

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Fairfield First School on Monday 4th July 2016.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, J Bradley, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, P Margetts, R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk. 7 members of the public also attended.

209/16 Apologies – none

The Meeting was then adjourned for an ‘Open Surgery’ period for members of the public to discuss issues with the Council.

The meeting was then re-opened.

210/16 Declarations of Interest None **211/16 Dispensations:** None requested.

212/16 Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the annual Parish Meeting on 9th May 2016.

Council approved the following alterations to the draft minutes of 6th June 2016 and then approved those minutes:-

- a. The Chairman’s report was amended to remove the wording ‘The Council would raise awareness.’, since the Council had not considered an agenda item to do so.
- b. Minute 181/16 Smartwater - Amendment - Cllr. MacDonald although offering to supply observations on the subject was not to be part of the ‘Working Group’.
- c. Minute 182/16 Parish Room, Belbroughton - Addition - Council noted that should the current tenant approach the Council for a reference then this request would be considered by the full Council.

213/16 Reports

Chairman’s Report: Cllr. Roberts congratulated all those involved in the Queen’s 90th Birthday celebration events in Belbroughton and Fairfield. He specifically thanked Cllr. Sue Pawley for the co-ordinating work with the Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee.

Planning Committee: Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 20th June 2016. Cllr. Jones advised that the proposed meeting with the District Council planning dept. dealing with enforcement issues had taken place 29th June. It had been very useful in raising awareness of procedures and also giving the opportunity to discuss specific cases. A further meeting with the planning officers would take place in 6 months time.

Finance Committee Council noted the minutes of the meeting of 20th June 2016. Cllr. Bradley confirmed that at the meeting the Committee had agreed a motion to consider actions in respect of the issues at Little Bell Hall Pool dam including the commissioning of a report.

Clerk’s Report:

1.The Green Belbroughton – The council’s solicitor advises that their litigation team have written to the Developer’s solicitors seeking the legal fees due from the developer. The lawyers have confirmed that this action is at no cost to the Parish Council. The Parish Council has had no contact from the Developer either directly or through the solicitors and therefore has no indication as to his intentions regarding the former jewelry factory site.

2.The Grants working group has held its first meeting and is seeking further information from some of the applicants. It will meet again in the coming 2 weeks to prepare its recommendations.

3. I will be seeking input from the County Council concerning current farm business tenancy rents levels for comparison purposes for the Council to consider since it requires to give 12 months notice from 30th Sept 2016 to its tenants of the result of the rental review.

4.A reminder of the Police and Communities Together (P.A.C.T.) meeting for the Fairfield ward being held 20th July 7.00 pm at Fairfield Village Hall. This is a shared meeting with Bournheath, Dodford and Catshill & Marlbrook Parish Councils. The Police will have Inspector Sarah Corteen and P.C. Barney Kelso in attendance. Fairfield W.I have agreed to supply refreshments.

5. Finance -the term investments – 2 years fixed 1.65% p.a. with Hampshire Trust Bank £25,000, and 3 years fixed 2.05% p.a. with Bank of Cyprus Bank U.K. £70,000 had been successfully set up.

214/16 Co-option of new councillor for Fairfield Ward

Mr Gerald Ingram was co-opted onto the Council and he completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and undertaking to observe the Code of Conduct. He then took his place on the Council. The Chairman welcomed him to the Council.

Action: the clerk to inform BDC and amend records.

215/16 Veolia PLC – Sandy Lane Planning Application Ref 13/000027/CM

Council approved the letter of objection recommended by the Working Group. The Chairman thanked those on the Working Group and praised the input from the planning consultant.

Council agreed that it would discuss other issues related to the planning application.

Council approved Cllr. Boswell informing the local press of the council's position as outlined in both the letter of objection and the previously issued flyer.

Action: the clerk to forward the letter of objection to the W.C.C. Senior Planning Officer.

216/16 Defibrillator

Cllr Roberts advised Council that the unit was now installed on the wall adjacent to the Talbot Public House, High St. Belbroughton and had been registered with both the National and West Midlands Ambulance Services. There had been 8 individuals expressing interest in training on its use.

Council approved spending £300 for the promotion and holding of training events. A suitably qualified trainer would be sought as Council felt this was preferable to relying purely on the package of training materials supplied with the unit.

Council approved enquiring of the Fairfield Villa Football Club the public availability to their defibrillator and if there was access, then to offer a similar training budget for Fairfield ward residents.

Council approved advising the Belbroughton Cricket Club of the details of the type of unit now owned since that organisation which was considering its own unit may wish to synchronise the types available in the village.

Council approved Cllrs. Bradley, Pawley and Roberts as monitors of the defibrillator, a formal register of checks undertaken would be required.

Action: the clerk to progress above working with Cllr. Roberts.

217/16 Fairfield Recreation Ground

Cllrs Jones and Mabbett advised council that children at the Fairfield First School and the Fairfield Community Association had raised issues over the car park at the recreation ground including the painting of white lines, pot holes and possible extension of the car park.

a. Council approved the filling of potholes on the car parking area. Council declined to implement the painting of white lines on the car parking area in view of the likely costs, illustrated by a quotation of £520.00 obtained by Cllr. Mabbett, and, that it felt that the lining would probably not improve the parking of vehicles. It approved writing a further letter of thanks to the Fairfield First School children who had written requested the white lining, informing them of the council decision.

b. Council approved a motion by twelve votes to two votes to assess the costs of potentially providing an additional 10 car parking spaces.

Action: Fairfield Cllrs. and the clerk to implement pot hole repairs and investigate extension costings.

218/16 Little Bell Hall Pool, Belbroughton

a. Council noted that following the appearance of a 'sink hole' of circa 1.5 metres depth on the dam adjacent to the sluice gate the area had been fenced off and the Environment Agency (N Worcs Rivers Auth.), the County and District Councils had been informed. All agencies were happy that the Council utilises its own surveyors to assess the position and consider repairs. The Council was employing the services of Mr M Collins, who had previously advised the council on the site, to produce a report on the dams condition and detail options. The initial visit by the surveyor revealed that along with the 'sink hole' there were at least two leaks where water was entering the brickwork in the culvert beyond the sluice gate. The pool had been subsequently been drained temporarily as a health and safety measure.

b. Council deferred considering the options for the structures as it awaited the receipt of the surveyors report. Council however agreed that the sluice gate could be lowered to prevent the possible incidence of a child entering the area behind the sluice gate notwithstanding the taping off of the site. This would still allow full flow of the stream under normal conditions without creating a pool, however if there was excessive rainfall, conditions would be monitored by Cllr. Margetts and the gate raised temporarily if required to allow additional water to pass.

Council also approved seeking a repair to a trash screen situated on the overflow which was felt to be poorly secured.

219/16 Parish Room, Belbroughton

Council noted that the former tenant had vacated the premises following the expiry of the lease on 30th June 2016. She had left the property in good condition and the clerk would enact the return of the tenants rent deposit under the terms of the lease. Council awaited the receipt of the new applicants' business plans for consideration. These had been delayed due to the agent acting at Walton and Hipkiss being hospitalised but were expected very shortly. They would be considered by the 'Working Group' which will then produce its recommendations to Council. Council noted that Cllrs. Bradley, Pawley and Roberts would periodically check the premises pending the occupation by the new tenant.

220/16 Council's Annual Report.

Council agreed that the report should now be considered at the August Council and members approved that although it was a report for the year to 31st March it should contain inputs on the current Veolia planning application, the Queen's 90th Birthday events, the Severn Trent water pipeline, the defibrillator and The Green Belbroughton along with the usual Chairman's and Finance and Planning Committee Chairs' summaries.

Action: the clerk would produce the report for Council consideration using members' inputs and requests.

221/16 Councillor items

Cllr. Scurrell informed Council that learners from Fairfield First School had enjoyed a visit to Badgers Copse and he recommended the site to members and the public.

Cllr. Parsons was concerned that an increase in the Fairfield First School numbers had not been advised to the general public and wished this matter to be placed on a future council agenda.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that overhanging tree branches in Brooke Road Fairfield required attention.

Action: the clerk to advise WCC Highways

Cllr. Mabbett requested that a future Council considered the production of a standard letter to be available to issue to people who park in an inconsiderate manner.

Cllr. Boswell requested that overhanging branches in Hartle Lane Belbroughton required attention.

Action: the clerk to advise WCC Highways.

Cllr. Roberts read a statement: " When I became chair of your Parish council I felt that it was both full of conflict and tribal. During tonight's meeting I was delighted at the spirit of cooperation and understanding which I saw. When I took the position I decided if I was chair I wanted to encourage a more inclusive attitude and do the job to my best capability. I believe I have succeeded in the former and I leave it to others to comment on the latter.

I have found the job rewarding but very demanding in time, commitment and emotional energy.

Over the last few months I have come to question if I am able to commit particularly the emotional energy to carry out the task to my satisfaction. After long and difficult consideration I have come to the conclusion that I am not and I have decided to step down as Chair.

I would like to thank all the councillors for their support and hard work. I think the public often do not recognise the work and commitment you all make to our community.

I would like to thank John for his help, wise council, mentoring and friendship. I certainly could not have done the job without him.

I wish my successor well, a new pair of hands will give the council a new perspective. I will remain a member of the council and give my full support and any assistance to my successor. "

The Meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed **Chairman**