

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 26th JUNE 2023, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD FIRST SCHOOL**

PRESENT: Cllr. Allington, Cllr. E Davies, Cllr. S Davies, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Morris, Cllr. Nock and Cllr. Pawley

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

426/23 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Pawley and reason 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.

427/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Gibbs declared an Other Disclosable Interest on agenda item 18.1, Fairfield Villa due to the proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

Cllr. Wilkes declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on agenda item 18.1, Fairfield Villa due to a Housing Needs Survey conducted on land adjacent to the Recreation Ground.

428/23 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Rawinder Hardeman as a Parish Council and she duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

429/23 – DISPENSATIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to grant Cllr. Gibbs a dispensation and **RESOLVED** not to grant Cllr. Wilkes a dispensation.

430/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023, and the Chairman duly signed them.

431/23 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Chairman’s Report – Had attended a meeting with Cllr. Allington, a resident and Clerk to discuss the future of Little Bell Hall Pool. Clerk has arranged a meeting with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and following the meeting recommendations will be brought back to Full Council.

Planning Committee Meeting

Minutes had been circulated and no further comments made.

Finance Committee Meeting

Minutes had been circulated and no further comments made.

432/23 – TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to: -

- Agree the payments made in June.
- Note that following advice received from NALC/CALC to confirm that the Parish Council has no powers to grant any maintenance grant to Belbroughton Church.

433/23 – INTERNAL AUDIT

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the report from the Internal Auditor for 2022/23 with no actions arising from the report.

434/23 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/23

Councillors reviewed S1 AGAR, the Annual Governance Statement which had been issued in advance of the meeting and responded 'YES' to each of the first eight assertions, 'N/A' to the ninth assertion. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk sign.

435/23 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2022/23

Councillors reviewed S2 AGAR, the Accounting Statements 2022/23 which had been circulated as part of the agenda. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Clerk/RFO sign.

436/23 – FAIRFIELD RECREATION GROUND

Public consultation with regards changes to Fairfield Recreation Ground – A statement of purpose was agreed in November 2022 for Fairfield Recreation Ground, namely: - *The Recreation Ground should primarily be a multi-purpose green space for the residents of the Parish for the pursuit of leisure and recreation activities. The Parish Council wishes to ensure that this local recreation space is used and facilitated by and with, local people to ensure it meets the health and well-being needs and outcomes of the local population thereby promoting good health and well-being for residents in the locality of Fairfield which is both sustainable and reduces pollution by emissions or noise. It is recognised that there is a local demand for green spaces for a range of sporting and other activities which may involve both short term and long-term hire arrangements. Use by other organisations is also acknowledged and will be considered on merit and availability.*

To take these aspirations forward it was agreed for a public consultation to take place with residents with regards the proposed changes to the Recreation Ground at various community events. This feedback can then be used to secure grant funding for the proposed changes.

Fairfield Community Shop Working Group – a full Business Plan/Costings to be provided to Finance Committee to be considered further.

It was agreed that Cllr's. E Davies and S Davies join the Fairfield Community Shop Working Group.

Cllr. Allington left the meeting.

437/23 – WILDMOOR QUARRY

A planning application is expected December 2023/January 2024. There is a local Working Party set up to deal with the proposed application. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree a sum of £150.00 to produce a factual leaflet from the Parish Council to make residents aware a planning application is imminent. The local Working Party are looking at setting up a public consultation meeting. A website has also been set-up by Fairfield Communication Association stopthequarry@fvca.org.uk

438/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S

Cllr. May

- Thank you to everyone who voted for me. There were only fifty-four votes cast in Fairfield. It is essential you vote for your local councillors and not consider national party politics. This motivates District Councillors to campaign and work on your behalf.
- Honoured to again have been elected Leader of the Council.
- The Greenbelt Review has been pushed back due to no infrastructure included.
- The District Plan is still work in progress.
- Bromsgrove District Housing Trust are having capacity issues with regards grass cutting but I am pushing in this regard as social housing need to feel part of the community.
- Discussions are taking place around housing with 2,500 people on the housing waiting list. There are options of downsizing elderly people into smaller properties.
- The burglar alarm has been going off at The Queens and police and fire have checked the site. I am approaching the company who own the site to ask what their intentions are.

Cllr. Nock

- Been extremely busy attending District Council training courses.
- Have been appointed Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee will be looking at how the Council is governed and whether to move from a Cabinet Structure at Bromsgrove to a Committee's Structure. This is due to Bromsgrove having no overall political control with 11 Conservative, 8 Labour, 7 Independent and 5 Liberal Democrat Councillors. There are advantages and disadvantages to both systems. Have also been appointed to the Audit Committee.

439 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S

Cllr. Webb

- Elected as Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.
- Having trouble finding a replacement VAS sign for Swan Lane as they have now changed to LED. Intention is to wait until it needs replacing then install a replacement LED sign. The existing sign will be relocated so it has a clearer view away from the trees.
- **Wildmoor Quarry** – attended a meeting with Wildmoor Residents association and an application is expected December 2023/January 2024. Need to be away of travellers and make sure all gates are keep locked to avoid any anti-social behaviour. The proposed application will take away our buffer zone and urge everyone to work together and step up to fight the application.

Cllr. May

- Hackmans Gate Lane – all drains have now been cleared following the road closure.
- My divisional fund will this year be spent on VAS signs as speeding is a main priority.
- Pinches four quarry could go to consultation in the next 4-6 weeks, although this comes under Bournheath Parish would appreciate the Parish Council's support.

440/23 – CLERK’S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

- It was agreed for Cllr. Wilkes to produce a statement with regards Wildmoor Quarry.

441/23 – REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. S Davies – bus shelter Wood Lane is in dangerous need of repair. District Cllr. Nock to report to District.

Cllr. Knight – thank you for sorting anti-social behaviour at Belbroughton Sawmill.

Cllr. Knight – thank you for arranging for Maintenance to cut back the footpath from Belbroughton Recreation Ground to the school.

Cllr. Knight – received numerous complaints about large lorries coming through the parish.

Cllr. Gibbs – could we install another bin in Fairfield Recreation ground and remove the old bin in the play area. Clerk to instruct Maintenance and place on Finance Agenda.

Cllr. Wilkes – residents may wish to purchase a memorial bench for Fairfield Recreation Ground. Clerk to include an article in the Parish Magazine.

442/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 4th September 2023, 7.00pm at Fairfield First School.

Cllr. Wilkes left the meeting.

443/23 – FAIRFIELD VILLA LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to agree that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the above item on the basis that the information disclosed will be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business transacted.

Sporting sessions to take place in the period 1st August to 30th April – it was **RESOLVED** to agree this amendment to the Notice of Intent.

The meeting was deferred and an Extra-Ordinary Meeting to be held on Monday 3rd July 2023.

The meeting closed at 21.40pm

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

Signed