

Minutes of Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council on Monday 3rd September 2007 in the meeting room, Belbroughton at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mr J M Bradley,(Chairman), Mr P G Bridge, Mrs L A Deeley, Mr J W L Westley
Mrs L Hardcastle, Mrs A E Ince, Mr C R Scurrell, Mr T Jones,
Mrs K Green, Mr S Davies, Mr P Shotton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr R E Copley (Clerk) and Mrs C Limm (Clerk elect)

- 297/07** **APOLOGIES.**
Mr I Hadley (charity event), and Mr T Cherry (knee injury). These apologies were accepted. Good wishes were sent to Mr Cherry.
- 298/07** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations on this occasion.
- 299/07** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2nd JULY**
The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record. The record of items taken under emergency procedure at the conclusion of the meeting were formally noted.
- 300/07** **ITEMS FROM PARISHIONERS FOR THE MEETING OF 3rd SEPTEMBER.**
- (i) There had been a complaint about the untidiness of the village. It was noted that the Finance Committee would be reviewing the re-appointment of a village tidier.
 - (ii) Residents had written to request a mirror at the junction of Waystone Lane with Bradford Lane.
- 301/07** **POLICE MATTERS.**
In the absence of PC Lord this item was held over.
- 302/07** **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.**
In view of the lengthy agenda the Chairman waived his right to address the meeting.
- 303/07** **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.**
- (i) The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported, and his report was noted. There was a lengthy discussion of the applications for stabling (and piecemeal development at Hockley Brook Lane). The Planning Committee Minutes were noted
 - (ii) The Chairman of Finance reported. He spoke to the minute on the BRC drainage crisis and the Finance Committee's response to BRC's request. It was noted that the surplus referred to in the item on the budget was a planned surplus, the original purpose of which had been to ensure the preservation of the real value of the Parish's key investment. The Finance Committee Minutes were noted.
- 304/07** **FAIRFIELD RECREATION GROUND.**
The Clerk reported on a number of matters. (i) A letter from the Football Club had requested permission to leave the railings up during August in order that they might be painted. There were objections (a) that the request was made in August; (b) that they had been up for such a long time; and (c) that the railings had not in any case been painted. It was suggested that on any future occasion the Club be asked to paint the railings two sides of the pitch at a time.

- (ii) The Clerk reported on the resurfacing of the driveway. Owing to the Clerk's failure adequately to measure the site in advance there had been some confusion as to how much of the drive was intended to be resurfaced. The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, had authorised the contractor to finish the job, and it was now complete, with a year's guarantee, although the additional length had added to the total bill, increasing it from three thousand to four thousand five hundred.
- (iii) Mr Graham Collingwood had installed the oak bollards around the Rec. car-park to prevent motorists driving on to the field and damaging the turf. There were two retractable posts to enable vehicles to get on in an emergency, and the Club and the School would each hold a key, with the Parish Clerk holding spares.
- (iv) Mrs Shorthouse had monitored the children's playground since the beginning of the year, and had returned check sheets which would show where any faults were developing. The agreement was that an honorarium of £250 pa would be given to the monitoring officer.

305/07 PARISH PROJECTS.

Mr Bridge gave a full report on progress with the proposed footpath up Hackmans Gate Lane from the cricket ground to Brookfield Farm. This would take advantage of the metre wide gap between the roadside hedge and an inner fence. The farmer, Mr Beckett, had agreed in principle, and Worcestershire Countryside officers had recommended a 25 year "local agreement" which would give more flexibility than permanent registration. It was agreed to authorise Mr Bridge to open negotiations with Daniel Lovett, Lady Guthrie's agent. If possible the work would be done in the winter. It was suggested that the Scarecrow Committee be asked for a grant to cover the cost of what was an amenity for the whole village.

Mr Bradley reported very little support for the Youth Project, although there was some thought being given to further action on this.

Bus shelter at St Marks, Fairfield. Mrs Clarke and local residents had been waiting since the previous summer for the installation of a shelter for those waiting at the bus-stop outside the church. They had raised £900, and had now heard that the Bromsgrove District Council had a bus shelter waiting for installation on the site. Two members of the Council felt that the site required a different kind of bus shelter, but Highways had turned down the wooden version designed by Walkers of Worcester. It was agreed that Fairfield Councillors should meet to discuss this with a view to reaching a practical agreement before the winter.

306/07 WEEDS AND BUSHES.

It had been reported that weed growth along the roads and pavements in both villages was particularly bad. The spraying team from Bromsgrove District Council had been out, but had not included all streets and side roads. The Clerk was asked to press the Council to do the full job.

In some parts of the Parish hedges had been growing across pavements. Legally the owner of the hedge was liable to keep both sides of the hedge under control; alternatively the Parish could send in someone to do the work and charge the landowner. In practice there were occasions where the Lengthsman could do an excellent job. Mrs Deeley commented on the overgrown hedge by Springfield House, and Mrs Ince noted the unfortunate effect of the DEFRA advice to farmers that they need only cut their hedges every two years.

307/07 HIGHWAYS: REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS.

Mr Scurrell reported on the meeting on July 12th at Fairfield which had drawn Mr Walton's attention to the unsatisfactory state of the pavements there. Mr Scurrell reported that in spite of his efforts no action had followed.

The Belbroughton meeting on 25th July had listed all outstanding Highways issues with the intention of presenting an agenda to Highways.

Mr Bridge reported on a planned exercise to capture on film HGVs in Belbroughton breaking the weight limit, in order to pursue this with the owners. This was a tactic given some encouragement by the police in view of their own unwillingness to back up the law in this matter.

308/07 NASH WORKS SITE.

There were brief comments on the work being done at the Bricast site. The Clerk was asked to bring the plans to the next meeting.

309/07 DESIGN STATEMENT.

This item was held over.

310/07 TRAINING

Attention was drawn to the range of training opportunities available through CALC. It was agreed that there was sufficient interest to warrant an application for the CALC bursary, which would cover half the costs of the programme. The Clerk was asked to apply for this.

311/07 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had tabled a list of items received in the previous two months. Copies of the correspondence were available for Councillors if required.

312/07 ITEMS FROM COUNCILLORS FOR THE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3RD.

- (i) Mr Scurrell asked for the status of the B4188 to be on the next agenda. It was agreed that this should be considered by the traffic group in the first instance.
- (ii) Mr Scurrell asked for the status of the Meeting Room vis a vis the requirements of the law on access for the disabled to be on the agenda.

313/07 ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

- (i) Mr Shotton raised the state of the pathway at the back of Pinchers Close.
- (ii) The next issue of the Newsletter was being prepared, and a draft would be before the October meeting. Contributions to Mr Bridge. Noted that Mr Bridge would not be available to put together the December issue: a volunteer required.
- (iii) Breakdown at Weybridge sewage works with overflow affecting footpath.
- (iv) Chadwich Lane Quarry. Clerk asked for authorisation to emphasise again the Council's strong objection to the proposal for extension at Chadwich lane.

Meeting concluded 9.15 pm

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 3rd September 2007 at 9.20pm

Present: Mr P Shotton (in the Chair), Mr P Bridge, Mr C Scurrell, Mrs A Ince, Mr T Jones, and Mrs L Deeley

In attendance: Mr R E Copley (Clerk)

314/07 APOLOGIES.

Mr I Hadley.

315/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

316/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6th AUGUST 2007.

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

317/07 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

B07/0862

Thomas Vale Ltd

Proposal:

Adjustment of car park for 3 disabled places

Comments:

No Objection

B07/0873/0868LBC

Blackcorn Ltd, Edgbaston

Proposal:

Conversion of former bakery/barn into two holiday lets.

Demolition of outbuildings

Comments:

No Objection

B07/0877

Mr P Chattin, Laburnam Cottage Fairfield

Proposal:

Rear two storey ext for safe staircase and enlarged bedroom and dining room

Comments:

No Objection (but concern re cumulative additions exceeding 40% rule)

B07/0900/901LBC

Mr & Mrs King, Hartle Farm House

Proposal:

Demolish Flat roof ext: replace with two storey rear extension

Comments:

No Objection

B07/954

Mr P J Brookes, Birmingham

Proposal:

Erection of stable block, tack shed. Change of use from agricultural to equine recreational

Comments:

Object

B07/0787

Mr Bartram, 60a High St Belbroughton

Proposal:

Proposed single storey extension

Comments:

No Objection

B07/0800

A Cullen, 15a Station Road, Bromsgrove

Proposal:

Single Storey utility room

Comments:

Object to any further development of this kind in the green belt

B07/0895 Mr A Shanian, Woodfield Lane Romsley
Proposal: Proposal to replace wooden stable building
Comments: No comment as plans did not reveal what the replacement was going to be

B07/0751 Four more applications for stables at Poolhouse Farm
B07/0907 Hockley Brook Lane
B07/0911 Parish Council objects strongly to these intrusions
B07/0918 into the green belt

318/07 DECISIONS RECEIVED FROM BROMSGROVE.

Refusals:

0649 Galtons Mill walkway over water wheel.
0706 Fairview, Madeley Road: Crossover gates.
0720* Lay hardcore to existing track (Hockley Brook Lane)
0723 Pergola for smoking shelter The Queens.
0732 Link hall at the Orangerie, Brookfields (LB)
0800* Mobile 3 berth field shelter.

Permissions:

0476/77* Bradford House, breakfast room.
0574 Garage extension Yew Tree House.
0596 Agricultural building at Yew Tree Farm.
0657/58 Alterations at Little Brookfield.
0757* Mounting hoist & toilet for disabled at Newtown Riding School.

* indicates agreement with Parish Council's view.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday 17th September 2007 at the Meeting Room, Belbroughton at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mr P Bridge (in the Chair), Mr J Bradley, Mr I Hadley, Mr P Shotton, Mrs K Green and Mr J Westley.

In attendance: Mrs C E Limm

319/07 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received and accepted from Mr C Scurrell and Mr T Jones.

320/07 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

321/07 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 6th AUGUST.**
The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

322/07 **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE/BUDGET COMPARISON**
The Committee noted income and expenditure for the first six months of the year. It was agreed that the presentation of the figures was a little confusing and that it would be helpful to see a budget forecast showing the likely over or under spend at the end of the financial year. The Chairman reminded the Committee of the main items on which there was a current over or under spend relative to the budget. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would prepare a budget report for the October Council meeting.

323/07 Arrangements for budget setting for 2008/09 were discussed and it was agreed that a budget sub-committee should be set up in October to meet and report to the November Finance Committee meeting. Cllr Bradley flagged up the need to consider making more realistic provision for contingency items for the next financial year.

324/07 **BANK BALANCES**
The Council's balances (high interest account: £8,499.03 and general account: £872.66) were noted. The bank reconciliations for July and August were checked and signed by the Chairman.

325/07 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
It was agreed to approve the list of Accounts for Payment tabled by the Clerk.

326/07 **INVESTMENT POLICY**

The investment by the Council with Barclays Treasury Deposit had been for one year and this investment would be coming to an end in October. Decisions were needed on whether to reinvest with Barclays and on the sum to be re-invested. Options included reinvesting the principal (£160,000) and having the interest paid into the bank account or reinvesting the principle and some of the interest in order to maintain the real value of the investment.

327/07

The Clerk was asked to check the interest rate currently available from Barclays. Provided that this remained competitive, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that £160,000 should be reinvested in Barclays Treasury Deposit and the full interest for the year to October 2007 paid into the Council's high interest account. It was also agreed that the Committee should consider moving money from this account into the Bromsgrove Seven Day Loan Account in order to gain some additional interest provided cash flow requirements could be managed. Cllr Bradley suggested that, since there were several new councillors following the May elections, the full Council should be asked to note and endorse the Council's investment policy.

328/07**VILLAGE TIDIER**

The Committee discussed appointment of a new village tidier following the previous tidier's resignation. The Chairman read an extract from an E-mail from Cllr Scurrell which expressed the view that Bromsgrove District Council had been making a reasonable job of clearing litter in Fairfield. He suggested that the appointment of a new tidier might be put 'on hold' for further consideration, especially since litter clearance was a District responsibility.

The view from Belbroughton Councillors was that litter was not being adequately dealt with in Belbroughton. After discussion of the pros and cons, it was agreed that a new tidier should be sought on the same terms as the previous tidier. The Clerk was asked to put an advertisement in the village post offices and shop in the first instance. The Clerk was also asked to write to the District Council to ask them to deal with specific problem areas for litter in Belbroughton and to enquire about their street cleaning schedule.

330/07**ANY OTHER BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- The Clerk reported that she had applied for a CALC training bursary as agreed at the 3rd September Council meeting and this had been awarded. Councillors were asked to let her know if they could attend training sessions at Burcot village hall on 27th September and 25th October. Further sessions would be arranged, probably at County Hall.
- There was a brief discussion about the planned installation of a bus shelter outside St Mark's Church Fairfield. The District Council planned to install a standard shelter within the next few weeks. The Clerk was asked to seek a postponement to enable the Council to discuss this issue at its meeting on 1st October.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm. Chairman:**Date**

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 17th September at 8.45 pm

PRESENT: Mr P Shotton (in the Chair), Mr P Bridge, Mrs A Ince, Mrs L Deeley, Mr I Hadley, and Mrs L Hardcastle.

In Attendance: Mrs C E Limm (Clerk).

331/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr C Scurrell and Mrs S Wright.

332/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

333/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 3rd SEPTEMBER

An amendment was agreed to record that Mrs Hardcastle had been present at the meeting. Subject to this, the Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

334/07 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

B07/1014

Mrs K Adams, Rock Cottage, Chapel Lane, Belbroughton

Proposal:

Traditional glass/timber conservatory to side elevation

Comment:

No objections; may breach 40% rule.

B07/0936

Mr P Westwood, Wall End barn, Newtown Lane, Belbroughton.

Proposal:

Construction of car port at rear of house

Comment:

No objections.

B07/1005

Mr and Mrs Smith, Insetton Lodge, Dordale Road, Belbroughton.

Proposal:

Replacement detached garage with games room over

Comment:

No objections.

B07/1006

Mr and Mrs D Ainge, Gorse Farm House, Gorse Green Lane, Belbroughton

Proposal:

Single storey side extension

Comment:

No objections in principle, but design not in keeping with existing building.

335/07 DECISIONS from BROMSGROVE DC Approvals:

B/2007/0787* Tanglewood, Newtown Lane, Belbroughton - proposed single storey rear extension

B/2007/0861 6, Mount Road, Fairfield - additional dormer roof windows and single storey re-roofing

Refusals:

B/2007/0830 - Brookhouse Farm., Sandy Lane, Wildmoor- conversion of redundant agricultural barn into single dwelling (resubmission).

* denotes agreement with Planning Committee's views

336/07 WILDMOOR QUARRY.

The Clerk reported that the Wildmoor application had been considered on 11th September by the County Planning Committee. The outcome was not entirely clear - it appeared that the application was likely to be refused but that a firm decision had not been made. Mrs Ince said that she had been at the meeting and her understanding was that the decision had been deferred for six months with a view to refusal.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes of Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council on Monday 1st October 2007 in the meeting room, Belbroughton at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mr J Bradley(Chairman), Mr P Bridge, Mr J Westley, Mrs L Hardcastle, Mrs A Ince, Mr C Scurrell, Mrs K Green, and Mr S Davies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Limm (Clerk)

Action

337/07 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs T Cherry, L Deeley, T Jones and P Shotton.

338/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on this occasion.

339/07 Minutes of the Meeting on 3rd September

An amendment was agreed to the heading for paragraph 300/07 which should have read 'Items...for the Meeting of 1st October'. Subject to this change the Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

340/07 Items from parishioners for the meeting on 5 November

There were no new items, but the request reported at the previous meeting for a mirror to be installed at the junction of Waystone Lane with Bradford Lane needed to be followed up.

Clerk

341/07 Police Matters

In the absence of PC Lord this item was held over. It was noted that PC Lord had been on duty throughout the Scarecrow Weekend and had indicated that he would be unable to attend the Council meeting.

342/07 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman said that the Scarecrow Weekend had been well attended. The final sum raised had not yet been announced. The Council agreed that it would like to have a report in due course on the amount raised and how this was being used. Cllr Wesley undertook to arrange for this to be provided.

Cllr Wesley

- The Chairman also registered the Council's thanks to Linda Deeley for doing the Parish Council flower arrangement in the church.
- Recent heavy rains had caused mud and debris to block Hartle Lane. Mearse Lane had also been affected. County Highways had done a very good and timely job in clearing these roads. The Clerk was asked to write to thank them for this.

Clerk

343/07 Reports from Committees

i. Cllr Bridge reported on the **Planning Committee** meetings held on 3rd and 17th September.

The Clerk clarified the position reached on the Chadwich Quarry application. The decision had been deferred with a view to refusal provided sufficient planning grounds could be found.

ii. Cllr Bridge said that there were suggestions that building work was being undertaken at the Weybridge Works site. He undertook to look into this.

Cllr Bridge

iii. Cllr Bridge reported on the **Finance Committee** meeting held on 17th September. He circulated a budget analysis which set out projected spending against the budget up to the end of the financial year. The Council had anticipated a surplus of around £4,000 when the budget was set but unforeseen items of expenditure meant that the likely out-turn was an overspend of around £1,600.

iv. There was a discussion about the proposition that the Council should act as the accountable body for the work needed on the Belbroughton Recreation Centre. There was

some concern about whether the Council would be expected to fund some of the work initially if the Recreation Committee had not secured funds in advance. It was agreed that the Council was content in principle to act as the accountable body for the project provided Customs and Excise confirmed that this was in order and provided that doing so would not compromise the Council's cash flow position. The Clerk was asked to chase a response from HM Customs. **Clerk**

v. The Council's investment policy was discussed and the Council ratified the policy subject to an addition to paragraph 5 to make clear that the Council's capital funds include its capital assets. Cllr Green said that she understood that capital assets could be used only for revenue projects and she queried whether the recreation ground project was capital or revenue expenditure. The Chairman suggested that this spending would be capital maintenance. The auditor had raised no concerns about the Council's financial arrangements except that its asset register and valuation basis need to be reviewed. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should review the Council's capital assets after the budget setting round had been completed. **F. Ctee**

vi. The Finance Committee had considered the Council's investments and was recommending that the Council should reinvest £160,000 with Barclays Treasury deposit subject to the rate of interest being competitive. The Clerk reported that the Council's advisor at Gerrards had advised that interest rates were very volatile at the moment and were changing on a daily basis. Shorter term investments (three or 6 months) were paying a slightly higher rate of interest than longer ones. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should make a final decision on 15th October. In the meantime the Clerk should seek further advice on whether a shorter term investment might be more prudent. **Clerk**

344/07 Village Tidier

The Clerk reported that the position regarding the employment of a village tidier was not clear cut. CALC had advised that Parish Councils did not have a power to litter pick and a tidier might not be covered by Council insurance. However, several Councils in the District employ a tidier using Section 137 powers (as Belbroughton Council had previously). The Clerk had sought advice from The Councils insurers (Allianz Cornhill) and their response was that a tidier properly employed by the Council would be covered by our policy.

Cllr Scurrrell expressed concern about the Council spending money on a task which the District Council should perform. He also said that the District Council's performance in litter collection was improving. It was agreed to seek a meeting with District Councillor Margaret Sherry (the relevant portfolio holder) to discuss the level and quality of service the District Council could offer. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to place an advertisement for a village tidier to see what interest the post might generate. **Clerk**

345/07 Proposed bus shelter by St Mark's Church in Fairfield

The Council considered the note circulated by the Clerk which set out the current position. Cllr Scurrrell circulated a drawing produced by a local carpenter which he thought would meet the County Council's requirements. He quoted indicative costs of around £2,000 for a pine or oak shelter and £2,600 for a redwood shelter. Installation costs would be about £475. It was agreed that the option of a wooden shelter should be pursued with Mrs Clarke and the residents' group. The aim should be to have a shelter in place by end of November. The Council would be prepared to contribute around £1,500 towards the cost. It was understood that the residents' group had about £900 to spend on a shelter. Cllr Scurrrell and Cllr Green were asked to pursue this urgently with Mrs Clarke and to liaise with the District Council and WCC. Cllr Scurrrell would also seek additional quotes for the work. The Clerk would ask Mike Bell (BDC) to hold the shelter he had in stock pending further discussions.

Clerk+ Cllrs Scurrrell & Green

346/07 Nash Works Site

The Clerk had reported concerns about the Bricast development to Nigel Hood of the Planning Department. No response as yet.

The Chairman said that the demolition of buildings on the south site was expected this autumn. There were still issues about the ransome strip and access. He proposed a meeting with the developers to discuss what they are proposing and the scope for some beneficial changes. It was agreed that the Chairman should approach the developers about a meeting and that Cllr Deeley should also be invited.

Chairman

347/07 Village Design Statement

This item was deferred.

348/07 Communication

- i. The draft of the November newsletter was tabled. Comments were requested by Cllr Bridge as soon as possible.
- ii. It was agreed that the Clerk should sent agendas and other meeting papers by E-mail whenever practicable

349/07 Correspondence

The Clerk tabled a list of significant items received since the previous meeting. A draft letter from Barnt Green Parish Council about the suspension of the collection of green bins from December to April was noted. The Clerk was asked to obtain information about Christmas arrangements from the District Council.

350/07 Councillors' Items for next agenda

Parking outside the school to be raised with PC Lord (if present).

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held in the meeting room, Belbroughton on Monday 1st October 2007

Present: Mr P Bridge, Mr I Hadley, Mrs L Hardcastle, Mrs A Ince, Mr C Scurrrell, Mrs S Wright

In attendance: Mrs C Limm

351/07 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Deeley, Jones and Shotton. In Cllr Shotton's absence Cllr Bridge chaired the meeting.

352/07 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Ince and Mrs Wright declared an interest in item 4iii since they were governors of the school.

353/07 Minutes of the Planning Meeting on 17th September 2007

The Minutes were approved and signed.

354/07 Planning applications

i.B/2007/1042 - East Lodge, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton- first floor side extension

No objections provided the increase in size did not breach the 40% rule.

ii. B/2007/0373 – Pepperwood Bungalow, Wood Lane, Fairfield – re-roofing existing bungalow (resubmission)

No objections provided within the 40% rule.

iii. 603525- Worcs. C.C. –renewal of double mobile classroom at Fairfield First School

No objections but the Committee would prefer to see proposals for a permanent structure.

355/07 Planning decisions

Approvals

B/2007/0860 Bell Service Station, Bromsgrove Road* – canopy, stanchion and poster signs

B/2006/0088 Land adjacent to Sandy Lane Landfill Site – wood chipping and windrow composting facility

Refusals

B/2007/0722 The Queens Hotel, Belbroughton – pergola over side entrance

*In line with Council's views

356/07 Other Planning Issues

The delay in deciding the Chadwich Quarry application was discussed briefly. It was suggested that the Parish Council should reiterate its comments when the date for a final decision was known.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Signed

Chairman.....

Minutes of a meeting of the Traffic Group on Thursday 11 October 2007 in the meeting room, Belbroughton at 10.30 am

Present: Mr T Cherry, Mr P Bridge, and Mrs L Hardcastle

In attendance: Mrs C Limm

357/07 The purpose of the meeting was to agree on a list of items to be raised at a meeting with the Highways Service. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Mike Walton to meet members of the Council on the morning of Wednesday 31st October or Thursday 1st November. It would be helpful if Terry Godwin could also attend. Ed Moore should also be invited. The list of items drawn up at the meeting on 25th July was reviewed and the following were identified for discussion with Highways - those at the top of the list having the highest priority.

1. The Old Bakehouse- re-alignment of the kerb to discourage traffic from rounding the corner too fast from the High Street into oncoming traffic from Church Road. This was promised on an experimental basis in 2006 but has never been implemented.
2. Resurfacing in The Glebe. This has never been completed leaving a rough surface several inches below the proper level. This needs urgent attention now that building work on the affordable houses is complete.
3. Dead Man's Hill – the replacement chevrons to warn motorists of the sharp bend are wholly inadequate. In addition, the fencing alongside the stream on Drayton Road stops at the bridge and leaves an unguarded section at the bottom of Dead Man's Hill.
4. Weybridge Works – there are problems by the entrance bridge which need attention – new barriers are needed and the embankment is being eroded with potential for part of the roadway to collapse.
5. Hartle Lane, just off A491 – the bridges appeared to be too small to carry the brook when the stream was in full spate recently – could these be examined to assess whether their capacity is adequate
6. Blocked gullies – several locations, including the junction of Dark Lane with Branthill Farm and ditches near the cricket club. The Council would like to know how the jetting programme is decided (where and how often) and to discuss whether it can have an input to deciding the priorities. The Council would also like to discuss whether the ditches in Mearse Lane and Hartle Lane are on the Highways' schedule.
7. Junction of High Street/Hartle Lane - a keep left bollard is needed to stop vehicles cutting the corner and to reduce speed at this junction. This would also act as a refuge for pedestrians.
8. Siting of signs – the Council would like to discuss the siting of signs about weight restrictions in particular the scope for having these placed further away from the village, ie before drivers have turned onto unsuitable roads.
9. Junction of Waystone Lane and Bradford Lane – the Council has had a request for installation of a mirror to enable motorists turning onto Bradford Lane to see approaching vehicles.
10. The poor upkeep of paths and roads around Belbroughton and the lack of dropped kerbs for wheelchair and other users around the village. The quality of repairs is also an issue – the pothole outside the post office is a good example of repairs being done poorly so that the problem recurs.

358/07 In relation to item 7 above it was agreed that a bollard would provide a safer crossing place for children going to and from school. However, the possibility of employing a 'lollipop' lady (or man!) should also be explored. Cllr Cherry said that he would ask the school how many children crossed the High Street into Church Road at this junction and lower down the High Street.

Meeting closed at 11.30 am

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton, on Monday 15th October 2007

Present: Cllrs Bradley, Bridge, Hadley, Scurrall, Shotton, and Westley

In attendance: Mrs C Limm Clerk

District Cllr Margaret Sherry and Mr Mike Bell, Bromsgrove District Council, attended for the discussion of litter collection arrangements

359/07 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Karen Green and Trevor Jones

360/07 Litter collection

District Cllr Margaret Sherry and Mike Bell had been asked to attend the meeting to discuss the frequency and standard of service to be expected from the District Council. Mr Bell explained that a large mechanical sweeper cleaned the roads every 13 weeks and that a mobile team visited Belbroughton and Fairfield 3 times a week to empty bins and deal with obvious litter in the centre of the village. A 'hit squad' was also available to deal with specific problems reported to the District Council. This level of service fulfilled the Council's statutory responsibilities and the Council did not have the resources to offer much more. However, the route taken by the team undertaking the thrice weekly visits could be asked to vary their route to deal with specific areas. Specific problems could be logged with the customer service centre.

361/07. There was discussion of the path from the recreation ground to the school in Belbroughton and Mr Bell said that he could advise on the best way to deal with this. He offered to send the Clerk some brochures of suitable equipment that the Parish Council could consider purchasing. The Parish Council was responsible for the clearing of open spaces, for example village greens, but the District Council could clear additional areas on a contractual basis. The cost of two men and a vehicle was around £25 per hour but depended on the job being done. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mr Bell outlining the main problem areas and seeking his comments on what could be covered by the District Council and his advice on the best way to deal with other issues. The Chairman thanked Cllr Sherry and Mr Bell for attending the meeting and providing a clear response to the Council's queries.

362/07 Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared on this occasion.

363/07 Minutes of the Meeting of 17th September

The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

364/07 Village Tidier

The appointment of a Village Tidier was considered in the light of the discussion with Mike Bell. The Clerk said that she had received one enquiry to the advertisement for a tidier but this had not pursued. It was agreed that the Parish Council should aim to get the District to focus their weekly visits on problem areas but should also continue to seek a litter picker to cover the areas not being done by the District Council. The post should be readvertised with the indication that the rate of pay was negotiable. Councillors were asked to E-mail the Clerk about any specific problems or litter hotspots so that she could pass this information on to the District Council.

365/07 Grants to Parish Bodies

The request from Fairfield Village Hall for payment of the grant agreed by the Council towards the cost of a new hall floor was noted. This should be paid when the Council had received its investment income.

An apparent overpayment of grant to Belbroughton Recreation Centre was raised by Cllr Bridge. The Clerk said that she understood from the previous Clerk that sums paid out had been for various final repair jobs and were the last part of the £40,000 grant for which the Council had acted as the accountable body on behalf of the Recreation Centre. The Clerk was asked to examine the accounts to ensure that this was the case.

366/07 Fairfield bus shelter

Cllr Scurrall reported that following several discussions the Fairfield action group had agreed in principle that they supported the new design for a wooden bus shelter that the Council had obtained. Two quotes had now been received and a third was expected shortly. The design needed to be cleared with the Highways service. Mike Bell at the District Council had agreed to install the metal sleeved needed to support the shelter. The likely cost to the Council if the lowest quote so far obtained was chosen, and provided the Action Group contributed £900, would be £1,400. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Scurrall should continue to pursue this to ensure that a third quote was obtained and that Highways approved the plans. The construction of the shelter could be commissioned by the Clerk provided all the Council's requirements were met.

367/07 Accounts for Payment

The list of accounts tabled by the Clerk was approved for payment.

368/07 Increase in rent paid by Fairfield Villa Football Club

The rent paid by FVFC to the Council was increased from October each year in line with inflation. The increase of 2.5% proposed by the clerk was approved by the Council.

369/07 Investments

The Council had discussed its investment with Barclays Treasury Deposit and was inclined to reinvest £160,000 in that account. The Clerk had sought further advice from the Council's financial adviser, Simon Woolf, about whether a shorter term (3 or 6 months rather than a year) would be preferable. Mr Woolf had indicated that given the current uncertain financial situation it was difficult to give firm advice. However, the rate of return currently on offer (5.75%), bearing in mind that rates could change on a daily basis, was reasonable one and he thought that investment for a further year would be a reasonable decision. The Council agreed to reinvest £160,000 in Barclays Treasury Deposit. It was also agreed to invest more flexibly in the District Council's short term loan account to gain as much interest as possible whilst keeping a sufficient sum in the bank account to cover planned spending.

370/07 Budget setting arrangements for 2008/09

It was agreed that a small working group should be set up to develop the budget for 2008/09 for consideration by the whole Council. Cllrs Bridge, Bradley, Green, Scurrall and Westley agreed to join the group. It was agreed that the group would meet on Monday 22nd October. Cllr Bridge undertook to produce a first draft of the budget for that meeting in consultation with the Clerk.

371/07 Financial arrangements for Clerk's PC

The Council was aware that the Clerk was also the Clerk to Dodford with Grafton Parish Council. Both Councils were willing to provide a computer for the Clerk and it seemed sensible for the Councils to share the cost provided the financial and working arrangements could be agreed. The Clerk had obtained a quote for a suitable laptop which, with the necessary software, would cost around £840. The Council agreed in principle to contribute half the cost of a shared computer provided that this was also acceptable to Dodford with Grafton. There should be an exchange of letters between the Councils to set out the arrangements for shared ownership and usage by the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Council would purchase an upgrade for Quickbooks, the accounting package used by the Council, or an equivalent software package for the next financial year.
The Council also agreed that the Clerk's telephone bills with BT should be paid via direct debit.

372/07 Any Other Finance Business

The Clerk tabled bank reconciliations for the Council's two accounts. She explained that there was a discrepancy on the allotment account reconciliation because a cheque to the contractor for the resurfacing work at Fairfield Recreation Ground had been inadvertently written minus the VAT. The Council's records showed the amount due correctly, including the VAT. A cheque for the sum of £787.50 was due to the contractor to rectify this error.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 15th October

Present: Cllrs P Shotton (Chair), P Bridge, I Hadley, A Ince, C Scurrell and S Wright
In attendance : K Limm, Clerk

373/07 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs L Deeley, L Hardcastle and T Jones.

374/07 Declarations of interest: No interests were declared on this occasion.

375/07 Minutes of Planning Meeting on 1st October

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

376/07 Planning Applications :

- i. **B/2007/1047 – 13, Glebe Field, Belbroughton** – replace existing rear door and window with french doors and fit small window in en-suite (side elevation). No objections.
- ii. **B/2007/0993 – Orchard End, Holy Cross Lane, Belbroughton** –demolition of 2 detached garages and erection of 1 replacement detached garage. No objections.
- iii. **B/2007/1071 – Home Dene, Heath End Road, Belbroughton** – proposed improvements and extension. No objections provided changes within the 40% rule.
- iv. **B/2007/1061 – Willow Brook Cottage, Middle Road, Wildmoor** – replacement dormer windows and minor alterations to house. No objections.
- v. **B/2007/1062 – Willow Brook Cottage** – erection of garages and garden room. Objections on the grounds that the size of the proposed garage is excessive and the overall structure, including the garden room, is an inappropriate development in the Green Belt
- vi. **B/2007/1072 – Galtons Cottage, Galtons Lane, Belbroughton** – retrospective application for two storey rear extension and ground floor utility and wc- listed building consent. No objection provided the increased floor space is within the 40% rule.

378/07 The withdrawal of planning applications **B/2007/0873 and B/2007/0868 Plots 3 & 4 2/4 Church Hill Belbroughton**, conversion of former bakery/barn into two holiday lets – planning consent and listed building consent was noted by the Committee.

379/07 Planning decisions

Approval of B/2007/0863 Nash Works (North) Site – adjustment of existing car park layout to provide 3 disabled parking spaces and improve circulation

Refusal of B/2007/0877 Laburnum Cottage, 94 Bournheath Road, Fairfield – 2 storey extension to provide safe staircase and enlarged bedroom and dining room

380/07 Any other Planning Business

Cllr Bridge had asked the Clerk to raise two issues with the District Council’s Planning Department – the building work taking place at the Weybridge site (the old steel framed structure is being filled in with bricks) and the high fencing at Overbrook House, Drayton Road which had been refused planning permission.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council on Monday 5th November 2007 in the meeting room, Belbroughton at 7.30 pm.

381/07 PRESENT: Mr J Bradley(Chairman), Mr P Bridge, Mr T Cherry, Mrs L Deeley, Mr J Westley, Mr I Hadley, Mrs L Hardcastle, Mr C Scurrall, Mrs K Green, and Mr T Jones, and Mr P Shotton.

382/07 IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Limm (Clerk)

Action

383/07 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs S Davies, A Ince and S Wright

384/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on this occasion.

385/07 Minutes of the Meeting on 1st October

Cllr Westley asked for a correction to the spelling of his surname. Subject to this, the Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

386/07 Items from parishioners for the meeting on 3 December

The following items had been raised with Councillors:

- i. Whether the public areas in Belbroughton could be made an alcohol free zone
- ii. Dog fouling in Fairfield
- iii. Installation of a bus shelter between the Talbot and parish meeting room

Clerk

387/07 Police Matters

Community Support Officers Steve Hackett and Claire Doughty attended the meeting. PC Lord sent his apologies. Steve Hackett said that there had been some anti-social behaviour problems in Belbroughton and Clent recently but the area was generally quiet. Councillors raised the following issues:

- On the evening of the school bonfire there had been an influx of children from Hagley – some of whom had been drinking and who caused problems when they tried to get access to the school. The CSOs suggested that PC Lord should be informed in advance of organised events. The police would respond by sending someone if they were called to a specific problem.
- The parking of cars on the pavement outside the jewellery factory was also raised. This caused problems for pedestrians who had to walk in the road. Steve Hackett said that he would try to visit and speak to the factory owner.

Steve Hackett informed the Council that he had been accepted for training as a police officer. He expected a new CSO to be appointed but he did not know how soon this would be. Cllr Scurrall said that it would be helpful if a CSO from Fairfield could attend a future meeting.

388/07 Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman said that a further meeting with the developers at the Bricast site and a representative of the District's planning department had been arranged for 6th December. He had spoken to the developers of the South site and they were happy to meet representatives of the Council for a discussion. Construction on this site was due to start in spring 2008.

A CALC training session had been attended recently by several Councillors. This was the last in a series of four, but there would be more sessions to enable people to catch up on missed sessions.

The Chairman said that the Council would need to start thinking about a Parish Plan and applying for Quality status in the New Year.

389/07 Reports for information

- Cllr Shotton reported on the **Planning Committee** meetings held on 1st October and 15th October (Minutes had been circulated). Cllr Scurrall pointed out that his declaration about membership of the District Council's Planning Committee should be included in every set of Minutes. **Clerk**
- Cllr Bridge reported on the **Finance Committee** meeting on 15th October (Minutes had been circulated). He said that the Committee had decided to reinvest £160,000 with Barclays Treasury Deposit for a further 12 months. The rate of interest obtained was 5.65%.
- Cllr Cherry reported on the **Traffic Group** meeting with County Highways on 11th October. It had been a constructive meeting and he hoped that action would follow, especially in relation to the realignment of the kerb by the Old Bakehouse. Mike Walton (District Liaison Engineer) had agreed to have quarterly meetings with the Council to discuss roads issues. The Clerk was asked to ensure that these were arranged. **Clerk**
- Cllr Cherry and the Clerk were due to attend a meeting with WCC on 8th November to review the **Lengthsman Scheme**. Future funding arrangements were among the items to be discussed.
- The **Clerk reported** that she had received a report from ROSPA on the play areas in Belbroughton and Fairfield. There were no medium or high risk issues for the Fairfield playground but there were some high risk items at the Belbroughton playground, in particular a climbing frame which ROSPA recommended should be removed. The Clerk had sent the report to Tony Hadfield for action since the Recreation Centre Committee managed the equipment. Cllr Hadley, the Council's representative on the Committee, was asked to follow this up.

The Chairman suggested that relations with the Recreation Committee should be an item for discussion at the next Council meeting. **Cllr Hadley/Clerk**

390/07 Finance Issues

Cllr Bridge said that a small group of Councillors from the Finance Committee had produced a draft budget for 2008/09. A summary was circulated. The main points to note were that a more substantial contingency item, of £4,000, was being suggested since provision for unforeseen events this year had been insufficient. Provision for spending on a more professional parish website was also suggested. The budget assumed that grants to parish bodies would remain at £7,000 with that on parish projects reduced by £1,000 to £5,000. This would enable the Council to put some money back into its reserves. Cllr Bridge said that provision for some spending on a more professional newsletter, perhaps with some pictures, had been suggested. This was agreed in principle provided the cost was not too high. The draft budget produced a precept of £53,000 – an increase of £6,600 on the current year – which would cost a Band D household an additional £5.89 in Council tax.

The Council endorsed the approach being taken by the budget group. Cllr Bridge said that the Finance Committee would be looking at the draft budget at its November meeting before recommending the budget to the Council.

391/07 Wildmoor Quarry proposals

The Council had been invited to comment on an 'Alternatives Statement' prepared by the applicant which set out the alternative sites considered for the development. Several Councillors had identified some concerns with the document, in particular that the criteria for suitability of a site were determined

by the applicant and led to a particular outcome and that no sites outside Worcestershire had been considered. The Clerk had sought advice from the Council's legal adviser and her view was that these points were well made and that, in the time available, she could not add substantially to them. The Council therefore agreed that the Clerk should draft a response to the County Council on the Alternatives Statement based on the points identified. She was asked to copy the draft to all Councillors for agreement.

Clerk

392/07 New bus shelter in Fairfield

Cllr Scurrrell reported that all necessary clearances had been obtained from County Highways for installation of the bus shelter outside St Mark's Church, Fairfield. Three quotes had been received and the design favoured by the Council was also the least expensive. The Wildmoor Residents' Action Committee had written to indicate that they were content to support installation of this shelter subject to some specific points. It was agreed that the Clerk should place an order for the shelter and respond to the Action Committee. Cllr Scurrrell said that he would consider what might be arranged to publicise the installation of the shelter. The Chairman thanked Cllr Scurrrell for his efforts in pushing this towards a successful conclusion.

**Clerk
Cllr Scurrrell**

393/07 Little Bell Hall Pool

A quote had been received for repairs to the dam from the contractor who undertook the original work. It was agreed that further quotes should be sought and Cllr Cherry said that he would provide information to the Clerk about other contractors.

Cllr Cherry/Clerk

394/07 Correspondence

The Clerk tabled a list of the main items received for information. The District Council was holding a training session on planning in early December- the date was not yet fixed. Cllrs Shotton, Deeley and Hadley said that they would be interested in attending

395/07 Councillors information items and items for a future agenda

- Cllr Hardcastle asked if the Council could consider purchasing litter pickers for Councillors to enable them to collect litter when they walked around the parish.
- A letter had been received from the owner of the jewellery factory about the Council's trees overhanging his property. The Clerk was asked to respond.
- A list of meeting dates in 2008 would be circulated at the next meeting.

396/07 Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd December.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 5th November

Present: Cllrs P Shotton (Chair), P Bridge, L Deeley, T Jones, I Hadley, L Hardcastle, and C Scurrall

In attendance : K Limm, Clerk

397/07 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A Ince and S Wright

398/07 Declarations of interest: Cllr Hadley declared a personal interest in planning applications 0994 and 0998 since this was a neighbouring property; all councillors declared a personal interest in item 1100 since the application was from a fellow councillor.

Cllr Scurrall drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, as a member of the District Council's Planning Committee, his views expressed at the Parish Council's Planning Committee meeting might be altered by further information received at subsequent meetings.

399/07 Minutes of Planning Meeting on 15th October

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

400/07 Planning Applications :

- vii. **B/2007/1145 – Part field no. 9726 adj. Poolhouse Farm, Hockley Brook Lane. Static field shelter and food store on concrete base grazing camelids.** The Committee objected – inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
- viii. **B/2007/1057 Swan Inn, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield construction of timber shelter.** No objections.
- ix. **B/2007/0994 and 0998 – Church House, Bradford Lane, Belbroughton – minor alterations, new boundary wall in lieu of fence – planning consent and listed building consent** No objections.
- x. **B/2007/1100 - 99, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield – widening of existing footway cross-over to a classified road.** No objections.
- xi. **B/2007/1168 32, Church Hill, Belbroughton – Internal alterations, construction of porch, demolition of garage and erection of log cabin** - No objections to the proposed porch but the Committee objected to the log cabin, which they considered to be an inappropriate design in the conservation area, and to the loss of the garage in an area of the village where parking is difficult.
- xii. **B/2007/1165- Woodlands Farm, Hockley Brook Lane- erection of new agricultural livestock building for the housing of dairy cows, with concrete feed passage** - No objections provided the agricultural need is verified.
- xiii. **B/1118/2007Southampton Cottage, Madeley Road, Bell Heath, Belbroughton- erection of equipment and hay store** - No objections.

401/07 The Committee noted comments sent to the Planning Department re **B/2007/1092 and B/2007/1094 Belcote Farm, Mearse Lane, Belbroughton – retrospective applications for creation of hard standing yard area adjacent to building for agricultural purposes and creation of an access track for agricultural machinery.** The Chairman and two members of the Committee had been consulted and had objected to these proposals as inappropriate developments in the Green Belt.

402/07 Planning decisions

Approval of

B/2007/1042 East Lodge, Hartle Lane – first floor side extension

B/2007/0907 Plot 2, Field 0006, Hockley Brook Lane – three stables and tack shed, field shelter, grazing for horses

B/2007/0918 Field no. 1530 adj Poolhouse Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – erection of 4 wooden stables, small hay barn and feed room and permission for field shelter

B/2007/0911 Part field n. 1530 adj Poolhouse Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – erection of stable block comprising 2 stables and one tack shed, change of use from agricultural to equine

B/2007/0751 Field no 0151 adj Poolhouse Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – erection of concrete base and timber stables

B/2007/0900 Hartle Farm House, Hartle Lane – demolish flat roofed kitchen extension and outbuildings, addition of 2 storey rear extension and single storey side extension, addition of dormer window on west elevation – listed building consent

B/2007/0901 Hartle Farm House, Hartle Lane - two storey rear extension and single storey side extension

B/2007/0895 Winterdyne, Woodfield Lane, Romsley- replacement of two existing timber storage/stables

Refusal of

B/2007/0829 Woodfield, Woodfield Lane, Belbroughton – flat roofed, rendered 2 storey extension to rear to add a bedroom and extend existing kitchen and bedroom

B/2007/1014 Rock Cottage, Chapel Lane, Belbroughton – traditional timber/glass conservatory to side

Withdrawn

B/2007/1005 Insetton Lodge, Dordale Road – replacement detached garage with games room over

B/2007/1047 13 Glebe Fields, Belbroughton – replace existing rear door and window with French doors and fit small window in en-suite.

The meeting closed at 9.58 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton, on Monday 19th November 2007

Present: Cllrs Bridge, Green, Hadley, Jones, Scurrrell, Shotton, and Westley
In attendance: Mrs C Limm Clerk

403/07 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Bradley.

404/07 Declarations of Interest : No interests were declared.

405/07 Minutes of the Meeting of 15th October

The Minutes of the meeting on 15th October were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

406/07 Grants to Parish Bodies

The Clerk had received a letter from Fairfield Villa Football Club about the increase in the rent payable by the Club and about the grant the Club was seeking for drainage work to the pitch. In relation to the rent increase the Clerk was asked to respond to point out that the increase was simply to reflect inflation and did not depend on improvements to facilities. However the Council had improved the area recently by resurfacing of the drive and installing retractable posts. So far as the grant was concerned the Committee had approved this in principle but needed to see evidence of spending on drainage. The Clerk was asked to respond to the club on this basis.

407/07 Little Bell Hall Pool

A second contractor had inspected the pool and had suggested that he should undertake some investigatory work to establish the cause of the leak. He would provide a report on what needed to be done and a quote for undertaking the work. The Committee agreed to proceed on this basis.

408/07 Bank reconciliation

The Committee noted the bank reconciliations and these were signed by the Chairman.

409/07 Accounts for Payment

A list of accounts for payment was tabled by the Clerk and these were approved.

410/07 Investments

The Chairman explained that the Finance Committee had agreed that the Council should aim to maximise the interest earned on the short term loan account with the District Council by transferring funds into this account whenever practicable. Money would then be withdrawn as and when required. A cash flow analysis had been done and it was proposed to transfer £12,000 into the 7 day account for the time being. This would be withdrawn over the next few months to meet commitments.

411/07 Budget 2008/09

A draft budget for the next financial year had been circulated. The Chairman explained the main points. He said that the only additional item was provision for spending on a more attractive newsletter – he suggested adding £500 for this. The draft budget produced a break even outcome for ordinary income and expenditure and a surplus of about £6,000 on other income, which could be used to replenish the Council's investments. The Committee endorsed the draft budget with the addition of the sum suggested for the newsletter. It was agreed that the Council should be asked to agree the budget in principle at its December meeting with final endorsement of the budget and precept at the January meeting (this would enable the Council to take account of any additional information available then).

412/07 Clerk's computer equipment

The Council had agreed in principle to share the purchase of a new computer for the Clerk with Dodford with Grafton Parish Council. The Clerk circulated a draft letter of agreement setting out arrangements for shared ownership. The Council agreed the arrangements proposed.

413/07 Any Other Finance Business

The Clerk mentioned the Lengthsman review meeting that she had attended with Cllr Cherry. The arrangements for the following financial year were still under discussion but it had been suggested that payments to parish councils should be increased in line with inflation.

Cllr Jones asked about the ROSPA report on the Belbroughton and Fairfield play areas and whether the Council needed to fund any improvement work. The Clerk said that there were no major issues in the Fairfield report but items of equipment needed attention at the Belbroughton playground. The Recreation Committee had been asked to consider the report and let the Council know what action it proposed to take. Cllr Hadley was asked to ensure that the Committee dealt with this as a matter of urgency.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of meeting of the Planning Committee held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 19th November

Present: Cllrs P Shotton (Chair), P Bridge, L Deeley, L Hardcastle, I Hadley, A Ince, C Scurrrell and T Jones

In attendance : K Limm, Clerk

414/07 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Wright.

415/07 Declarations of interest: Cllr Scurrrell drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, as a member of the District Council's Planning Committee, his views expressed at the Parish Council's Planning Committee meeting might be altered by further information received at subsequent meetings.

416/07 Minutes of Planning Meeting on 5th November

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Ince asked why the Committee had suggested that 'agricultural need' should be verified in relation to application B/2007/1165- new agricultural live stock building at Woodlands Farm - but not in relation to B/2007/1118 – equipment and hay store at Southhampton Cottage. The Chairman said that that the Committee had not sought to make a distinction between the two applications and that in retrospect it might have been appropriate to make the same comment in relation to both.

417/07 Planning Applications :

- xiv. **B/2007/1169– 32 Church Hill, Belbroughton** – conservation area consent for demolition of the garage. The Committee asked the Clerk to reiterate its previous comments on this proposal.
- xv. **B/2007/1174 – Dordale Green Farm, Dordale Road** – construction of additional stable block using materials to match existing stables to provide winter housing for horses. The Committee considered that this was an inappropriate overdevelopment of the site and had concerns that the site might be being developed for commercial use.
- xvi. **B/2007/1179 – Woodfield, Woodfield Lane, Belbroughton** – proposed pitched roof, rendered 2 storey extension to rear of property to add a bedroom and extend existing kitchen and bedroom – resubmission. The Committee had no objections provided the overall additional size would be within the 40% 'rule'.
- xvii. **B/2007/1125 Part field no. 5045 Gorse Green Lane, Belbroughton-** two stables and tack room with concrete base. No objections to the proposed stable and tack room, but the Committee considered the concrete base to be an urban feature and an inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

418/07 Planning decisions

Approvals

B/2007/0963 Wall End Barn, Newtown Lane – car port at rear of house*

B/2007/1006 Gorse Farm House, Gorse Green Lane- single storey side extension

B/2007/0691 Belcote Farm, Mearse Lane – erection of agricultural storage building

B/2007/1092 Belcote Farm, Mearse Lane - retrospective application for hard standing yard area adjacent to building for agricultural purposes

Refusals

B/2007/1094 Belcote Farm – retrospective application for the creation of access track for agricultural machinery *

***Decision in line with Committee’s comments**

419/07 Wildmoor Quarry application

The Clerk said that the Council’s comments on the Alternatives Statement had been sent to Worcestershire County Council. It was understood that the application would not now be considered by the County’s Planning Committee until after Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of Meeting of Belbroughton Parish Council on Monday 3rd December 2007 in the meeting room, Belbroughton at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Mrs K Green (Chairman), Mrs L A Deeley, Mr I Hadley, Mr J W L Westley
Mrs L Hardcastle, Mrs A E Ince, Mr S Davies, Mr C Scurrall, Mr P Shotton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Limm (Clerk)

420/07 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr J Bradley, Mr P Bridge, and Mr T Jones.

421/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Scurrall said that he was Chairman of the District Council Task Group that was reviewing the refuse collection service. The Parish Council had been asked for comments by the Task Group.

422/07 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 5 NOVEMBER

The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

423/07 ITEMS FROM PARISHIONERS FOR THE COUNCIL'S JANUARY MEETING

No items were raised.

424/07 POLICE MATTERS

In the absence of a representative from the police this item was held over.

425/07 CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In view of the lengthy agenda the Chairman waived her right to address the meeting.

426/07 REPORTS

(i).The Chairman of the Planning Committee reported on the Planning Committee meetings held on 5th November and 19th November. The Minutes were noted.

(ii).John Westley reported on the Finance reported Committee meeting held on 19th November. He explained that the Committee had agreed on a draft budget for 2008/09 and was recommending this for adoption by the Council. The Finance Committee Minutes were noted.

(iii).Cllr Cherry reported on a meeting that he and the Clerk had attended at County Hall about the Lengthsman Scheme. Consideration was being given by the County to increasing the money available in 2008/09 by inflation. Points made by Parish Councils, for example problems with waste collection and the difficulties Clerks had in contacting the County Council via the 'hub', were noted for consideration.

(iv) The Clerk said that the owner of the jewellery factory (Mr Mason) had asked the Council's permission for his tree surgeon to put a ladder on the Parish Council's land to reach the trees that needed to be pruned. The Council agreed provided that only foliage overhanging the factory was pruned.

(v) The Clerk also informed the Council that trees and shrubs at Sylvesters Corner had been pruned by Philip Mann. Cllr Shotton expressed concern that he had not been aware of this planned work and that a shrub behind his property had been drastically cut back. Cllr Cherry explained that Mr Mann kept an eye on what needed to be done to keep the trees owned by the Council in good order. Following discussion it

was agreed that as a matter of courtesy the Council should inform neighbours in advance of planned tree work.

427/07 FINANCE ISSUES

(i)The draft budget endorsed by the Finance Committee was presented to the Council for approval in principle. It was proposed that the Council should confirm the budget and precept at its January meeting in the light of any developments or additional information which had a bearing on next year's income or expenditure. The budget proposed was agreed on this basis.

(ii)The Clerk reported that there was a delay in getting the replacement bus shelter installed on the A491 because County Highways would not provide information about any services beneath the site. The contractor was unwilling to fit the shelter without this information. The Parish Council could have the relevant searches done, but the likely cost was over £200. The County Council had provided such information in the past and continued to do so for other installations, for example footpath signs. The Clerk was asked to write to the head of the Highways Service to ask them to clarify their policy in this area because of the potential additional costs to the Parish Council.

(iii)The Clerk circulated the two reports and quotes received for repair work at Little Bell Hall pool. Following discussion the Council agreed that the Clerk should ask Landmarc to undertake the repair work.

428/07 RELATIONS WITH THE RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Cllr Hadley said that he had spoken to Tony Hadfield about the points raised by the Council. Mr Hadfield had wanted to discuss these with the Recreation Ground Committee. It was therefore agreed that this item should be deferred until the January Council meeting.

429/07 ROSPA REPORT ON FAIRFIELD AND BELBROUGHTON PLAYGROUNDS

The report on the Fairfield playground was noted by the Council. No action was required, but there was a suggestion that the playground surface should be monitored since there were small holes in some areas. Cllr Scurrell mentioned that the catch on the gate into the playing area was broken. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Scurrell to ask a local contractor to look at these minor items.

In relation to the report on the Belbroughton playground, the Clerk said that she had not had a response from the Recreation Ground Committee. Cllr Westley emphasised that the Council was a trustee of last resort; it did not own the equipment nor was it responsible for its maintenance. Nevertheless, in view of the serious comments in the ROSPA report about some of the equipment, the Clerk was asked to write to the Committee again to say that the Council would like an urgent response about the action being taken.

430/07 LITTER

(i) Cllr Cherry and the Clerk reported on the interviews they had undertaken for the Village Tidier post. They recommended the appointment of Paul Killworth and this was agreed by the Council. Mr Killworth should be offered the post on the same terms as the previous tidier. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase any necessary equipment for the tidier and that the Clerk should arrange to show him the areas to be covered in each of the villages. Cllr Hardcastle offered to be involved in showing him around Belbroughton and Cllrs Ince or Green offered to show him around Fairfield.

(ii) In view of the appointment of a new village tidier it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to purchase litter pickers for Councillors for the time being. It was agreed to review this after a few months.

- (iii) Cllr Scurrall said that there was a problem with dog fouling on pavements in Fairfield – in particular in Bournheath Road and Wood Lane. It was agreed that there should be a reminder to residents in the next newsletter about using the dog bins. It was also agreed that the Chairman of the Council or a Councillor from the area affected should approach persistent offenders about the problem. It was suggested that the provision of additional dog bins and obtaining additional quotes for the collection service currently provided by the District Council should be considered.
- (iv) The Council had received a letter from a District Council Task Group asking for its views on the fortnightly refuse collection and recycling service. The Council considered that in general fortnightly collections were satisfactory but that the cessation of green bin collections over the winter months caused problems.

431/07 ALCOHOL BAN

At the Council's request, the Clerk had obtained information from the District Council and the police about the process for having areas designated as Alcohol Free Zones. A request needed to be made to the District Council who would then consult interested parties. The key requirement was for evidence about the scale of the problem – this needed to be provided by the police based on the number of alcohol related incidents in the area in question. The area to be designated as alcohol free needed to be carefully defined. The Council concluded that there was not a problem with alcohol related incidents in the parish that would justify seeking an alcohol free area.

432/07 BUS SHELTER NEAR THE PARISH MEETING ROOM

It was agreed that a bus shelter near the meeting room was a good idea in principle. Cllr Cherry suggested that proceeds from the Scarecrow weekend might fund this and Cllr Westley agreed to raise this with the Committee.

433/07 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had tabled a list of items received in the previous month.

434/07 COUNCILLORS ITEMS

(i) Cllr Scurrall said that Julie Kirkbride had agreed to 'open' the new bus shelter in Fairfield. He was liaising with the Action Committee about the wording of a commemorative plaque. Cllr Scurrall also reported that following a meeting in the summer with Mike Walton of the Highways service about footpaths in Fairfield, a County inspector had confirmed that the footpaths needed to be re-surfaced. This major job would have to be included in the Highways forward work programme, but in the meantime the County had promised some repairs to the most urgent areas. Cllr Scurrall suggested that a letter of support for this should be sent from the Council and this was agreed.

(ii) Cllr Ince said that an inspection of the allotments was being arranged for January. She also mentioned that Wildmoor would be ordering a Christmas tree as in previous years and asked for confirmation that the Council would pay for this. This was confirmed.

435/07 DATES FOR MEETINGS IN 2008

A schedule of dates for meetings in 2008, which followed the usual pattern of Monday dates, was circulated by the Clerk and noted by the Council. The Clerk was asked to try to book Belbroughton Church Hall on 28th April for the Annual Parish meeting.

The Meeting concluded 9.00 pm.

Chairman:

Date:

Minutes of meeting of the Planning Committee of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 3rd December 2007

Present: Cllrs P Shotton (Chair), L Deeley, L Hardcastle, I Hadley, A Ince, C Scurrell, and S Wright

In attendance : K Limm, Clerk

436/07 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P Bridge and T Jones.

437/07 Declarations of interest: Cllr Scurrell drew the Committee's attention to the fact that, as a member of the District Council's Planning Committee, his views expressed at the Parish Council's Planning Committee meeting might be altered by further information received at subsequent meetings.

438/07 Minutes of Planning Meeting on 19th November

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

439/07 Planning Applications :

- xviii. **B/2007/1135 – Hurst Farmhouse, Hurst Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – conversion of existing barn and stables to west side of dwelling , new internal walling, floors and staircases; new roof lights, external wall joinery, rainwater goods and drainage –listed building consent. No objections.**
- xix. **B/2007/1223 – Fairview, Madeley Road, Belbroughton – loft conversion and extension. The Committee considered that this would be a disproportionate and inappropriate development.**

440/07 Planning decisions

Approvals

B/2007/1055 Fairfield First School – renewal of double mobile classroom.*

B/2007/1100 99, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield – widening of existing footway cross-over to a classified road*

B/2007/1071 Home Dene, Heath End Road – improvements and extension

B/2007/0994 and 0998 Church House, Bradford Lane, Belbroughton – minor alterations, new boundary wall instead of fence – planning and listed building consent.*

Refusals

B/2007/1061 Willow Brook Cottage, Middle Road, Wildmoor – replacement dormer windows and minor alterations to house.

B/2007/1057 Swan Inn, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield – construction of timber shelter.

B/2007/0373 Pepperwood Bungalow, Wood Lane, Fairfield – reroofing existing bungalow.

Withdrawn

B/2007/1072 – Galtons Cottage, Galtons Lane – retrospective application for 2 storey rear extension and ground floor utility and wc- listed building consent.

Consent not required

B/2007/1169 32, Church Hill, Belbroughton – demolition of the garage.

***Decision in line with Committee's comments**

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of the meeting of the Belbroughton Parish Council Finance Committee held in the Meeting Room Belbroughton on Monday 17th December 2007

Present: Cllrs J Westley (Chair), J Bradley, K Green, I Hadley, T Jones, and P Shotton
In attendance: Mrs C Limm, Clerk

441/07 Apologies : Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P Bridge and C Scurrall

442/07 Declarations of Interest: No interests were declared.

443/07 Minutes of the Meeting of 19th November: The Minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

444/07 Grants to Parish Bodies

Fairfield Villa Football Club- the Club had sent copies of invoices for work done on the pitch. However, the Council considered that, whilst it was reasonable to support a programme of improvement to the pitch, it would like a better understanding of the work being done. It was agreed that members of the Liaison Committee should seek a meeting with representatives of the Club to discuss the Club's improvement programme.

Belbroughton Toddlers Group – a grant for new storage facilities had been agreed by the Council and a payment of £432.50 was approved now that an invoice for the work had been received.

Belbroughton Club- a copy of an invoice for new roofing for the Club had also been received and payment of a grant of £1,000 towards the cost was approved .

445/07 New Footpath Hackman's Gate Lane

The Council considered a letter from Daniel Lovatt which indicated that Lady Guthrie and her brother were content in principle for the proposed new footpath to be created. Mr Lovatt had asked the Council to agree to meet the legal and other professional costs incurred by his clients in relation to the proposal. The Council agreed to meet the landowners' reasonable costs and asked the Clerk to write to Mr Lovatt on this basis. The Clerk was also asked to contact the County Council to ask if they could draw up the formal agreement.

446/07 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliations for the Council's two bank accounts were checked and signed by the Chairman.

447/07 Accounts for Payment

A list of Accounts for Payment was tabled by the Clerk and approved by the Council. The significant cost of having the dog bins emptied by the District Council was noted. It was agreed that the Council should seek additional quotes for this service for the next financial year.

448/07 Any other Finance Business

- The Clerk was asked to produce a balance sheet for consideration at the January Finance meeting.
- The Clerk reported that she had heard from Mr Hadfield about the Recreation Committee's response to the ROSPA report on the playground. The 'high risk' equipment had been taken out of service.
- There was a brief discussion about insurance issues and whether Councillors had any personal liabilities. The Clerk was asked to obtain some further information about this.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed.....Chairman

Minutes of meeting of the Planning Committee of Belbroughton Parish Council held in the Meeting Room, Belbroughton on Monday 17th December 2007

Present: Cllrs P Shotton (Chair), L Deeley, L Hardcastle, I Hadley, A Ince, and T Jones
In attendance : C Limm, Clerk

449/07 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs P Bridge, C Scurrill and S Wright

450/07 Declarations of interest: No interests were declared.

451/07 Minutes of Planning Meeting on 3rd December 2007

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

452/07 Planning Applications:

- xx. **B/2007/1145 The Granary, Hartle Farm Barns, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton** – change of front door from a glass panelled soft wood door to oak wooden panelled door with single glass panel.
No objections.
- xxi. **B/2007/1103 The Old Victorian Farmhouse, Swan Lane, Wildmoor, Bromgrove** – replacement garaging and secure store The Committee considered the plans to be inadequate – it was not clear what was being replaced or whether what was proposed was a new structure.
- xxii. **B/2007/1307 42, Stourbridge Road, Fairfield** – first floor wrought iron framed balcony off master bedroom
No objections.
- xxiii. **B/2007/1303 Amendment to B/2007/0302 Plot 3 Land off Hockley brook lane, belbroughton** – 3 stables and tack room and concrete base **Object – inappropriate development and access lane unsuitable for the extra traffic that would be generated.**
- xxiv. **B/2007/1258 and 1257 Plots 3 & 4 and 2-4, Church Hill, Belbroughton**-Conversion of former barn into two holiday lets (service properties) – resubmission. Planning consent and listed building consent.
Objections in principle to these applications on the grounds that 1) the change of use from residential to commercial is inappropriate in this area and 2) that such a change of use would remove two potential residential properties from the centre of the village to the detriment of the community.

453/07 Appeal by Mr J Callow, Moorfield Farm, Waystone Lane, Belbroughton against refusal of planning permission for variation of condition 2 of plan ref. B/2004/1324 to allow the annex building to this property to be used independently. The Committee had no comments on this appeal.

454/07 Planning decisions

Approvals

B/2007/1165 Woodlands Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – erection of new agricultural livestock building

B/2007/0899 Land adj to Pool House Farm, Hockley Brook Lane – stabling for horses, storage of fodder, tack, and equipment

B/2007/1179 Woodfield, Woodfield Lane, Belbroughton – pitched roof and 2 storey extension to rear

Refusals

B/2007/0268 Moorfield Farm, Waystone Lane, Belbroughton – variation of condition to allow the annex building to be used independently from farm house

Withdrawn

B/2007/1118 Southampton Cottage, Madeley Road, Bell Heath – erection of equipment and haystore

455/2007 Any other Planning Business

Cllr Deeley voiced concerns about the planning training organised by the District Council on 6th December which she, Cllr Ince and the Clerk had attended. Cllr Deeley thought that the training had been poorly handled and that the planning officers' approach had appeared dismissive of parish councils' views. There had been no real opportunity for councillors to voice particular concerns and discussion had been discouraged. Cllr Ince agreed that the training had been disappointing and that parish councils had been given little opportunity to express their views.

There had been no opportunity to give any feedback to the District Council about the training and the Clerk was therefore asked to write to the District Council about the Councillors' concerns.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed.....Chairman