

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019.**

**Present:** Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks , A Hood, R Morgan, S Nock and, S Patchell.  
Clerk J Farrell. C.Cllr. K May. 2 members of the public.

### **257/19 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. S Homer, A Mabbett, S Pawley and G Parsons. Apologies had also been received from County Cllr. S Webb and District Cllr. M Sherrey.

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.

**258/19 Declarations of Interest** Cllr. Danks declared an 'Other Disclosable Interest' in agenda items 10 and 11 as he was the Chairman of the Wildmoor Residents Association.

**259/19 Dispensations** - A Dispensation request had been received by the clerk from Cllr. S Danks seeking to remain in the meeting and also to speak to agenda items 10 and 11. Council approved the dispensation request.

### **260/19 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The Chairman then signed the minute book.

### **261/19 Reports**

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

*Planning Committee report:* No report as no committee meeting held in August.

*Financial Committee report:* No report as no committee meeting held in August.

*Clerk's Report:*

**Merchant Navy Day:** The Red Ensign flags are available for flying 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept to celebrate.

**Lighting:** W.C.C. are yet to supply their quote for changing a third of the old mercury lanterns, nor to advise of ideal strength of LED bulbs to use. We are chasing.

**New Bench:** The bespoke bench has been installed in the bus shelter opposite the church on Stourbridge Rd. Fairfield.

**The Green Belbroughton:** The drainage works are well under way with the link to the High St. sewer now complete and half of the required pipework laid. The Developer met with the Chairman and clerk 29<sup>th</sup> August and advised that he was confident of completing the works by 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. which includes making good the grassed and footpath surfaces. No date was given for visible housebuilding to commence, as there remain significant groundworks to complete on the site itself as well as improvement works to the vehicle entrance onto Hartle Lane.

The next public consultation on improvements is to be held 6.30pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. in the Jubilee Room Bel. Rec. Cllr. Sue Pawley leading. Further Fbk. and e mail invitations will go out this week. Cllr. Pawley will be leafleting adjacent properties.

**Belbroughton Scarecrow 2019 Event:** The formal offer of support of £5,000 has been made to the organisers, the Belbroughton C.I.C. which has yet to accept the offer.

**Litter Pick** – Led by Cllrs. Allington and Patchell, another successful event was held around the centre of Belbroughton on 11th August.

**Footway improvements** – Siding out of footways in 'The Sluice', Bradford Lane and, Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton have been undertaken by contractors.

**Little Bell Hall Pool / Drayton Rd** – A contractor has been instructed to trim down the area's summer growth, remove litter/ tyres and take away debris in front of the trash screen.

#### *County and District Cllrs.:*

##### **C.Cllr. May advised:**

Budget challenges remain at County Hall with an apparent £18m shortfall to be addressed this month in closed meetings working on the 2020/21 budget. National Govt. may be assisting funding, details awaited. Also awaited is the government's Green Paper on Social Care.

70% of the County Council budget is spent on 2% of its residents.

25% of the budget comes from central govt. grants.

Funds are limited for any footpath improvements.

She has challenged car parking charges recently introduced at Hagley railway station. She has had the daily rates reduced from £4.50 to £3.00.

The resurfacing work at High St. Belbroughton had been inspected twice and deemed satisfactory by engineers.

Gullies in Bradford lane to be assessed again as W.C.C. are aware of further issues from local water courses causing flooding from time to time.

Galtons Lane Belbroughton – overhanging trees to be sorted but problems encountered with contacting the land owner.

£2,500 has been donated from her Divisional Fund to the Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

B.T. will be rolling out 'fibre' cables in Dordale Rd. Belbroughton.

**District Matters:** The Bromsgrove Local Plan 2019 -23 is being reviewed to assess the economic growth and sustainability of the area cllrs. being conscious that 25% of the population are older than 64. and 18% are under 16. Bromsgrove has one of the highest levels of 'leavers' between the ages of 30 & 39. House prices nationally are on 4.1x of average incomes to purchase, in Bromsgrove this is 10.69 x average incomes.

The District Plan is now to call for sites for development from 60 designated sites within the Green Belt however it is likely that only some 2% to 3% of it would be needed and that sites would most likely be around existing road infrastructure e.g. the A435. It would be unjustifiable to fund high cost additional major roads.

The housing development planning application for the former District Council premises Burcot House is due to be heard shortly.

A new carbon emissions strategy is being developed jointly with Wyre forest District Council.

##### **262/19 Remembrance 2019**

Council noted a presentation from Mr Tony Hadley representative of the Royal British Legion who was seeking to recruit new members to the Clent, Belbroughton and Fairfield branch.

**263/19 Farm Business Tenancies – Triennial review of rents**

Council confirmed the recommendation of the Agricultural Holdings Committee to retain the current level of rents - £90 per acre – for the three year term commencing 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Action:** the clerk to inform the tenants with the formal letter under the terms of the tenancies, which requires a 12 month notice period to be given of the new rents payable.

**264/19 Additional footway lighting Belbroughton**

Due to the absence of Cllr. Pawley this item was deferred until a future Council meeting.

**265/19 Fairfield Recreation Ground – Carpark Extension**

Council noted that one quote for the extension had been received, this including drainage works. The Working Group would be seeking further quotes and would report back with a recommendation on how to proceed to a future council meeting. The group were now assessing a larger increase of space of up to 430sq metres.

**266/19 Consultation on a Planning Application Ref:19/00002/CM**

**Applicant:** Wildmoor Quarry Products **Proposal:** Proposed processing, stocking and bagging area (Part-Retrospective).

**Location:** The Quarry, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor, Near Bromsgrove.

Council Objected to the Application – the letter of Objection is available upon request from the clerk.

**Action:** The clerk to send the response to the County Council.

**267/19 Consultation on a Planning Application**

**Amended Application Ref: 17/000028/CM**

**Applicant:** Mortar and Screed Company Limited

**Proposal:** The operation of a mortar batching plant, erection of associated silo storage units and aggregate bins and vehicle repairs workshop (retrospective) [

**Location:** The Quarry, Sandy Lane, Wildmoor, Bromsgrove

Council Objected to the Application – the letter of Objection is available upon request from the clerk.

**Action:** The clerk to send the response to the County Council.

**268/19 Minerals Local Plan Publication (Regulation 19 consultation)**

Council noted the County Council's request for comments but were surprised at the tight deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September for responses in view of the large amount of information to assess. It therefore would request an extension for responses until the end of October. Council deferred considering a response until the October Council.

**269/19 Smartwater - Belbroughton ward**

Council noted the only very limited response for volunteers to assist with distribution of the security marking kits. It therefore decided not to purchase kits and launch a scheme in Belbroughton ward. However, Council approved seeking assistance from West Mercia Police / Smartwater to take a stand at Scarecrow Weekend Event to promote the product and potentially give away a proportion of the existing owned kits from the residual Fairfield ward supplies.

It would also aim to offer existing kits to local residents via the Belbroughton Lunch Club.

**Action:** The clerk would contact W.M.P. Smartwater.

**270/19 WCC Passenger Transport Strategy**

Council approved its response to the consultation: The strategy should focus on achieving cost effective solutions but ensuring that it also plays its part in reducing rural isolation, taking note of planning and environmental changes that will occur in the County following implementation of Local Development plans. The strategy review must not simply be a cost cutting exercise but ensure sustainable services. It should assess the effect of transport usage on the environment and encourage / support financially, community projects / volunteer drivers and the use of environmentally friendly vehicles.

It should be aware and accommodate the accessibility needs of individuals with restricted mobility. There should be improved public transport linkage from the Bromsgrove railway station into the town centre.

**Action:** the clerk to send the formal response.

**271/19 Council Insurance**

Council noted the current Parish Council Asset Register and Risk Assessments schedule along with the three quotes from brokers Came and Co. and approved renewing the Parish Council's insurance requirements through the brokers with Inspire (Axa) for one year from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

**272/19 Communication**

Due to the absence of Cllr. Parsons this item was deferred until a future Council meeting.

**273/19 Councillors' items**

Cllr. Patchell requested that a future Council reviews the contractors' maintenance schedules.

The clerk confirmed to Cllr. Hood that Paul Hardcastle the footpath warden had promised to clear the overgrown brambles from footpath No. 675 in Wildmoor, which runs from Sandy Lane to Orchard Farm.

Cllr. Nock advised that the footway adjacent to the Belbroughton church required clearing of debris

**Action:** D.Cllr. May would request a tidy up sweep by the District Council dept.

Cllr. Allington requested that the bus shelter on the main A 491 was cleaned.

**Action:** C.Cllr. May would request the work from the County Highways dept.

**The meeting was closed at 9.25pm**

Signed ..... Chairman