

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council held at the Fairfield First School on 3rd April 2017.**

**Present:** Cllrs. J Bradley (Chairman), S Boss, J Boswell, A Hood, G Ingram, T Jones, A Mabbett, S MacDonald, P Margetts, Dr R Morgan, S Nock, G Parsons, S Pawley and, C Scurrrell.  
**In attendance:** J Farrell Clerk. 4 members of the public also attended.

**090/17 Apologies** – There were no apologies.

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.

**091/17 Declarations of Interest** None. **092/17 Dispensations** None.

### **093/17 Minutes**

Council approved the minutes of the Council 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 after amending minute 065/17 at 3. replacing 'Broom' with 'Broom Hill', the Chairman signed the minute book.

### **094/17 Reports**

*Chairman's report:* Cllr. Bradley advised that the Council's new Parish Room tenants Dean and Rachel Knight had had a baby daughter, Elizabeth. Council expressed their congratulations and best wishes to the family and a card would be sent.

*Planning Committee report:* Council noted the minutes of the committee held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

*Finance Committee report* Council noted the minutes of the committee held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

*Clerk's Report:* 1. A Freedom of Information request had been received from Mr Conrad Palmer on behalf of the Fairfield Community Association on 8<sup>th</sup> March. – The request was dealt with under the council's policy terms in respect of acknowledgement of receipt and response time schedules. It sought details of the percentage penetration of 'signups' the Parish Council had received from residents seeking information via the e mail database both parish wide and Fairfield ward specifically.

The request also sought details of areas of the Parish and what percentage of dwellings in the Parish do not have access to superfast broadband. We do not hold this information and the enquirer was asked to refer to the County Council.

2. Further to Council's offer of a specific liaison cllr. with the Fairfield Community Association the association advised " Residents expressed a wish not to amend current Association policy & constitution that enables residents acting collectively through the Association to approach any one of their Council representatives or to request the Chair of the Association to approach Council or councilors on their behalf". Thus the F.C.A. do not require a 'representative' specifically allocated. The association added to their response - "All Fairfield Ward Councilors, as residents of the Parish Ward of Fairfield, are members of the Association. Parish Councilors not living in Fairfield are Associate Members of the Association. We welcome all members & associate members of the Association and are grateful for their contribution to enhance life in and around the Association's benefit area".

3. The requested Sajid Javid M.P. visit is confirmed as Friday evening 9<sup>th</sup> June – precise time to be confirmed by his office. The hire of the Fairfield First School for the event would be sought.

4. The Little Bell Hall Pool Working Group is now due to meet on 11<sup>th</sup> April to further consider options for the site.

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5.The replacement Dog waste bin collection contractor has now agreed terms and begins operating this month.

6.The County Council have agreed to renew funding for the Lengthsman scheme with £3,150 available for 2017/18 – this figure is frozen again for the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

7.The Council legal advisors – M.F.G. remain to hear from the Developer on completion of the agreement on The Green Belbroughton – they advise that they chase the Developer’s lawyers for updates fortnightly.

8.Work has been completed on the upgrading of footpath BB555 where Paul Hardcastle the Council’s volunteer warden, the County Council and contractors B G Churchill have been working successfully together.

9.To date no additional volunteer footpath warden has recommended to the Council by Mr Hardcastle.

10.Parish Project update - The application to divert footpath BB 509 is now with the W.C.C. department. There remains outstanding the written confirmation of the landowner’s agents prior verbal agreement to the diversion, this is due to be received any day.

11.Both representatives from B’ham Resilience Project (Severn Trent) and B’ham Velo have confirmed attendance as presenters at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

12.Two e mails had been received noting concern at the Parish Council flying the Union Flag in Belbroughton on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **095/17 Fairfield Traffic Calming**

Cllr. Mabbett informed council that he had met with Richard Clewer from the County Council’s Highway Dept. who had indicated that there would be agreement to siting ‘gated entrances’ to Fairfield at the two ends of the Stourbridge Road. The County Council however would be unlikely to fund these unless local community bodies, not necessarily the Parish Council, were prepared to inject funds to cover a proportion of the costs. Cllr. Mabbett had yet to hear as to whether the County would support and pay for ‘pinch point ‘ installations and he wished therefore to defer placing a motion before Council for considering the funding of gated entrances. Council therefore deferred the agenda item until a future Council.

Council did however note that its current policy was not to fund items of expenditure that were normally funded by other local authority bodies. Council agreed that it should review that policy in view of the prospective demands that were likely, given cuts to County and District Council budgets. Council agreed to seek the procedural process for applying for funds under Section 106 agreements.

**Action:** the clerk to contact the District Council.

#### **096/17 Fairfield Recreation Ground Carpark extension**

Cllr. Mabbett advised council that he had received a quote from a contractor for a cellular system matted grassed cover surfacing for the proposed 16 vehicle increase for the carpark at the Fairfield Recreation Ground. This represented an increase of approximately 35% in area. He had had preliminary discussions with the District Council regarding planning permission and this was the type of surface that it could be minded to approve. B.D.C. had advised that the costs of an application would be £195.00, however the clerk would confirm this as Cllr. Scurrell felt that applications from the Council did not attract any fees. Council approved applying to Bromsgrove District Council for the necessary planning permission.

### **097/17 Parish Project update – Fairfield bus shelters**

Cllrs. Mabbett and Hood informed council of the repairs required to the bus shelter situated adjacent to the St Marks Church on Stourbridge Road in Fairfield. These having been identified following a site visit from the County Council. Council confirmed that the quoted repair work costs of £400.00 would be taken from the previously approved Parish Project budget for improvements to the Fairfield bus shelters.

### **098/17 Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr. Dr. Morgan firstly thanked members of the working group for their time devoted to the matter and advised that the Parish Survey questionnaire was being piloted with 30 individuals to assess whether its format and content was suitable. He thanked Cllrs. Ingram and Pawley for actioning the pilot in Fairfield and Belbroughton respectively. The results of the pilot would be considered by the Working Group, picking up on themes that would be considered when compiling the final document for general distribution. He further advised that the Survey results would assist both in producing a more detailed second questionnaire and informing the Council of issues that it may wish to consider whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan was progressed. The Working Group is due to meet again on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Dr Morgan for his work.

### **099/17 Belbroughton – parking in High Street**

Cllr. Nock informed Council of two residents' comments to him stating that it was difficult to use the steps leading from the highway to the footway on High Street Belbroughton due to the proximity of parked vehicles.

Council deferred a decision requesting that the County Council considers inputting parking restrictions suitably painted on the highway adjacent to the steps to prevent the steps from being blocked. Instead it referred the matter to the Traffic Calming Working Group to examine the issue and seek the views residents in the immediate locality.

Council agreed that Cllr. Boss would join this Working Group.

### **100/17 Farm Business Tenancies**

The clerk informed Council that a tenant had requested that permission was granted by the Council to permit him to give less than the 12 months notice required under the tenancy agreement to vacate an area of land. The tenant wished to vacate on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Council approved as an exception to accept the request from the tenant to give written notice to terminate a tenancy in less than the 12 months required under the terms of the agreement provided that the Council was able to find a replacement tenant to take the land from the date of the current tenant's requested exit date.

**Action:** The clerk to contact the Council's solicitors for process advice and the Agricultural Holdings Committee would deal with the ongoing procedural matters and report back to Council in due course.

### **101/17 Headstone Cleaning**

Cllr. Bradley informed council of a request from Mr T Cherry representing the P.C.C. of Holy Trinity (Belbroughton) with St Mark's (Fairfield) to assist with the cleaning costs of the Issac Nash headstone located in the Holy Trinity Churchyard.

The Annual accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 for the P.C.C. of Holy Trinity (Belbroughton) with St Mark's (Fairfield) had been given to the clerk by Mr Cherry just prior to the meeting – council agreed that these could be discussed notwithstanding that they had not been circulated. The clerk informed council of the accounts income and expenditure figures and, balance sheet funds totals.

Council declined to consider the request from Chair of the Holy Trinity Management Team for a financial contribution towards the costs of cleaning the Isaac Nash headstone instead suggesting that an application was made by the P.C.C. under the Council's 'Minor Grants' scheme and if such was received it would be then considered by the Grants Working Group in line with the terms of the Council's Grants policy and procedures.

**Action:** the clerk would advise the P.C.C. via Mr Cherry of the decision and also provide members with a copy of the financial accounts

#### **102/17 Digital Champion**

Cllr. Dr Morgan outlined a scenario of the council appointing an individual(s) to assist members of the public with the use of and understanding of electronic media as there was a perception that there was a need in the community.

Council deferred a decision of appointing a Digital Champion referring the matter to the Communications Working Group to assess the options including potential liabilities of the Council offering this service and to report back to Council.

#### **103/17 W.W.1. 11/11/1918 Centenary Commemoration Activities.**

Council deferred considering this item until the May Council awaiting members' individual suggestions and assessments of the views of their contacts in the community.

#### **104/17 Councillors Items**

Cllr. Hood advised that residents local to him had expressed concern at the speed limit on Quantry Lane Bell Heath. He would, liaising with the clerk, take the matter up with W.C.C. Highways.

Cllr. MacDonald advised that there was a large pothole requiring filling at the junction of Waystone Lane and Dordale Road.

Cllr. Boswell advised of a pothole at the junction of Mearse Lane and the A491.

**Action:** the clerk to register both requirements with the WCC Hub.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that a resident had raised the issue of poor visibility in crossing the road at junction of Bournheath Road and Brook Road in Fairfield and requested that a mirror was installed. The W.C.C. however no longer permit mirrors to be installed on the footway although private landowners were at liberty to do so.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that Fairfield residents were requesting the provision of additional litter bins.

**Action:** Cllr. Mabbett to inform the clerk of the requested number and desired locations and the District Council would be asked to consider the request.

Cllr. Mabbett advised that residents were requesting new seating for the bus shelter by the Swan public house.

**Action:** Cllr. Mabbett and the clerk to contact W.C.C. to enquire as to what would be permissible.

Cllr. Surrell left the meeting.

Council agreed to consider an e mail received on 30<sup>th</sup> March from Mike Cooper, Transport Planner, Transport Planning Unit. W.C.C. requesting a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss the 'Birmingham Velo' cycling event due to take place 24th September 2017. Council approved inviting Mr Cooper to the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May 2017.

**The Meeting was closed at 9.35 p.m.**

Signed ..... Chairman.