

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on 4th June 2018.

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Bradley, J Boswell, A Hood, T Jones, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, Dr R Morgan, S Nock and, C Scurrall. Clerk: J Farrell, & four members of the public.

171/18 Apologies – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. J Boswell, G Parsons and, P Margetts. Apologies were also received from County Cllr. S 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.

172/18 Declarations of Interest - None. **173/18 Dispensations** - None requested.

174/18 Minutes

After inserting a word change from ‘chaotic’ to ‘cluttered’ under minute 144/18 Council approved the minutes of the Annual Council Meeting of 14th May 2018 and the Chairman signed the minute book.

175/18 Reports

Chairman’s report:

Cllr. Bradley informed Council of the death of Mr Pete Bridge a former active member of the Council.

He felt that the Council’s Working Groups should retain their existing memberships, which Council agreed to.

Planning Committee report: Council noted the draft minutes of the Committee meeting held 21st May 2018.

Financial Committee report: Cllr. Mabbett advised that the ‘Financial Strategy’ had been renewed for the Council year. Council noted the draft minutes of the Committee Meeting held 21st May 2018.

Clerk’s Report:

1. **Vacancies** - No applications have been received for the vacant councillor position in Fairfield.

2. **The Green Belbroughton**

The Developer has advised that the Agreement has now been signed by the applicants but awaits exchange and completion whilst the lawyers sort out the fee payments invoicing. Please note the Parish Council’s legal costs are to be covered in full by the Developer.

3. **2nd July Council**

A reminder that Mr Richard Parton the owner of Wildmoor Quarry has agreed to address the Council regarding his applications to W.C.C. regarding the Local Minerals Plan.

4. **Traffic visibility – A491 traffic island Fairfield / Stoneybridge**

A couple of residents have requested that the verges and roundabout have vegetation cut back as vehicles are having visibility issues. The W.C.C. Hub have acknowledged the issue to me and will attend ‘shortly’.

5. **Sylvester’s Corner**

WCC Highways advise they will assess the removal of one of the poles and thus the placing of their traffic signage onto just one pole.

6. **WCC - Road repairs Policy**

WCC Highways advise they will request such is sent to the Parish Council.

7. **Request for a full re-surface of High St. Belbroughton**

WCC Highways have referred this to their Design and Build Team.

46.

8. Stourbridge Rd Fairfield - removal of underground B.T.box.

W.C.C. Highways are chasing the local B.T. works team.

(Cllr. Mabbett advised following a meeting that evening that the W.C.C. may well remove this themselves and fund the work.)

9. Hartle Lane speed warning signs

WCC Highways are speaking to 'Traffic Management' to obtain permissions.

C.Cllr K. May report:

Cllr. May apologised for arriving late at the meeting due both to a road blockage locally and council commitments.

Her monthly report on County Council activities is available under a link on the Parish Council website. She also advised that the relevant landowner at Dordale Road Belbroughton had been written to by the County Council regarding overgrown vegetation and that should there be no response a second letter would be sent and then the County Council would undertake the required work and bill the landowner should he or she have not attended to the matter.

Hartle Lane/ Galtons Lane: she had visited the area with Mr Clewer of WCC Highways and they did not perceive an overgrown vegetation issue. However Council felt the issue was further along Hartle Lane. Cllr. May said the area would be assessed again.

176/18 Belbroughton Scarecrow Weekend

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

The invited representative of the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee informed the Council that the 2018 event would not be taking place. This was largely due to the disappointing 2017 event – caused by very poor weather – and the requirement for a significant underwriting (circa £30,000) of the weekend should it have continued at the same size as in the most recent years. It was hoped that in future a smaller more community based event could be set up from 2019, although this would require involvement of fresh residents joining an organising committee. There had been no requests to him for financial help from the local organisations that the event had previously supported. Council thanked the representative for his time and noted the cancellation of the event and the representative's comments.

177/18 'Smartwater'

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

Council noted a report circulated by Cllr. Jones.

Council approved the provision of 'Smartwater' kits free to residents in the Fairfield ward but subject to the Council being satisfied that the distribution of kits could be handled successfully, which would require the involvement of volunteer groups and individuals. Fairfield councillors will assess the logistics, including discussion with the Fairfield Community Association and return with a recommendation to a future Council on whether the project should proceed. In addition there would need to be certainty that the scheme could be made available to the electoral wards separately. Council agreed to be bound by the future recommendation from Fairfield Cllrs.

Council deferred a decision for the provision for Belbroughton ward residents until the outcome of the Fairfield distribution, if approved, had been assessed.

Action: Cllrs. Jones and Mabbett to consider the Fairfield ward distribution processes and Fairfield Cllrs. would present a recommendation to the July Council.

Cllr. S MacDonald left the meeting.

178/18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/18.

179/18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

Council approved the accounting statements for 2017/18.

The Chairman thanked the clerk for his work on the year end procedures.

180/18 Fairfield War Memorial

Cllr. Jones informed Council that the Fairfield Memorial had had some initial cleaning carried out by the Fairfield Community Association but there remained work to be completed. Cllr. Mabbett advised that the F.C.A. were looking to use a pressure hose under advice taken from a war memorials advisory body. If necessary Cllr. Jones would return to council with a request to consider further assistance for the volunteers and also would clarify the activities involved to complete the works.

181/18 Bromsgrove District Council Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation

Council noted a report from Cllr Morgan.

- a. Council approved the paper, excepting the clause on hand delivered newsletters, including hosting two events in September – one in each of the parish wards - where the District Council would showcase its initial plans and also request residents' views on future development in the District. Council noted that by the early autumn the District Council will be looking to have in place its parameters for reviewing the shortfall in development land for housing.
- b. Council approved by 7 votes in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention to devote special effort to the communication of the consultation.
- c. Council deferred deciding on the precise communication strategy for the consultation meetings, it would assess the promotional support said to be available from the District Council and consider the matter again at the July Council.

182/18 Council Annual Report

Council noted that this issue would be a digital production excepting for those residents whom had specifically requested a paper copy. Council agreed that the format and content would be left to the Chairman and the Chairmen of the Council Committees. The July Council would consider the document before its production.

Action: the Chairman, and Chairmen of the Committees to forward content to the clerk.

183/18 General Data Protection Regulations

Council noted and approved adoption of the new Privacy Notices and e mail database consent form.

184/18 Standing Orders 2018

Council noted and approved New Model Standing Orders.

185/18 Councillors' Items

Cllr. Mabbett following a meeting held with C.Cllr. Webb and Richard Clewer from W.C.C. Highways, updated Council on various traffic matters:

1. Speed monitoring strips both in Fairfield and District wide are to be put in place and stakeholders will be called together in August / September to assess the data collected.

2. Mr Clewer is to progress the dropped kerbs for Stourbridge Rd.
3. Paint is to be used by WCC to mark out hatched areas as a traffic calming measure.
4. Speed camera digital displays – the WCC policy is for these not to be ‘hard wired’ but battery / solar powered would be considered.

Cllr. Mabbett questioned who assessed the updating / reassessment of road signs – C.Cllr May informed council that this was a District Council responsibility.

Cllr. Mabbett felt that the redundant Notice boards in Fairfield should now be removed.

Cllr. Mabbett wished to record the excellent repainting of the bench at Bournheath Rd.

The Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.

Signed Chairman

DRAFT