

Minutes of the BELBROUGHTON and FAIRFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on 8th April 2019 in The Fairfield First School 7.30 p.m.

Present : Parish Councillors : James Bradley (Chairman), Janice Boswell, Allan Hood, Trevor Jones, Dr R Morgan, Simon Nock, Gemma Parsons, Sue Pawley, and Chris Scurrall.

Parish clerk & R.F.O.: John Farrell.

Other attendees – Worcestershire County Cllr. Karen May

Paul Hardcastle (Parish footpaths warden), and 12 members of the public.

The Parish Council Chairman, James Bradley, welcomed all to the meeting advising that the Council presentations would be brief to allow time for questions.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllr. Shirley Webb, and Parish Cllrs. Alan Mabbett. Dr. S Morgan.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 30th April 2018

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a fair record and were adopted. The Chairman of the meeting James Bradley signed the minutes.

3. Reports

Parish Council Reports for 2018/19.

Chairman's Report Cllr. James Bradley

He welcomed members of the public including the Head and a governor of the primary school. Overall a busy year, a mix of achievements and awaiting other bodies to act. Advised of the coming elections next month for the new council. There were vacancies in Fairfield.

Traffic: Progress on signage and discussions with WCC on traffic calming measures. He acknowledged the large number of vehicles now using village roads.

Green Spaces: footpaths well maintained and he welcomed the volunteer footpath warden Paul Hardcastle. WCC have with Paul's pressure have paid for a number of improvements.

It took 10 years to achieve a footpath diversion due to the legalities involved. The Severn Trent Resilience Project appeared to be well run by the contractors.

The Green Belbroughton: Trees have been felled to give more light. And, the P.C. will consult on future changes to that green space during 2019. Surplus in accounts due to £21k payment by the adjacent developer for use of the Green for a drainage route.

Neighbourhood Planning: Rather frustrating as we await the Bromsgrove District Council moving forward on its Green Belt review before pressing ahead with this.

1.

Other items:

Little Bell Hall Pool: Operation has been carried out to clear the site to make it more appealing by removing overgrown vegetation. This has been welcomed by many people in the village.

Smartwater: Fairfield residents have had the option to take up the security marking kits free of charge. He thanked those involved in the distribution especially Mr Conrad Palmer and Cllr. Alan Mabbett. More take up was required, and the new council will decide whether to roll out a scheme in Belbroughton.

Tidy Parish: Routine tidying carries on, plus Cllr. Allington had recently arranged a litter pick in Belbroughton whom he thanked as he did Mr Conrad Palmer and the Fairfield Community Association for their regular litter picks in Fairfield.

Planning: Quarries remain in the Council's sight and it will assess future applications when they are presented.

Communication: The Council will review its social media involvement.

Finance Report Cllr. James Bradley

The Council expects to report a surplus:-

£5k from ordinary income (The Precept) plus, £31k from your Parish Council's assets, includes £21k from the Developer of the site adjacent to the Village Green, Belbroughton.

Council may support an extension to the Fairfield Rec Carpark.

Council may support the local libraries if WCC reduce significantly their support.

Numbers are subject to both the internal and external audits which take place during May.

In June the detailed accounts will be published on our website belbroughtonandfairfield-pc.info with paper copies being available upon request

'Ordinary' and 'Other' Income

<u>Precepted Income</u>	£65,000
<u>Other Income</u>	
Lengthsman Scheme	£2,688
Rentals	£15,096
Cash Investments interest	£3,995
Bel. Village Green Agreement	£21,800
Ward members grants	£2,740
Total -	<u>£111,319</u>

Major Expenditure items

Clerk salary (<i>incl.N.I. &Pension</i>)	£25,033
Grass Cutting & Green Spaces	£7,206
Belne Brook, Belbroughton site	£5,500
Footway Lighting	£5,349
Lengthsman	£4,520
Dog bins	£3,145
Tree work	£3.940

Maintenance Grants Paid

Belbroughton Parochial Church Council	£3,200	(Covers the church yards for both Belbroughton & Fairfield)
Belbroughton Recreation Centre	£1,155	
Fairfield Village Hall	£730	
Belbroughton Church Hall	£730	

2018/19 Grants Approved

Capital Grants:

Belbroughton Rec. Centre improvements	£3,900
Belbroughton Cricket Club – secure storage	£550

Parish Projects:

Smartwater kits for the Fairfield Ward	£3,560
Footpath Diversion	£1,739
Belbroughton history Society repaint library phone box.	£240

Minor Grants:

Fairfield Community Association	£350
Bingo club	£200

He advised that he was stepping down as Chairman and as a councillor, after 13 years, he had enjoyed it and thanked fellow councillors for their support and especially Cllrs. Trevor Jones and Chris Scurrell who were also now stepping down after many years' service.

3.

The Vice-Chairman Cllr. Dr R Morgan thanked the Chairman for his work and presented him with a token of appreciation from fellow councillors. Likewise he presented to Cllrs. Jones and Scurrell and thanked them for their service.

Planning Report Cllr.Chris Scurrell

28 planning applications were considered during the Council year.

Recommendations made to District Council :

- 13 No Objection
- 10 No Objection but with conditions
- 5 Objected to

The Committee meets once a month.

Agricultural Holdings Report Cllr. Hood

The Council owns 85 acres of arable farmland in Wildmoor & Stoneybridge.

Let under 13 tenancies at £90 /acre and is used for various arable cropping types.

The income is used to fund the Capital & Minor Grants and Parish Projects.

Council inspects the holdings during the year to ensure they are well maintained which has again proved to be the case.

As well as providing a regular income the land is a significant area of 'Green Belt' in the Council's ownership and control.

County Cllrs.

This has been a very challenging year for Worcestershire County Council. We started looking at a budget with a shortfall of £18m; this we are relieved to report has reduced to £2.8m. 70% of our County Council Budget is spent on 4% of our population; it is right and proper that we look after the most vulnerable in our Communities the young and the old but this does mean that we as a County Council have to look closely at how we deliver our services.

We will now take you through some of the headlines from this year:-

Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Government Funding to test and explore 5G Connectivity. 5G is the next generation of mobile technology. When 5G becomes available in the UK, it is expected to have a profound impact on the way people live their lives. As many as 1.4 billion 5G connections are predicted by 2025; it is fantastic that Worcestershire is leading the Way in this new technology. The Worcestershire 5G Consortium, led by Worcestershire County Council and the LEP Board launched the first-ever British 5G factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory in the last month.

Electric Trains were launched in Bromsgrove on 29th July; there are now up to five trains per hour travelling to and from Birmingham during peak times and between two and four during off-peak.

4.

You may recall that Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet approved recommendations for the development of a wholly owned Council Company as the alternative delivery model to deliver Children's Social Care. The Company name is "Worcestershire Children First."

The Authority is making significant improvements in its delivery of Children's Services and this has been recognised in the latest monitoring visits by OFSTED. For the new school term in September 2018, 91.4% of young people in Worcestershire were offered a place at their first choice secondary school. For primary school, 92.5% were given a place at their first choice school.

The NHS celebrated its 70th Birthday this year and so too did our Adult Social Care Provision. A 70th Birthday Card signed by Members at County Hall was handed over to the Health Secretary in December by Cllr Hardman Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Richard Keble, the Assistant Director of Adult Social Services. The aim of the trip was to highlight that more needs to be done by Central Government to better fund adult social care in Worcestershire and across the Country. Worcestershire County Council was crowned Council of the Year at the West Midlands Energy Efficiency Awards. Through the implementation of a 'spend to save' scheme and installing Energy efficiency measures, the County Council reduced gas and electricity cost for their Corporate sites by £125,000 compared to the previous year.

Summer resident shows were held across the County. These annual roadshows give Councillors and Officers the opportunity to meet and speak with residents, answer questions and raise awareness of the services that the Council provides. We will provide the Clerk to the Parish Council with a list of this year's Roadshow dates when it is published. Your views are most important.

Libraries within our County Council Divisional area remain a priority to us both. We will continue to lobby hard on maintaining the current provision. We believe very strongly that libraries are about far more than just books, they offer the opportunity for people to interact and connect with the wider community.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support.

Karen May
Clent Hills Division

Shirley Webb
Woodvale Division

Cllr. May took questions from members of the public covering libraries review, the C. Council website concerning reporting issues e.g. blocked drains and following up actions, Cost challenges of 'Social Care', education provision, safe pavements and poor parking practise. She thanked the Parish Council for a very good working relationship and wished the retiring Chairman well.

Scarecrow Event Belbroughton

The chairman invited representatives to present:

5.

Mr Bartram advised that the event was not yet firmed up for 2019 but he hoped to be able to confirm this in the coming month. The aim was for a smaller less commercial and rather more traditional weekend than seen in the previous events. Volunteers were still required and some 32 individuals had expressed an interest in getting involved. He thanked the Parish Council for their agreed financial support for the event should it take place.

4. Footpaths

Mr Paul Hardcastle – volunteer footpath warden for the Parish Council gave a presentation covering:

His own and the W.C.C. ‘Strimming’ programme. He had however reduced personal time available. The P.C. had purchased a new strimmer/brushcutter.

4 new stile ‘step overs’ were installed, and a number of fallen trees removed.

New Path opened – Brookfield Farm - with an inaugural Walk on 21st October 2018

Photos were displayed of the new Lower Gate - nr Cricket Club and Central Hedge Gate and the new Bridge -Hossil Lane to Drayton.

The Severn Trent Resilience Project - All paths have remained open but we await surface reinstatement. Some improvement / reparation work is promised by Barhale on one path.

For 2019/20 there will be a continuing W.C.C. strimming programme and continued general maintenance. Drainage work on Drayton path is to be started and a review of possible surface works around Parish. Also. a possible update to village walks booklets.

The Chairman thanked him for the presentation and his hard work during the year.

5. Residents Open Forum

Residents questioned if ‘Smartwater’ would be offered by the new Parish Council to Belbroughton residents since it was now available to all adjacent parish areas. The Chairman advised that the matter would be considered in the new council year.

A resident advised that many other individuals had worked hard for the community e.g. providing lunches at Belbroughton church hall and looking after the planters in Fairfield. These acts made the area a great place to live in and to visit.

The Chairman thanked all for attending the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman..... Dated.....

6.