

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Fairfield First School 7th October 2019.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks, A Homer, A Hood, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Patchell and S Pawley. Clerk J Farrell. C.Cllr. K May. 6 members of the public.

292/19 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. A Mabbett.
Apologies had also been received from County Cllr. 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.

293/19 Declarations of Interest Cllr. Nock declared 'An Other Discloseable Interest' in agenda item 10 as he lived on Bradford Lane and close to the site in question.

294/19 Dispensations Cllr. Nock requested a Dispensation to remain in the meeting, speak and vote to agenda item 10. Council approved the request and the dispensation was granted.

295/19 Minutes

Minute 261/19 was amended: *'the new bench was installed in the bus shelter located adjacent to the church'* not **opposite** the church.

Council then approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 2nd September 2019.

The Chairman signed the minute book.

296/19 Reports

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

Planning Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 16th September 2019.

Financial Committee report: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting held 16th September 2019.

Clerk's Report:

1. The Farm Business Tenancy rents effective from Sept 2020 have been advised to the tenants. Council had previously agreed that the rent amount is to remain unchanged at £90 per acre for this next three year period.
2. Fairfield Villa F.C. under the terms of the lease have been advised of the 'R.P.I.' increase in the annual rent of 2.6% to £236.90/month effective for 12 months from October 2019.
3. Minerals Local Plan consultation: The W.C.C. were unwilling to extend the response deadline.
4. Smartwater: W. M. Police were unable to provide the specialist team staffing for the promotional exhibit at Scarecrow Weekend due to the short notice of the P.C. request. Thus, the exhibit promoting the kits did not take place. However, Smartwater kits will be available from the surplus stock in Fairfield to distribute to Belbroughton residents.
5. ROSPA report on Fairfield Recreation Play area received and circulated - no major issues.

6. Scarecrow 2019 – the offer of funds to the organisers was not taken up, indeed neither was the offer acknowledged, and thus the £5,000 commitment is no longer live.
7. District Plan Review Update and Call for Sites Consultation - Autumn 2019 – Council members are aware of the consultation and can consider a response at the 4th November Council.
8. Planning - Fairfield First School, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield - Three Classroom extension, demolition of temporary double mobile, new car park and Change of Use from Agriculture to Educational for two adjacent fields. Council members are aware of the consultation and can consider a response at the Planning Committee meeting 21st October.

County and District Cllrs.:

C.Cllr. May advised:

1. The County Council is supporting a campaign that has been launched to promote Worcestershire as a place to work and to set up a business.
2. Worcestershire Children First is launching this week and with it a new way of delivering children's services in Worcestershire.
3. Our libraries from across the county will be partnering with Public Health during National Libraries Week (7 to 12 October) for a local campaign to encourage more people to talk and get support for their mental health.
4. The Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions have reduced by over 35% in comparison to levels recorded nine years ago. The Council is now working up a new plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across its estate and operations.
5. Five new Armed Forces Champions have been named in Worcestershire They will work with the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership to provide a perspective on services like housing that might be accessed by the armed forces community.

She was sad to report of the death of former County Councillor Peter Fallows TD, who served as a councillor for Hagley & Furlongs between 1973 and 2005.

She has requested the North Worcestershire Water Management Team investigate the flooding issues on Bradford Lane, Belbroughton.

District Matters:

Local Plan:

The 'Call for sites' is a legal requirement of the plan which requires to build 6,443 homes by 2040. She emphasised that building can only occur where the infrastructure can cope with new homes. There is also a massive range of criteria to be met for sites to be approved.

The plan also requires linkage to enable usage of electric buses and greater utilisation of rail services.

She confirmed that there had been no planning application received concerning 'church land' located in Belbroughton.

297/19 Co-option Fairfield Ward

Mr Gez Ingram was co-opted onto the Council and after completing the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' he took his seat on the Council. The Chairman welcomed him back to the Council.

298/19 Committees

Council agreed the following revised memberships:

Planning: Cllrs. Allington, Boswell, Danks, Ingram, Parsons, Patchell and, Pawley.

Finance: Cllrs. Homer, Hood, Ingram, Mabbett, Morgan and, Nock.

Separately, Council requested that a meeting is offered to the Fairfield Villa F.C. should the trustees desire such.

Action: the clerk to contact the football club.

299/19 Remembrance 10th November 2019

Council agreed that Cllrs. R Morgan in Belbroughton and G Ingram in Fairfield would lay the Parish Council wreaths on Remembrance Sunday.

300/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return

- a. Council noted the report dated 31st August 2019 from the external auditor advising that no actions were required in respect of the Council's governance.
- b. Council confirmed that it had in place the necessary Risk Assessment processes and carried adequate insurance cover for identifiable risks.
- c. Council approved the re-appointment of Mr John Benner as the internal auditor and he would be asked to act for the accounting period, year ending 31st March 2020.

301/19 Traffic Order: 2019-113: Church Road, Belbroughton - proposed Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time and No Stopping 8am-4.30pm

Council considered the proposals and plan from the County Council and was in agreement with the proposed changes.

Action: the clerk to inform the County Council.

302/19 Lighting – Belbroughton

Council declined to progress investigating the installation of footway lighting on the path from the Recreation Centre to the primary school.

303/19 Waste Bin – Wildmoor

Council approved the purchase and installation of a dog waste bin at Middle Road, Wildmoor. District Cllr. Karen May however advised that she would request that a waste bin was installed by the District Council.

Action: the clerk to await the outcome of the request to B.D.C.

304/19 The Green Belbroughton – Improvements

Cllr. Pawley advised that there had been a further residents' consultation meeting on 9th September but that this was poorly attended.

The Working Group now recommends to work to the original District Council planning requirements which requires putting in the eight replacement trees and so there was no need to apply to the District for changes to the planning permission. Council confirmed this action, the Working Group would agree the specific tree types and the clerk was to arrange the purchase and planting during the autumn.

Subsequently, drawings will be sought up for other potential improvements to the area and these would be made available for public comment.

Council noted that the conifer close to the road was dying due to drought, this having been confirmed by the District Council Tree Officer. He had not deemed it a Health and Safety issue but in due course the tree would need to be taken out and replaced. This can be with a sapling of circa 2 metres high and would not need to be a conifer.

305/19 Communication

a. Council confirmed that it would continue with electronic media for resident communication. It agreed to investigate again using the notice board space adjacent to RS McColls, in substitution for the board on the Parish room site. If the space was available a new board would be put up and the one at the Parish room site would be removed.

C.Cllr. Karen May advised that funds would be available from her Divisional fund to assist with the notice board purchase.

Cllrs. would aim to attend the History Society and Lunch Club in Belbroughton to spread the word on Council activities and request feedback.

During council meetings the use of projected imagery would be investigated as a method of improving clarity where relevant on specific agenda items.

Action: The clerk to approach RS McColls to discuss use of the wall.

b. Council declined to have its own Facebook page but would re-assess the matter in six months.

Cllr. Parsons left the meeting.

306/19 Parish Contractors

Council agreed to create a 'Working Group' of Cllrs. Allington, Homer, Nock, Patchell and, Pawley to:

- a. Review the work schedules for the Lengthsman and the two parish gardeners.
- b. Recommend future works to improve the upkeep of the parish area.
- c. Recommend monitoring procedures for contractors' activities.

Action: The Working Group would report back to the November Council.

307/19 Open Spaces

Council approved the removal of the dilapidated wooden fence at Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton.

Action: Cllr. Homer would contract to the council for this work.

Council approved holding a discussion on the future of Little Bell Hall Pool and agreed to further investigating the refilling of the Pool.

Action: the clerk to contact North Worcs. Water Management to clarify required procedures for assessment by the Council at the November Council.

308/19 Councillors' items

Cllr Pawley raised the issue of parking on verges, notably on High Street and Hartle Lane.

Council agreed to raise awareness of and discourage poor parking via its communication media.

Action: the Chairman and clerk to agree and arrange suitable messages.

Cllr Patchell requested that the Scarecrow 2019 organisers are asked to advise of both the financial outcome of the event and the beneficiaries of the distribution of the surplus funds.

Action: the clerk to contact the organisers.

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Cllr. Danks advised that a number of quarry applications were due to go to the 3rd December County Council Planning Committee and council should consider attendance.

Cllr. Danks advised that the 'clean up' of Sandy Lane by County Council operatives was due to start on 8th October.

Cllr. Ingram advised of overhanging vegetation on Wood Lane Fairfield close to its junction with Stourbridge Road.

Action: the clerk to request that the Lengthsman attends.

Cllr. Allington raised the recent robbery at RS McColls and requested that the Council consider installation of CCTV for the immediate locality. While no decision could be made until the matter was placed onto a future Council agenda Council agreed to initially seek Police advice and guidance on installing such facilities.

Action: the clerk to source advice from Police.

Cllr. Boswell requested that the farm tenants are reminded to keep their boundary hedges suitably cut to ensure road and footway visibility.

Action: the clerk to write to the tenants.

The meeting was closed at 9.51pm

Signed Chairman