

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held by video conference on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

Present: Cllrs. B Allington, J Boswell, S Danks, A Hood, G Ingram, A Mabbett, Dr R Morgan, S Nock and S Patchell. Clerk J Farrell. 1 member of the public.  
County & District Cllrs. K May and S Webb.

### **323/20 Apologies**

Apologies had been received and were accepted from Cllrs. G Parsons and S Pawley.

**324/20 Declarations of Interest** None. **325/20 Dispensations** None.

### **326/20 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

### **327/20 Reports**

#### *Chairman's report:*

Cllr. Morgan advised that he had received many positive comments following the food voucher donations made to children and families via the primary schools.

He thanked Cllr. Mabbett for his work on this.

Further to an enquiry from Cllr. Allington, Cllr. Morgan advised that there had been miscommunication regarding the Remembrance Services leading to neither of the P.C.'s wreaths being laid since the British Legion, due to Covid-19, had advised the councillors not to attend. However, other organisations had attended the ceremonies and laid wreaths.

#### *Planning Committee report:*

Cllr Danks advised that he was not surprised at the appeal being upheld regarding a planning application 'Wayside, Third Road, Wildmoor.' which the District council had refused. D.Cllr. May advised that she look into the planning officer's actions on processing that application.

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### *Financial Committee report:*

Council noted the draft minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### *Clerk's Report:*

1. Requests for tenders for the 2021 grass cutting and villages upkeep contract were sent out 18th November to interested contractors with a 31<sup>st</sup> December deadline for responses. The Finance Committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January will consider these.
2. Health & Safety Tree work: one quote received two awaited.
3. Covid-19 assistance: Food vouchers to value of £1,000 have been delivered to the two primary schools who will distribute to children's families as they feel appropriate. Also, the £500 donation has been made to the Bromsgrove Community Hub.
4. The Belbroughton sign has been repaired and re-installed. (Both the B.D.C. and W.C.C. have advised that no permissions would be required should the sign, at a future date, be relocated onto the P.C. land opposite.).

5. A new dog waste bin has been ordered and is due to be placed at Woodcote Lane, where the public footpath enters Nutnells Wood.
6. The Green, Belbroughton: Benches are ready to be ordered once we have the installation contractor's timescale for his availability. The benches being replaced will be stored at a councillor's home prior to repairs and relocation in the village. Mill stones – these are now to be moved from the Church Hall site onto The Green by Mr Nigel Williamson. The Working group to meet the contractor to give him the precise locations.
7. The 'green' bus shelter in Fairfield on Stourbridge Rd. near the Wood Lane junction needs attention and a quote is being sought for replacing two metal panels and the perspex screens.
8. The Christmas tree for the outside of Fairfield Village Hall has been delivered by Singletons and then 'dressed' by volunteers. The Belbroughton tree lights have been switched on.
9. Lighting columns replacements: We await W.C.C. confirmation of final costs involved in this work – specifically the road closure costs which were omitted from the original schedule supplied to us.
10. Bromsgrove Area Calc: A reminder the next quarterly meeting is 9th December 2020 at 6.30pm. via video link.

#### *County and District Councillors reports:*

##### **Cllr. Webb advised:**

a. The Yew Tree Lane, Fairfield - the dropped kerbs did not go in during the recent preparatory works on site due to the adjacent hedging being deemed a safety risk because of its height. The hedge is expected to be removed in the New Year and contractors will then return to complete the dropped kerbs installation.

b. The Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on the entrance to Fairfield from the Stoneybridge island was due to start its six week consultation process. Provided there were no objections this should come into force by the end of January 2021.

She also thanked the Parish Council for the food vouchers donations and the grant paid to the Community hub.

##### **Cllr. May advised:**

a. The District Council was investigating the purchase of mobile cameras to be used at prevalent fly tipping sites which would assist in providing evidence to bring criminal proceedings against illegal dumping.

b. Parking on green spaces in Hartle Lane, Belbroughton remains under investigation by the District officer.

c. Gorse Green Lane, W.C.C. Highways would be carrying out exploratory work to improve the road surface.

### Covid – Update

With the vaccine due to be available shortly it is vital that as many people as possible take this up. A vaccine centre is to be set up at the former Artrix Centre building, and this will cater for North Worcestershire residents

Current cases per 100k population:-

Bromsgrove 119 (a 31% drop in a week), Malvern 69, Redditch 169, Wychavon 73, Worcs. City 78, Wyre Forest 100. Overall County position 99.

‘Natural flow testing’ is in place at Worcester University, this may be extended to a Redditch site.

No further action was to be taken by police over an alleged breach of Covid-19 regulations during the District Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

She thanked the Parish Council for its support during the year.

The Chairman thanked both councillors for their close involvement with parish matters over the last 12 months.

### **328/20 Council Budget and Precept 2021/22**

- a. Council approved unanimously the budget recommendations of the Finance Committee.
- b. Council approved unanimously the Precept for the next financial year, retaining this at £65,000. In accordance with procedures the Council is able to amend this decision at the January Council if desired.

### **329/20 Belbroughton Recreation Centre - Playground**

- a. Council noted that the project fund managers had to date raised a total of £90,000 funding towards the improvements project at the Recreation Ground.
- b. Council confirmed the release of the previously approved grant of £20,000 towards the project which was conditional upon seeing formal confirmation that £20,000 of ‘matched funding’ was in place.

### **330/20 The Deli, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton**

Council agreed by 8 votes in favour to 1 vote against that due to commercial sensitivity the agenda item should be discussed without members of the public present and also to delegate a decision on this agenda item to the Finance Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **331/20 C.C.T.V. Belbroughton – Village Shop**

Council was advised by C.Cllr. May that she had sought assistance from the Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion and is now arranging an onsite meeting with the police - David Rischmiller, the Rural and Business Crime Co-ordinator, Community Safety Partnership. He will be looking at strategic options for deterrents bearing in mind the many entrance points to the village. One option may be the provision of C.C.T.V. and Cllr. May is appreciative of the offers by local businesses to potentially mount cameras. There will be an assessment of what further measures could be taken at the shop itself. The findings would of course be discussed with McColls. Mr. Rischmiller would ensure that measures taken would be compliant with the law and thus any future evidence gathered is 'safe' to use.

Council agreed to await the outcome of this meeting and then consider its next actions.

### **332/20 Traffic and Parking – Fairfield**

Cllr. Mabbett following prior enquiry at the November Council advised that the carpark at Fairfield Village Hall could not be used for Fairfield First School children's drop off and pick up as it was let out to other parties and those hirings included the carpark usage. He further advised that previously the school's Head Teacher having witnessed the vehicle movements at the Village Hall had felt its use to be inappropriate and potentially dangerous to pupils.

a. Council approved requesting clarification from W.C.C. following its decisions to turn down its recent two request for parking restrictions by enquiring as to whom makes these decisions, the criteria used and the evidences.

**Action:** The clerk to contact W.C.C.

D.Cllr. May advised that the recently appointed parking enforcement officer will be asked to visit Stourbridge Rd.

b. Council agreed in principle to replace the current visual speed warning signs with speed numeric display units.

**Action:** The clerk will seek unit costs.

c. Council agreed in principle to installing verge protector posts on the corner of Bournheath Road and Brook Road, Fairfield.

**Action:** C.Cllr. Webb offered to research installation of plastic protectors.

### **333/20 Pepper Wood**

a. Council noted the Woodland Trust's appeal to raise funds to purchase land adjacent to Pepper Wood of some 120 acres to establish a new woodland landscape.

b. Council deferred a decision on making a donation until the scheme was more advanced.

**Action:** Cllr Patchell would monitor the campaign and report back to a future Council meeting.

**92.**

### **334/20 Broadband - improvements**

Council deferred a decision on acting as a 'Community Lead' for a F.T.T.P. (Fibre To The Property) scheme since C.Cllr May advised that she would investigate and report back on current options available with B.T. Outreach and the County Council for exchanges 01562 and for Wildmoor exchanges 0121.

She advised that 01527 exchange numbers were due a Broadband upgrade imminently. C.Cllr. May would also address a resident's specific enquiry on the position.

### **335/20 Fairfield Recreation Ground**

Council noted that there required to be definitive improvement plans for the site, covering the drainage, carparking, the orchard and millennium garden.

It approved seeking residents' views by holding a virtual meeting at 6.30pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The Working Group would then develop three options for consideration by the full council.

**Action:** the clerk to book the Zoom time and advertise the access.

### **336/20 Councillors' Items**

Cllr. Nock advised that the pavement on Church Road, Belbroughton required attention.

**Action:** C.Cllr. May agreed to look at the issue after being supplied with photographs.

Cllr Patchell advised that a large number of drains were blocked in Belbroughton.

**Action:** Cllr. Patchell would report to the W.C.C. Hub.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

To be Confirmed by future recorded Council Minute.