

**Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Jubilee Room
Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 6th November 2017.**

Present: Cllrs. S Boss, J Boswell, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall.

Clerk: J Farrell. County Cllr. K May and 13 members of the public.

323/17 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J Bradley and S MacDonald. Cllr. R Morgan chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr. Bradley. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Shirley Webb.

The meeting adjourned, with Standing Orders suspended, for the ‘Open Surgery’ and also to listen to members of the public identifying matters of concern relating to the evening’s agenda.

The meeting re-opened.

324/17 Declarations of Interest - Cllr. Jones declared an ‘Other disclosable Interest’ in agenda item 12 Fairfield Villa F.C. as he contributes to the fund raising activities of the football club.

325/17 Dispensations - Council agreed to the dispensation request from Cllr. Jones to remain in the meeting, to speak but **not** to vote during agenda item 12 Fairfield Villa F.C.

326/17 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2nd October 2017 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

327/17 Reports

Chairman’s report:

Cllr. Morgan advised that he was sitting in for the Chairman for a six week period during his absence.

Little Bell Hall Pool group leader report: Council noted the report.

Communications group leader report: Council noted the report.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee Meeting held 16th October 2017

Financial Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the Committee Meeting held 16th October 2017

Clerk’s Report:

1. The Green, Belbroughton / adjacent building site:
Cllrs Bradley, Morgan, Nock and the clerk met with the council’s lawyers MFG 18th October to assess the agreement with the Developer and pressed for a number of clarifications on the documents submitted by the Developer to ensure that the original Heads of Terms were being met. The Council’s lawyers have sent the required response to the Developer’s lawyers who have responded today. These further revised papers will be assessed by the ‘Working Group’ in the next week.
2. The vacancy for the Fairfield Ward councillor position is now open for application. Provided there are applications then the December Council will consider these under the co-option process.
3. New dog waste bins have been re-installed at Hartle Lane Belbroughton and in Fairfield at the junction of Wood lane and Stourbridge Rd. A new larger bin has also been placed at the Belbroughton Rec carpark
4. Fairfield Memorial Orchard: The Fairfield gardener has the replacement apple tree and should be planting it this week.

5. Defibrillators: The West Mids. Ambulance Service is happy for directional signs to be erected in the villages. Further as regards the locking of the Parish Council owned unit in Belbroughton they also have no objection to the standard combination lock being installed.
6. Belbroughton R.S.M'Colls shop displays: The Conservation Officer for Bromsgrove District Council is assessing with the Planning Dept. whether there are issues with the present window display of a large wine glass.
7. Fairfield, Stourbridge Rd. bus shelter opposite The Swan: W.C.C. Highways have agreed that a bench can be placed inside the shelter.
8. Belbroughton, adjacent to Holy Cross Lane, ex B.T. phone box site: Following agreement in principle the formal application has been made to W.C.C. Highways for installing a bench on the site which is a few metres from the bus stop.
9. Belbroughton, Dark Lane: the new bench has been installed and B.D.C. have agreed to supply an oak tree later in the autumn which will replace the felled lime.
10. Belbroughton, Christmas lights: B.D.C. operatives will be repairing the broken strands during November.
11. Tree work will take place 27th November at The Green and Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton.
12. A491 Unlit junction bollards - W.C.C. Highways advise that there is a fault with the electricity feed and that Western Power will take up to six weeks to repair.

County and District councillors:

C.Clr. Karen May advised of the 'Top 5 W.C.C. Members updates:

Major Funding Announced for Worcestershire

The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced multi-million pound funding for the biggest road construction project in Worcestershire for decades.

The main road bridge (Carrington Bridge) en route from West Worcester to the M5 will be turned into a dual carriageway in a project that is costing more than £60 million.

Dualling the bridge forms part of the wider A4440 Southern Link Road improvement scheme which will relieve congestion and reduce journey times and improve journey time reliability. As well as funding for Carrington Bridge, the DfT also announced an extra £6.6 million to help to ease traffic congestion in Worcestershire. This investment will seek to improve traffic flow and walking and cycling routes in Worcester town centre and in Bromsgrove.

Championing...

Open for Business

League Tables show Worcestershire Schools Performing above National Average

Most Worcestershire schools are performing above the national average, according to recently-published league tables.

The key figure for schools is the new Progress 8 score. This is calculated by comparing pupils' results at key stage three, when they finish primary school, with their attainments aged 16, when they sit their GCSE's or equivalent qualifications. Whilst this change means that results cannot be directly compared with previous performance tables, the new results clearly show that overall, provisional outcomes for students in Worcestershire compare well with those seen nationally.

Most schools in the county are obtaining an average or above average Progress 8 score and are also performing above average in all of the other key measurement areas including strong passes in English and Maths and the English Baccalaureate.

Supporting...

Children and Families

Travel Wallet is Just the Ticket for Passengers with Disabilities

Promoting...

Health and Wellbeing

A newly-launched 'Travel Wallet' is to help residents with disabilities overcome communication barriers whilst using public transport in Worcestershire.

The credit card-sized folder allows passengers to organise tickets and travel passes, with transparent sleeves to display cards detailing their accessibility needs that can be shown to bus drivers or ticket staff.

The travel wallet was developed by Worcestershire County Council following a pledge at a 'People's Parliament' public debate on transport for people with learning disabilities.

Residents interested in receiving a travel wallet can contact their social worker at Worcestershire County Council, while supplies are also being provided to a range of local charities.

Action to Tackle Congestion

Protecting...

The Environment

New roundabouts, pedestrian crossings and more efficient traffic lights – just some of the measures that will be introduced to reduce congestion hotspots across Worcestershire.

Cutting congestion is one of Worcestershire County Council's key priorities. For that reason, £5 million of extra investment has been pledged to spend on congestion easing schemes across the county.

The County Council has been consulting and surveying to understand key hotspots across the county. The views of residents have been listened to as to which areas they want to see improvements made. A full list of projects will be announced in the New Year.

Worcestershire - A Good Place to Live

Council...

News Update

More than 8 out of 10 people who live in Worcestershire say that the County is a good place to live, that's according to one of the county's biggest surveys of public opinion.

More than 3,000 people from across the county took part in the annual Viewpoint Resident's survey. It took place this year in June and July.

Early results from the survey, which will be published in full this autumn, show that people's satisfaction in the place where they live remains very high. More than 70% of people also said that they feel a sense of belonging to the area in which they live.

Worcestershire residents aged 18 and over can sign up to be part of the Resident Viewpoint panel online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/viewpoint

She also advised that poor connectivity issues with Broadband in Dordale Rd. area being investigated and she would take on board any problems residents had with poor download speeds.

328/17 Velo Birmingham

Council agreed to consider this item ahead of its position on the agenda.

Council noted C. Cllr. K May's comment that the organisers had requested that next year's event should be held on 16th September and would be under the name of 'Velo Midlands'.

Council agreed to forward to the County Council with names and contact details redacted the e mails that had been received from residents commenting upon the event. The Council would advise the County Council of its concerns should a future event be considered in Worcestershire:

- Financial compensation should be considered for businesses adversely affected.
- Improved diversions were necessary.
- There should be prompt removal of signage after the event.
- Consideration should be given to re-routing away from Belbroughton.
- Velo should respond directly to individual residents raising concerns.

329/17 Fairfield First School – Expansion Consultation

Council agreed to consider this item ahead of its position on the agenda.

Council noted the consultation process regarding the proposal to increase the intake from 23 to 30 pupils per year. The Council agreed to send a representative to the public meeting being held at the school on 28th November.

Action: Cllr. Mabbett would attend and report back to the December Council which would consider a response to the County Council.

330/17 Remembrance Sunday

- a. Council noted that Cllrs. Morgan and Mabbett would be laying wreaths at the Remembrance services in Belbroughton and Fairfield respectively.
- b. Council agreed that it would arrange for the wreaths and other items to be removed in January 2018.

331/17 The Green – Belbroughton

- a. Council approved a request from the Belbroughton Animal Sanctuary to hold its carol service on the Parish Council owned site on 17th December.
- b. Council agreed that the Christmas lights switch on would be Friday 1st December.

332/17 Meetings

Council agreed that 2018 Council and Committee meetings would follow the existing pattern of meeting on 1st and 3rd Mondays respectively, bank holidays excepted. It agreed that there would be no meetings in August. The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Monday 30th April in the Belbroughton Church Hall subject to the venue being available.

333/17 Traffic Calming

- c. Council considered item c. firstly – and noted that the next Working Group meeting will be 14th November when a resident from each village would also be invited to attend.
- a. Council referred the request for the speed activation sign on Holy Cross Lane to the Working Group for consideration at its meeting although more considerate parking may solve the problem.
- b. Council noted that matters concerning the dropped kerbs and engineering works were outstanding. The clerk was asked to contact a Mr Ian Bamforth Head of Highways at the County Council for an update.

334/17 Belbroughton Recreation Centre

Council noted the additional information that had been received to support the previously considered, (with the decision deferred) request for funds to refurbish the playground area. Mrs S Benbow the representative from the Recreation Centre answered enquiries from members. Council approved a motion by 10 votes in favour and one against to make available £20,000 from its capital reserves to support the request on the condition that the Belbroughton Recreation Centre is able to raise a further sum of not less than £20,000 itself towards the project.

Action: the clerk will confirm to the B.R.C.

335/17 Fairfield Villa F.C.

Council noted a report from the liaison group which met representatives of the football club on 9th October. Council considered the following requests from the club:

a. Council approved carrying out works to the Recreation Ground carpark surface to repair pot holes.

b. Council approved providing an additional dog waste bin and re-siting of the present bin.

c. Council approved action to reduce moles on land adjacent to the pitch, and would ask the football club if it wished to take the required actions itself. Cllr. Scurrell wished to record that he voted against this item.

d. Council decided that the terms of the lease regarding annual rental reviews should not be re-assessed since the original lease had been signed in good faith by both parties and it had an obligation to its residents to retain the expected income stream.

e. Council approved permission for the roping off the 6 yard areas of the goalmouths to enable reseeded to take place.

f. Council rejected a request for floodlighting of the pitch area, but requested a detailed report from the club for future Council consideration.

g. Council rejected a request to erect the boundary fences from 15th August rather than 1st September each year.

Action: the clerk to inform the club.

336/17 New Waste Bin – Belbroughton

Council approved approaching the District Council to provide a bin at Ram Ally, Belbroughton. The Parish Council approved paying for the bin should B.D.C. would not be able to fund this.

Action: the clerk to contact B.D.C.

337/17 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Mabbett advised that the community in Fairfield will assist with erecting a Christmas tree, if the council was able to cover the tree purchase.

The clerk confirmed that this cost was already in the Council's budget.

Cllr. Mabbett requested that Smartwater be placed on a future council agenda as the provision of products / service had been brought up by residents in Fairfield.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that he would take forward the procurement of the cleaning of the Fairfield war memorial in accordance with the Council decision in January, which will now also include a health and safety assessment of the structure.

Cllr. Boswell wished Council to be aware of the good intentions of the Fairfield Community Association as evidenced at meetings she had attended.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the underside branches of tree at the junction of Woodgate Way & Hartle Lane by the post box could be trimmed to 8ft height above the ground. Also, he requested the removal a bush at Ram Ally.

Cllr. Margetts advised that spare union flags were now held to replace the flying ones periodically when wear and tear demanded.

Cllr. Parsons advised that a footpath required attention in Fairfield. Precise details would be sent by her to the clerk to forward on to the footpath wardens for assessing

The Meeting was closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed Chairman.

DRAFT