

**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023, 7.00PM AT BELBROUGHTON
RECREATION CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllr. S Davies, Cllr. Gibbs, Cllr. Hardeman, Cllr. Knight, Cllr. Nock and
Cllr. Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk – Ruth Mullett
There was 11 members of the public in attendance.

465/23 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Allington, Cllr. E Davies, Cllr. Mabbett, Cllr. Morris and Cllr. Wilkes and reasons 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.

466/23 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Gibbs declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on agenda item 13, Fairfield Villa due to the proximity to Fairfield Recreation Ground.

467/23 – DISPENSATIONS

It was **RESOLVED** to grant Cllr. Gibbs a dispensation.

468/23 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023.

469/23 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S

District Cllr. Nock

As previously mentioned, one of the committees I sit on at the District Council is the Overview and Scrutiny Board (Q & S). A full analysis of the strengths of the current governance system and features that members would wish to retain in the future was undertaken. The weaknesses of the current system that Members might wish to change were also discussed. Presentations were given to the Task Group by the Deputy Leader of another council who had implemented changes to their governance arrangements. We were also supported and received presentations from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS), as well as officers of the council.

The outcome of the exercise for the overwhelming majority of the Task Group were that the present (hybrid) system was working well and should be recommended. The draft report of the Task Group was presented to members on Friday 8th September 2023. The final draft report to O & S on Monday, 11th September 2023 and then to cabinet on Wednesday 13th September 2023. There was an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 20th September 2023 to consider the recommendations and the council adopted the hybrid system from the start of the new municipal year.

District Cllr. May

There is a £750,000 salary deficit and there will be significant challenges at District. They are currently working on a four-year plan.

470/23 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S

Cllr. May

Cllr. May was asked whether there was any update on the damaged utilities box opposite the Talbot and confirmed a letter had been sent to Openreach requesting its removal.

County has a £18.2m budget deficit gap due to social care and looked after children. County are pushing on a Healthy Communities Initiative. Discussions on mental health issues has surpassed other county councils and Worcestershire has made the highest level of improvement with regards Healthy Worcestershire.

Cllr. Webb

Apologies and the following report given: -

Hedging issues – all residents have been written to. Highways also shared social media posts asking residents to cut hedges back.

Have asked Highways if we can have the data from the recent Department of Transport traffic monitoring strips which were down around the district recently.

Police and councillors will be attending Foodie Fairfield on 2nd December 2023.

Quarries – still no further with applications for Pinches 4 or Wildmoor Quarry. A community information evening has been arranged for 1st November at Fairfield Village Hall.

471/23 – REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Chairman's Report – nothing to report.

472/23 – SPEEDING THROUGH BELBROUGHTON/FAIRFIELD

Residents have raised concern with regards speeding and driver behaviour throughout the parishes. It was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate setting up a Community Speedwatch scheme and Cllr. Hardeman agreed to take the lead on this project and report back to the next parish council meeting.

473/23 – PROPOSED WILDMOOR QUARRY APPLICATION

In view of the proposed Wildmoor Quarry planning application the questions below were presented to the Parish Council: -

- 1. What is or will the Parish Council do to inform residents of the parish of what could be happening?*

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee but will have to wait until an application has been received before commenting on the application. The council has nothing to comment on at present.

2. *What is the Parish Council doing to prepare itself in providing an informed response?*

The Parish Council will have to wait until the application has been received to know the content therein.

3. *Will the Parish Council commission an internal or external assessment to enable the parish council to provide an informed response to the public consultation, and if such an assessment is commissioned, will the contents of the assessment be shared with the community at the earliest possible moment so the members of the community can also provide informed consultation responses? We understand the Lee Castle consultation the Parish Council funded the legal costs.*

This decision will be taken by full council once the application has been received.

4. *What is the Parish Council's predisposition in relation to the outline planning application that was published as part of the scoping opinion consultation?*

The Parish Council have no comment to make at present.

5. *If the Parish Council has concerns with what is being proposed e.g., infrastructure impact and contamination of aquifer and water courses, has the Parish Council shared its concerns with neighbouring Parish Councils?*

District councillors have made neighbouring Parish Councils aware of the impending application.

6. *Will the Parish Council make a reaffirmation of a previous decision (item 244/18 of 3rd September 2018) that land owned by the parish council will not be sold or be used for mineral extraction?*

The Parish Council felt there was no need to revisit that decision at present.

474/23 – APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE

This application has been withdrawn.

475/23 – TO RECEIVE CLERK'S REPORT AND URGENT DECISIONS

Reports for parish magazine – it was agreed for Clerk to write an article on the proposed Community Speedwatch scheme.

It was agreed for Cllr. Nock to lay a memorial wreath in Belbroughton and Cllr. Gibbs in Fairfield. Clerk to order two wreaths.

476/23 – TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Nothing to report.

477/23 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 6th November 2023, 7.00pm at Fairfield First School.

October 2023

478/23 – 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 following 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.

To discuss response to email received from Fairfield Villa dated 20th September 2023.

A response was agreed to be sent to Fairfield Villa addressing the points raised in their email.

The meeting closed at

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

Signed