

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held in the Jubilee Room, Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 6th June 2016.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, J Bradley, T Jones, S MacDonald, P Margetts, S Nock S Pawley and, C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 9 members of the public also attended.

175/16 Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Hood, Mabbett, Morgan and Parsons and were accepted. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. R. Jenkins.

The Meeting was then adjourned for an 'Open Surgery' period for members of the public to discuss issues with the Council.

The meeting was then re-opened.

176/16 Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Scurrall declared an 'Other Disclosable interest' in the agenda item 8. **177/16 Dispensations:** None requested.

178/16 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts advised that having reached the age of 65 in May he was surprised to be called by the N.H.S. for an 'Aortic Scan'. This only recently introduced preventative healthcheck is now available to men over 65 and he recommends that all qualifying men should seek this check via their G.P. (He was relieved to be told his heart was in good condition!). The Council would raise awareness.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 16th May 2016.

Finance Committee: Council noted the minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2016.

Clerk's Report:

1. The Casual Vacancy in Fairfield ward arising following the resignation of Cllr. McFarling is now advertised with an expiry date of 24th June for applications to reach the clerk. Council will consider the applicants at the 4th July Council.
2. A complaint had been received from a resident, who requesting confidentiality. This was however a complaint against a specific Councillor's conduct and not the Council itself with which the resident had no issues. Thus the resident was informed that such complaints are dealt with by the District Council and was signposted to discuss the matter with the Monitoring and Scrutiny team at Bromsgrove District Council.
3. The Green Belbroughton – the surveyor has produced his rebuttal of the Developer's comments on his drainage costings assessments. This letter had been sent to the Council's legal advisors for forwarding to the Developer via his solicitor – no further comment has come back from the Developer as to whether he now accepts the comments and is willing to sign the previously agreed documents and thus confirm the payments due to the council. Council's lawyers advise that their litigation team is now involved as they seek fee payments from the Developer's lawyers. The council is promised weekly updates or as any response is received.
4. Veolia PLC planning application – The County Council have agreed the Parish Council's request for more time to consider its response to the consultation and now requested comments by 15th July.
5. Parish Room Belbroughton, new lease – There are four applications – The agents have been requested to seek the individual business plans and testimonials / references by the end of this week. When received the Working Group can begin the assessment process.

6. Defibrillator, Belbroughton - Issues have arisen over the availability of a lockable cabinet. The British Heart Foundation have advised that it is not policy to have locked cabinets. The Council Chairman and clerk will review the most desired location for the unit with the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee. Should there be a change to the current arrangement then the matter will be brought back to Council.

7. Council and Committee Meetings in Fairfield – Mr Scott Smith, Head of the Fairfield First School has confirmed that the Council may use the school building for future meetings. Thus this larger space required due to higher numbers attending meetings, will be used for the remainder of 2016 – July, October and, December meetings. The room hire will be £50 per session (an increase of £10 on the present charge at the village hall but for much larger premises).

179/16 Annual Return

Council noted the internal auditors report and approved both the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements forming the Annual Return for 2015/16. The Return would now be sent to the external auditors Grant Thornton. The Council wished to record their thanks to the clerk for the excellent report from the internal auditor.

180/16 Veolia PLC – Sandy Lane Planning Application Ref 13/00027/CM

Council noted that the 'Working Group' had met and following prior Council approval of funding had employed the services of the planning consultant firm Brooke Smith Planning to assist with their examination of the application.

Council approved the recruitment of Mr Syd Danks of the Wildmoor Residents Association to the 'Working Group' as a non-voting member.

Council approved the issuing of a 'flyer' to residents raising awareness of the application.

The 'Working Group' would report further along with its recommendations at the 4th July Council which would then consider the formal response to the County Council.

181/16 Smartwater

Cllr. Scurrrell left the meeting.

Council deferred a decision on setting up a 'Parish Project' and approving the use of reserves to fund a 'Smartwater' scheme for every parish household. It approved setting up a 'Working Group' to assess the merits, disadvantages and value for money of such a scheme. The group would comprise Cllrs. Bradley, MacDonald and Roberts and would report its recommendations to a future Council. The Council would also seek further views on the scheme from residents via the Annual Report, website and e mail database.

182/16 Parish Room Belbroughton

Cllr. Scurrrell rejoined the meeting.

Council noted that the current tenant remained in significant rent arrears and that the clerk had been advised of the costs of legal action by the Council's lawyers. Council noted that such costs would be borne by the tenant. Council had previously approved legal action under the terms of the lease, with process being commenced by way of a formal demand letter. The clerk would provide a further update at the next Council.

It was further noted that the tenant had today via e mail promised a payment of £1,500 by the end of the week.

183/16 Fairfield Shop – Stourbridge Rd.

Council noted that the freehold of the premises which incorporated the post office, café and, leased retail grocery area was for sale. The Council whilst aware of commercial realities hoped that the existing businesses would be retained under any future change of ownership.
Cllr. MacDonald left the meeting.

184/16 Council’s Annual Report

Council approved the existing format and delivery arrangements for the annual report. Cllrs. were requested to supply the clerk with items that should be considered for inclusion to enable a draft to be considered at the July Council.

Action: Cllr. submissions to the clerk by 30th June.

185/16 Fairfield Planters

Council approved sending a note of thanks to Singletons for the planters recently supplied and installed in Fairfield.

186/16 Councillor items

Cllr. Bradley advised that the History Society had come across some old photos relating to the parish council and he would see that these are collated and suitably archived.

Cllr. Pawley reminded Council of the 11th June Queen’s 90th Birthday celebration event in Belbroughton.

Cllr. Pawley raised the issue of the uncertainty over the location of the defibrillator in Belbroughton as it was to be placed in an unlocked cabinet which was now the recommended option by the British Heart Foundation. Cllr. Roberts advised that if after discussions with the Scarecrow Committee, whom had sourced the unit, there was to be a change of location the matter would be brought back to Council. It remained Council’s wish to have the unit installed on the wall outside the Talbot as this was where there would be the best visibility and the largest footfall.

Cllr. Boswell advised that there was continuing ‘fly tipping’ in Mearse Lane Belbroughton.

Action: The clerk would contact the District Council again.

Cllr. Margetts advised that the highway remained in poor condition on Dordale Rd between Bradford House and Waystone Lane.

Action: the clerk would contact WCC Highways.

Cllr. Margetts further advised that the gullies on the High St to the N.E. of Dark Lane junction required attention.

Action: the clerk would contact WCC Highways.

Cllr. Roberts asked, following a resident request, for the gardener ‘monitoring’ Cllrs. for Belbroughton to assess what cosmetic improvements could be made to The Green Belbroughton pending the possible works relating the adjacent property development.

Action: Cllrs. Margetts and Pawley to speak to James Callaghan.

The Meeting was closed at 9.03 p.m.

Signed **Chairman**