cllr. Webb and the school head teacher and a Parish Councillor should meet to discuss parking issues.

Action: Cllr Mabbett would assess if the School would be available for a meeting.

C.Cllr Webb advised that the local police and the new parking enforcement officer would be asked to visit the area.

b. Council noted a proposal from C.Cllr. Webb to set up a community use mobile speed warning sign, and agreed by four votes in favour to two against and three abstentions in principle to fund jointly with adjacent parish councils the purchase of a mobile speed warning sign.

C.Cllr. Webb would provide more detail of her proposals and Council delegated the Finance Committee to consider this further and make a recommendation back to Council.

Council noted that the fixed speed flashing signs could be replaced with actual speed notifications being displayed. A future Council would consider replacing the two existing signs in Fairfield.

297/20 Road signage - Hackmans Gate Lane, Belbroughton

Cllr. Patchell advised that despite concerns previously the solar powered speed warning sign was functioning and thus no action was required.

298/20 Christmas 2020

Council agreed that the Belbroughton lights on the conifer on 'The Green' would be illuminated from 1st December.

A tree as usual would be funded for the Fairfield ward and located outside the village hall.

299/20 Meetings 2021

Council agreed to maintain the present monthly scheduling arrangements for the 2021 Council and Committee meetings, being the first and third Mondays (excepting bank holidays, when the second Monday would be used) noting however that these would continue to be via video conference rather than the nominated venues until further notice. No decision was made regarding the Annual Parish Meeting since public gatherings remained prohibited due to the health crisis.

300/20 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Nock requested that the District Council are now requested to clear leaves from the footways in Belbroughton. Notably around the church.

Action: the clerk to contact B.D.C.

Cllr. Allington advised that the 'Belbroughton Post' at Holy Cross Lane was now being repaired and suggested it was returned to site but temporarily re-installed (using godfathers) pending a possible re-siting onto parish council owned land.

Action: Council agreed that the Finance Committee should consider this and advise the property owner and repair contractor.

Cllr. Allington advised that holly should be removed from a lighting column pt, one at Woodgate Way, Belbroughton.

Action: the clerk to instruct the Lengthsman.

Cllr. Danks advised that he had a detailed response on the Govt. white paper on planning changes which he would circulate.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the gate at Fairfield Recreation ground had been repaired by local contractor Herbert Burton who would deal with any subsequent issues in coming 12 months. The contractor will be quoting for the preparation work for the two benches due to be installed on the Green Belbroughton.

Cllr Patchell reminded members that one channel, through the clerk, should be used for communications from residents and others and for relevant issues use the B.D.C. and W.C.C. hubs.

Fairfield Rec Ground: upon enquiry from Cllr. Parsons the clerk reminded Council that Fairfield Cllrs. along with their invited local residents were to assess and recommend changes covering the memorial garden plus the orchard, the drainage question and the car park expansion.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.