

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, A Homer, A Hood, A Mabbett, R Morgan and, S Pawley.  
Clerk J Farrell. 4 members of the public.

### **236/19 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S Nock and G Parsons.  
Apologies had also been received from County Cllrs. K May & S Webb.

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.

The meeting re-opened.

**237/19 Declarations of Interest** None.

**238/19 Dispensations** None.

### **239/19 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.  
The Chairman then signed the minute book.

### **240/19 Reports**

*Chairman's report:* Cllr. Morgan thanked all members and the clerk for their support.

His desire was 'to do things' this Council year. And, also to be seen 'to be doing things', he felt that there had been a good start.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

*Financial Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

*Clerk's Report:*

1. **Belbroughton Rec Playground** Improvements project - The National Lottery Community awards have granted Belbroughton Recreation Centre £9,444 which takes their total funds raised to £21,311. Added to this is the £20k Parish Council commitment. Mrs S Benbow and her team will shortly be producing a detailed project plan for the P.C.'s assessment.
2. **Agricultural Holdings Committee** there will be a meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. 7.00pm the prime agenda item will be to consider the Farm Business Tenancy renewal rents, effective 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020.
3. **W.C.C. Passenger Transport Strategy** a reminder that this consultation is live, and a Parish Council response should be considered at the Sept Council.
4. **Fairfield First School expansion:** a reminder the W.C.C. plans are being displayed at the school Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2.30pm – 6.30pm.
5. **The Green, Belbroughton** – the Developer confirms that workings should commence on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August in line with the W.C.C. road closure.
6. **Fairfield Rec. Ground car park extension** – Fairfield Villa F.C. the P.C.'s tenant will be contacting sporting bodies to assess if they could apply for grants to assist with the costs. The school would be unable to support with funds but are content to see the extension. The Fairfield Community Association have advised of their preferred size and construction type. Cllrs. Mabbett, Morgan and Parsons will provide a formal update to the Sept. Council.

## **7. Stourbridge Rd Fairfield:**

- a. Bus shelter bench quote received for manufacture and installation. This is subject to a future Council approval as the quote is in excess of the agreed figure of £500.
  - b. W.C.C. advise that jetting of gullies from A491 island to motorway bridge will take place via contractors Ringway. Other work be carried out: cutting back of verges, overpainting of the carriage markings (where needed), plus any other maintenance issues that can't be done without traffic management. They are looking to have the work completed by the end of September, this is due to the permits needed to be obtained.
8. **Remembrance 2019** – Mr Tony Hadley representative of the British Legion wishes to address the Parish Council at the Sept meeting.
9. **Litter Pick** – Cllr. Allington will lead a litter pick in the centre of Belbroughton from 10.00am Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

*County and District Cllrs:* No Reports

### **241/19 Council Vacancies**

Mr Syd Danks was co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent the Fairfield ward.

Mr Simon Patchell was co-opted onto the Parish Council to represent the Belbroughton ward.

Both signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their seats on the Council.

The Chairman and council members welcomed both to the Parish Council.

### **242/19 Council Committees**

Cllrs. Danks and Patchell joined the Planning Committee, taking the place of Cllr. Homer. The membership of other Committees was unchanged, but Council agreed that all Committees' memberships would be reviewed from time to time.

### **243/19 Grants – Local Education Authority schools**

Council confirmed its existing decision not to offer grant aid to the primary schools in the parish area stating that funding these education facilities was the responsibility of the higher local authority – the Worcestershire County Council.

### **244/19 Parish Lighting**

Council noted the costings supplied by the County Council for upgrading its 21 mercury 80 w. light bulbs with 'LED' lanterns. The mercury bulbs are no longer available for replacement upon failure. W.C.C. estimate of energy savings for using 'LED's was 75% -80% of that incurred by the mercury units. Each unit's 'replacement cost' is quoted by W.C.C. at £251.

Council approved the principle of staggered replacement of the light bulbs, and agreed that a third of these would be changed in this financial year. It would however give preference to the units that currently had particularly dim lighting.

Council would seek advice from W.C.C. on the ideal luminosity of new bulb to be used at each location. Council agreed that funding would be via the Precept and thus seek to recover the capital costs over time, and would consider the precise impact on the Precept at its budget considerations later in the year.

**Action:** the clerk to discuss with W.C.C. the precise type of bulbs to be used and the purchase and installation costs and report back to a future Council.

### **245/19 Communication**

This item was deferred until the September Council since the sponsoring member, Cllr. Parsons did not attend the meeting.

### **246/19 Polling station premises review for Bromsgrove Parishes**

Council agreed that the existing premises used by the District Council as polling stations for elections in the parish area remained fit for purpose.

**Action:** the clerk to inform B.D.C.

### **247/19 Councillors' Items**

Council agreed to consider this item prior to agenda item 12.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the quote for the new bench at the bus shelter situated outside the church on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield had been received. This was for £869, higher than the Council previously approved figure of £500. Council agreed to discuss this matter this evening wishing to have the bench installed quickly and then approved the quote received and thus the additional funding required.

**Action:** the clerk to instruct the contractor.

Cllr. Mabbett following on from a previous Council meeting initially informing of the project the Fairfield Village Hall had now progressed their assessment of installing a C.C.T.V. facility to give enhanced protection to the premises on Stourbridge Rd. The cost would be £3,000. County Cllr. S. Webb would be donating £2,000 from her 'Divisional Fund' towards these costs. Council noted that the Fairfield Village Hall required further support and, it agreed to consider this matter on the evening and thus the re-opening of consideration of its 2019 Capital Grants allocation notwithstanding the expiry of the deadline for applications.

It noted that the Council 2019 Capital Grants budget had been underspent by £1,000.

Council Approved the release of £500 from the Capital Grants 2019 budget towards the project, the Village Hall would be using its own funds for the balance of the capital costs and the ongoing maintenance costs of the facility.

**Action:** The clerk to inform the trustees of the Fairfield Village Hall.

Cllr. Boswell requested that the W.C.C. Hub were informed of the poor state of Mearse Lane Belbroughton & encroaching hedges at Madeley Rd. Belbroughton.

**Action:** the clerk to report both issues to W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Danks advised that along Wildmoor Lane and Top Road hedges were overgrown.

**Action:** the clerk to report to W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Allington advised that despite earlier promises of trimming conifers on Yew Tree Avenue, Belbroughton owned by 'The Furlongs' premises she felt no work had been done either by the owners or the County Council.

**Action:** the clerk to report again to W.C.C. Hub.

Cllr. Pawley advised that recently re-painted benches had signs of peeling paint notably the one at Pinchers Close Belbroughton.

**Action:** the clerk to instruct the contractor to revisit and properly prepare and repaint.

Cllr. Pawley advised that the Bradford Lane, Belbroughton footway remained too narrow with Lengthsman instructed work yet to be carried out.

Council agreed that an outside contractor could be used for the work on this site and it also requested that the nominated Cllrs. assess again workloads with the parish Lengthsman and the two gardening contractors.

**58.**

Cllr Morgan advised of encroaching hedge vegetation at Chapel lane / Heath End Road Bell Heath  
**Action:** the clerk to report to W.C.C. Hub.

**248/19 Belbroughton Scarecrow 2019 Event**

Due to possible commercial sensitivity of information supplied by the Event organisers Belbroughton C.I.C. and in the absence of authorising any public disclosure of information it was agreed by Council that this item was to be considered without the public present.

The meeting was closed to the public.

Council noted both the information supplied by the Belbroughton C.I.C. and the responses to questions raised by the Council on the information.

Council declined to increase its already approved support for the 2019 event (a short-term loan of £5,000 for working capital repayable by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019) and would not agree to the organiser, Belbroughton C.I.C.'s further request to underwrite the event and thus covering unlimited financial losses.

**The meeting was closed at 9.08pm**

Signed ..... Chairman