

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2023, 7.00PM AT BELBROUGHTON
RECREATION CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hardeman, Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Sadler and Cllr. Wilkes,

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk – Ruth Mullett
There was 4 members of the public in attendance.

495/23 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. E. Davies, Cllr. S. Davies, Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Pawley, and Cllr. Standing and reasons for absence approved by all Councillors.

Chairman adjourned the meeting for an ‘open surgery’ to enable residents to discuss any issues with their councillors and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda, this does not form part of the formal meeting.

The meeting re-opened.

496/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

497/23 – DISPENSATIONS

None.

498/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2023; the Chairman duly signed.

499/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S

District Cllr. Nock

- One of my District role’s is attending the Audit and Standards Board as a council representative. One key item on the November agenda was the non-delivery of the 2000/21 accounts. Progress is being made with regards their delivery and District are closer to being able to submit these. The 2022/23 accounts will then follow. There has been lots of issues facing Bromsgrove District Council, significantly there were 15 vacancies in Finance, but these roles have now been filled and the department is moving in the right direction.

District Cllr. May

- A recruitment process has taken place for the Chief Executive, but no candidates were found suitable. An interim Chief Executive has been appointed on a twelve-month contract.
- District are looking at apprenticeships to have people in succession planning.
- There is a £400k shortfall on the budget but District are in a strong position compared to other councils in the country.

- District Plan – there is still a shortfall in secondary school provision.

500/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S

Cllr. May

- Worcestershire County Council are in the process of setting the budget and noted that 72.5% of the budget is spent on 2.5% of the population which includes home to school transport and vulnerable children/adults which the County has a duty to protect.
- County will be raising the profile around fostering children.

Cllr. Webb – apologies given.

501/23 – REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Chairman’s Report -

- On 1st December 2024 attended the funeral of our Lengthsman, Nigel Williams, at Stourbridge Crematorium. The funeral was well attended with ‘standing room’ only. It was a very poignant service celebrating a fantastic and full life. Nigel will be missed by many members of our community and even harder to replace. The Parish Council will be doing some lasting memorial for Nigel.
- The response from members to my email of 21st November 2023 highlighted instances of negative behaviour from a minority of councillors at meetings and in written communication. This included incidents of disrespect of fellow councillors and members of the public alike. It is my intention to speak to all councillors privately in the New Year.

Finance Committee Report –

- The majority of Minor Grants were awarded.
- Of the Capital Grants received only one met the criteria and this one was awarded.
- An agricultural review is underway but due to weather conditions this has been postponed till the Spring.

Planning Committee Report – minutes had been circulated and nothing further to report.

502/23 – COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Cllr. Hardeman confirmed she had made initial enquiries with the Speedwatch Coordinator and is still awaiting a callback for further clarification on how the scheme would work.

503/23 – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

This item was deferred.

504/23 – PINCHES (4) QUARRY, WILDMOOR LANE, WILDMOOR

To consider submission of further information in respect of the Environmental Statement relating to the following planning application: -

Application Ref:	19/000056/CM
Grid Ref:	(E) 397694 (N) 275686
Applicant:	Mr Timmins
Proposal:	Extraction of sand and gravel and subsequent infilling with inert waste to achieve full restoration
Location:	Pinches (4) Quarry, Wildmoor Lane, Wildmoor,

A draft response had been agreed by the Working Party consisting of Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Mabbett and Cllr. Standing. It was **RESOLVED** for this to be circulated to Full Council for any final comments/amendments and Clerk to submit response to Worcestershire County Council on Monday 11th December 2023.

505/23 – CORRESPONDENCE

The following motion was proposed to Council, *“To discuss/**RESOLVE** to agree whether all correspondence is to be circulated to all councillors versus the Clerk undertaking the role of Clerk dealing with the matters, if applicable, and then providing a summary of complaints and actions, reported back to Full Council”*.

It was **RESOLVED** that Clerk should continue to attend to all routine correspondence. The blanket circulation of emails received to *all* councillors will cease. The Clerk to liaise with the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Chairs, as applicable, on any urgent matters affecting the Council, as applicable, on a case-by-case basis.

506/23 – TO RECEIVE CLERK’S REPORT

- Clerk confirmed that we had been successful in acquiring a full grant from Worcestershire County Council Public Health for the installation of a De-fib in the telephone box in Quantry Lane.
- The Clerk will resign from the Council on 19th January 2024. It was agreed to set-up a Working Party consisting of Cllr. Nock, Cllr. Sadler, Cllr. Gibbs and Cllr. Pawley to undertake the recruitment of a Locum Clerk/permanent Clerk.

507/23 – AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

The following motion was put to Council, *“To discuss/**RESOLVE** that the Parish Council reaffirm their commitment not to sell parish land, to preserve the integrity of the rural location and to offer some security to agricultural tenants of parish land”*. Following legal advice obtained from Bromsgrove District Council, it was **RESOLVED** to defer this item and set up a Working Party to look at establishing an Asset Management Strategy for the whole of the Council’s assets.

508/23 – TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Allington – lights on the Christmas tree in Belbroughton look good.

Cllr. Allington – thanked the Chairman for the new flag on Belbroughton Village Green.

Cllr. Allington – Drayton Road sign has been damaged – Cllr. May confirmed that this is down to be replaced.

Cllr. Allington – weeds on footpath at Queens Hill by Sylvesters Corner – Clerk to instruct Maintenance.

Cllr. Allington – can the strimming of Little Bell Hall Pool be placed back on the agenda.

509/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 8th January 2024, 7.00pm location to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.20.

To be agreed as a true record by Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council

Signed

DRAFT