

Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Jubilee Room Belbroughton Recreation Centre on Monday 4th January 2016.

Present: Cllrs. D Roberts (Chairman), J Boswell, J Bradley, T Jones, A Mabbett, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and C Scurrall. In attendance: J Farrell Clerk.

County Cllr. R. Jenkins and District Cllr. M.Sherrey. 2 members of the public also attended.

008/16 Apologies had been received from Cllr. Hood, on holiday, Cllr. MacDonald, family commitments and Cllr. McFarling, work commitment.

009/16 Declarations of Interest: None.

010/16 Dispensations: None requested.

The Meeting was then adjourned for members of the public to speak on any matter of concern relating to the agenda or for future discussion.

The meeting was re-opened.

011/16 Minutes

The minutes of the council meeting held 7th December were approved and signed by the Chairman.

012/16 Reports

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Roberts wished all attending a Happy New Year and reported that he had received many positive comments from residents on the new Christmas lights in Belbroughton. He thanked Cllr. Pawley for progressing the project to its successful conclusion.

Planning Committee:

Cllr. Scurrall advised that following the agreement of the District Council to extend the deadline for a response on planning application 15/1005 it had been considered again at the meeting held earlier this evening. The decision of the Committee, after a vote, remained that it objected to the application as it was 'over development' in the Green Belt. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting on 14th December 2015.

Finance Committee:

Cllr. Bradley advised that reports from the 3 Independent Financial Advisors were not available for this Council meeting but were expected by the next Finance Committee meeting on 18th January. Council agreed that the Committee should review the information and produce a commentary and recommendation for the full Council to consider on 1st February. He also emphasised the need to action the remaining Parish Projects and mentioned that the 'Working Group' on projects would meet in March to review progress and also to consider any new projects councillors wished to promote. Council noted the minutes of the committee meeting of 14th December 2015.

Clerk's Report:

Investments: The 3 I.F.A.s have been requested to produce illustrations of potential products for consideration. All have acknowledged but had requested awaiting into the New Year to come back with their reports.

Leaves - The District Council had been asked to clear certain footways in Belbroughton but responded by seeking a meeting to discuss what they have the capacity to do and when. To ensure the works are carried out promptly the Parish Council grass mowing contractor Greenaways had been instructed to deal with the sites and this job has now been completed.

2.

A '**Vegetation Survey**' close to the overhead power lines and pylons is in process of being carried out by National Grid over Parish Council land holdings.

Digital Engagement - The clerk and Cllr. Roberts will hear on 11th January from Rachel Tooth of Bromsgrove District Housing Trust regarding her proposals for setting up training sessions for older residents to gain computing skills, and will assess how the Parish Council may assist.

Hedges - Galtons Lane, Belbroughton - The hedge was cut by Worcestershire County Council on 23rd December after many months of both the P.C. and W.C.C. unsuccessfully requesting that the land owner carries out the work.

Superfast Broadband - 'Superfast Worcestershire' want to hear from businesses and residents if they cannot receive the 'Superfast' service. A response form is available via www.superfastworcestershire.com and should be submitted by 31st January 2016.

County Council Budget - The annual briefing for Voluntary and Community Sector groups & Parish & Town Councils will take place at County Hall, Worcester on Thursday, 21 January 2016 at 6.30p.m. This session will advise of the Council's proposals for 2016/17.

County Council Consultations. Present projects:

a. Children Centres Consultation To seek the views of parents, carers, providers, schools, stakeholders, partners and wider communities to tell them how these buildings can best be used in the future. Full details are contained together with a list of all Children's Centre buildings and a link to the on-line survey at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/childrenscentres

b. New 0-19 Service - A new 0-19 Prevention service for children, young people and families is to commence October 2016. Comments are requested on the proposed model and to help shape the final service specification, by email to demandmanagement@worcestershire.gov.uk by 29th January 2016.

c. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Comments are requested by 29th February 2016 on the draft strategy which is available at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/flooding

New P.C. Website There are currently technical issues around uploading of agendas and minutes. These should be rectified shortly either by our own workarounds or via the web provider.

District Cllr. M Sherrey Advised that the Government Grant to the District Council was to be cut by 50% for the 2016/17 year. A figure of 25% had been anticipated. Thus, the District Council was urgently revisiting its budget.

County Cllr. R Jenkins Advised that the Government Grant to the County Council was being reduced by 34% for the 2016/17 year. There would also be a 39% reduction in the funds available for the fire service.

013/16 Parish Council Precept 2016/17

Council approved a reduced Precept from £65,000 to £60,000 for the next financial year.

3.

014/16 Community Engagement

Council noted a paper prepared by Cllr. Morgan and approved setting up a 'Working Group' to produce procedures for consideration by Council on promoting and then actioning initiatives launched by the District Council and other outside bodies. Cllrs. Bradley, Mabbett, Morgan and Pawley would compose the new 'Working Group'.

Action: Cllr. Morgan would arrange the first meeting.

015/16 Parish Room Belbroughton

Council noted that a rental payment had been received on 3rd January, although the tenant remained in arrears.

Action: the clerk was to continue to seek the tenant's proposals for dealing with the arrears.

016/16 Ballast Phoenix Ltd - Veolia PLC – Incinerator Bottom Ash facility.

- a. Council noted that the planning application process would require seeking comments from local stakeholders and the public although County Cllr. S Blagg could not currently advise of the precise timing of this consultation.
- b. Council approved working jointly with adjacent parish councils and other stakeholders and, to seek to meet with these to ensure that the full details of the planning application are understood. Cllrs. Boswell, Jones, Morgan, Nock and Scurrrell would represent the Council at such meetings.

017/16 Annual Parish Meeting - 25th April 2016

Council agreed to retain the current format of the Annual Meeting and would invite the following to make presentations: The Police, (on crime prevention), Wildmoor Residents Association, Belbroughton Scarecrow Committee and Fairfield W.I. These along with the Fairfield Villa Football Club and Bromsgrove District Housing Trust – Digital Engagement Team, would also be invited to take space at the event to promote their activities.

Action: the clerk to send out invitations.

018/16 Fairfield Notice Boards

Council approved a maximum cost of £1,200, to be taken from contingency funds, for the provision of two new boards, to be situated at the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground (close to the school) plus the refurbishment of the current board situated outside the Post Office.

Action: Fairfield Cllrs. and the clerk to progress.

019/16 Councillor Items.

Cllr. Pawley advised that residents had requested a 'concealed entrance' sign at the small road opposite Sylvester's Corner Belbroughton. She would contact the County Council to seek their comment and actions.

Cllr. Pawley requested that a future council assesses a request by the High Street resident adjacent to The Green Belbroughton for soil / vegetation to be cleared from her wall abutting the Green.

Cllr. Pawley requested that a future council considers further the provision of flower troughs along the High Street Belbroughton.

Cllr. Parsons requested that a future Council considers the provision of a clock in Fairfield.

Cllr. Margetts requested that the District Council are asked to clear accumulated mud from Dark Lane Belbroughton. District Cllr. Sherrey advised that she would pass the request to the relevant department.

Cllr. Margetts requested that a future council considers actions to reduce / remove littering at a layby on the A491 adjacent to Giles Farm.

Cllr. Bradley informed Council of the severe heart attack suffered by Mr Rich Bartram, the Belbroughton Postmaster, who remains in hospital in a serious condition. Council wished Mr Bartram well and would send a suitable card.

The Meeting was closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed Chairman.

Draft