

## Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at The Fairfield First School on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

**Present:** Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, J Bradley, A Homer, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell.  
Clerk, J Farrell. Four members of the public.

**101/19 Apologies** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. S Nock. Apologies had also been received from C.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.

**102/19 Declarations of Interest** None. **103/19 Dispensations** None.

### 104/19 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.  
The Chairman then signed the minute book.

### 105/19 Reports

#### *Chairman's report:*

Cllr. Bradley expressed thanks to Cllr. Allington and all who took part in the litter pick on 24<sup>th</sup> March. He also noted that litter picks were carried out regularly in Fairfield and he wished to record thanks to the Community Association who organised these.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Cllr. Scurrrell wished to thank all members who had taken part in the meetings in the last year.

*Financial Committee report:* Council noted the draft minutes of the committee meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. . Cllr. Mabbett wished to thank all members who had taken part in the meetings in the last year.

#### *Clerk's Report:*

1. **May Election:** - A reminder that the receipt of nominations at the District Council closes 4.00pm on Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
2. **The Green Belbroughton:** - As recorded previously the cypress trees have been removed, the stumps however remain to be ground out by the contractor. The Working Group led by Cllr. Pawley will convene a meeting shortly to discuss the next phase of changes to the site.
3. **Little Bell Hall Pool:** - The contractors have completed their 5 day 'tidy up' of the site. Meetings arranged this week with –
  - a. Civil engineer to assess pool restoration processes, to include cost estimates of a site survey and any construction works. ( clerk and Cllr. Morgan)
  - b. Rospa – to assess fresh cautionary signage for the site. (clerk and Cllr. Morgan).
  - c. Working Group to review the site 'tidy up' and consider further actions and, assessment of the future options for the whole site.

4. **New bench at Dark Lane, Belbroughton** – This item funded by a resident, has been ordered following receipt of monies.
5. **Fortis Living:** Following the March Council, there has been no further communication from the charity concerning its desire to apply to the District Council for a 'Rural Exception Site' in Fairfield for affordable housing.
6. **Parish Council Grant Applications:** These need to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> May, to date none have come through.
7. **Road works Belbroughton High St. 15<sup>th</sup> April:** W.C.C. have now advised that rather than using all 12 days allocated, the work to 'patch' will be done in just 1 or 2 days. They have not said which days however. Signage will arrive shortly.
8. **Wildmoor Residents Association:** Advance notice that the Association's A.G.M. is 7.30pm 5<sup>th</sup> June at Fairfield Village Hall - John Campion, the West Mercia Crime Commissioner is the guest speaker.

*County Cllrs. Report:* No report.

#### **106/19 'Smartwater'**

- a. Cllr. Mabbett issued a report to Council:-

##### ***Distribution***

*Distribution of kits in the Fairfield Ward commenced in September 2018. The first collection session was on the evening of Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September in Fairfield Village Hall followed by another session in the Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. This was followed by some mop-up session on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> September. A further 'door-knocking' session took place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November. There were also other dates when the kits were made available for collection from the Village Hall. Residents also had the option to email or telephone for a home delivery. The process was preceded by various promotions conducted by the Fairfield Village Community Association (FVCA) and Wildmoor Residents Association (WRA) together with the Parish Council which used the PC website, the PC e-mail database and the Parish Mag as further media for promoting awareness.*

*The distribution was largely conducted by Volunteers but local councillors, the PC Clerk, PC Barney Kelso & David Richmiller (North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership) were also involved. Initial assistance with the registration process was also given by members of the 'We Don't Buy Any Crime' team. Unfortunately help from the Police Cadets did not materialise.*

*The process was straight forward with the registration of kits to households being through the utilisation of an 'App'. The eligibility of residents for a kit was checked using a register of households in the Ward. The Smartwater team lent some notepads which could be used in the registration process for the duration of the initial distribution sessions. Thereafter, the registration was by means of a dedicated App on the smartphones of volunteers.*

##### ***Rollout***

*To date, 226 kits have been issued which covers 56.5% of dwellings in the ward. 16 dwellings have declined a kit for a variety of reasons – simply do not want one or they may have already received a kit as a result of a burglary.*

*Articles have appeared in the Winter and Spring FVCA newsletters and in the Church Magazine. It has also been mentioned on social media.*

*To help build a relationship with dwellings outside of Fairfield village and Stoneybridge, the aim is to deliver the Spring newsletters to properties elsewhere in the ward (e.g. Wildmoor, Harbours Hill, Warbage Lane). Unfortunately, due to funding, there will not be enough to deliver to properties on Money Lane, Malthouse Lane and Chadwich. It is hoped that when the weather improves and the evenings are longer there will be further mop-up operations. New residents will also be targeted and offered a kit. The FVCA volunteers have put in a lot of hard work put and are committed to rolling out SmartWater property kits whenever the opportunity arises and stressing the benefits of having a "SmartWater community". It will take longer than anticipated to achieve the desired target of 75% but progress has been extremely good when compared to rollouts in other villages in the county.*

Council thanked Cllr. Mabbett for leading the project for the Council.

- b. Council deferred a decision to the new Council on whether or not to set up a Smartwater scheme in the Belbroughton ward. Council noted that Belbroughton was probably the only area locally not in a scheme but that there would need to be a suitable pool of volunteers to progress it. It also noted that there was not a 'Community Association' or similar as is the case in Fairfield. Council agreed that through social media it would seek interest from individuals and consider the matter again in due course.

#### **107/19 Fairfield Recreation Ground**

Council noted the two quotations received for the surface repairs at the play area. It agreed the quotation from Wicksteeds should be accepted unless the third quote when received was offering better value than that company had quoted.

**Action:** the clerk would assess the quotes and report back to the Finance Committee.

#### **108/19 Operation 'Londonbridge' and others**

Council noted a presentation regarding possible actions to take in respect of the death of a national figure. Council approved the purchase of two condolences books and agreed that the clerk would produce a 'Council Policy' in conjunction with discussions with Cllrs. Mabbett & Pawley.

Council also approved the purchase of a further set of union flags for Fairfield ward, Cllr. Ingram will hold these.

**Action:** The clerk to arrange the purchases and will produce a policy for consideration.

#### **109/19 Worcs. C. Council - Chief Executive's Visit**

Council agreed that items to be covered during his visit on 3<sup>rd</sup> June should include:-

- Channels of communication.
- Prioritisation of choices.
- Assisting the funding of F.E.F.C. courses.

As the meeting is a public meeting further items may be added prior to and at the meeting itself by members and the public.

Council agreed that the venue for the June Council meeting would be the Fairfield First School since the Belbroughton venue was too small to accommodate any sizeable public presence.

**Action:** the clerk will advise the Chief Exec. of the format and a steer on the questioning.

#### **110/19 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman detailed the agenda for the evening, the council was content with this. He advised that the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee may speak at the Open Forum item.

Council agreed to invite representation from the Fairfield First School since the proposed expansion of the school may be brought up by residents in the Open Forum.

**111/19 Councillors' Items**

Cllr. Parsons wished a future council to consider investigating a specific land purchase in Fairfield.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the Belbroughton gardener plants up the Hartle Lane entrance to village. Also the Lengthsman should spray the relevant footways in Belbroughton.

**Action:** The clerk to instruct the contractors.

Cllr. Pawley thanked the members of the Planning Committee who would be retiring from the Council at the May election.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the proposed Fairfield Recreation Ground car park extension was put onto a future /council agenda.

Cllr. Margetts requested an update on the County Council's commitment to provide an area of hardstanding for use by the Community Safety Partnership.

**Action:** the clerk to chase W.C.C.

Cllr. Bradley requested that the rockery at the Belbroughton war memorial required attention by the gardener.

**Action:** the clerk to instruct the contractor.

**112/19 Lengthsman Scheme**

The members of the public left the room during this item due to its confidential nature and commercial sensitivity.

Council approved an increase in the contacting hourly rate for the Lengthsman role to £13.50 per hour for the next financial year.

**113/19** The Chairman, Cllr. Bradley advised that after thirteen years as a councillor this was his final Council meeting. He commented :- *" Councillors chose to play their part in making a very appealing area to live that bit better. Whatever disagreements we had stemmed from different perceptions of what was genuinely for the best. Over 13 years he felt the Council had achieved much despite the constraints. Traffic in both villages had grown inexorably, as elsewhere, but harmful effects had been mitigated. The Council's own land and the footpaths had been well-looked after to allow many to enjoy the countryside on our doorstep. Quarry developments had been the most contentious planning issues. Meanwhile, as in 2008, we were waiting on the next iteration of Bromsgrove's Plan to decide whether to develop our own Neighbourhood Plan. Happily, the distrust between Fairfield and Belbroughton that had almost led the Council to split some years ago had been replaced by an atmosphere of co-operation. Finally, he noted that the Council was in the fortunate position of having funding, including its assets, that was generous for its needs. He was glad that so many councillors had chosen to stand for re-election, thanked all for their efforts over the years, especially successive clerks and those who, like him, were standing down, and hoped that those who were continuing would enjoy deciding how best to spend the Council's money constructively."*

**The meeting was closed at 9.30pm**

Signed ..... Chairman