

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF BELBROUGHTON AND FAIRFIELD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2026, 7.00PM AT FAIRFIELD VILLA CLUB ROOM

PRESENT: Cllr Nock; Cllr E Davies; Cllr S Davies; Cllr Knight; Cllr Morris; Cllr Pawley; Cllr Sadler; Cllr Standing; Cllr Wilkes

ALSO PRESENT: County Councillor Karen May

1/26 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gibbs; Mabbett; Partridge and Westwood and reasons for absence were approved by all Councillors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – The Chairman adjourned the meeting for an ‘open surgery’ to enable residents to discuss any issues with their councillors and identify matters of concern relating to the agenda, this does not form part of the formal meeting.

There were no public questions.

2/26 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

3/26 – DISPENSATIONS – None.

4/26 – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes from the meeting held on the 1st December and were **approved by all** and signed by the Chairman.

5/26 – REPORTS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Chairmans report – The Chair confirmed that he is looking forward to 2026 and what we can achieve as a council. He also confirmed we will be welcoming our new Administration Assistant.

6/26 – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S

District Cllrs May and Nock –

- The District Councillors wished everyone a happy new year.
- Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) have been prudent with funds and are in a good position financially.
- BDC are currently going through the responses with regards to the recent housing consultation. Cllr May believes that housing by the A435 and A441 would be the best solution, however she is concerned about education in the area and not enough school places, especially if more houses are built.
- Cllr May will be having a meeting with the MP and ministers with regards to housing.

The District Councillors confirmed highlights of work activity that BDC have done over the year:

- We have delivered to an incredibly tight timetable for Local Government Reorganisation, an options appraisal and a final LGR proposal to Government by the required deadline of 28th November 2025. This has been a significant collaborative effort that has been achieved by working with four other Worcestershire district councils including additional regular briefings to Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) Members and an additional extraordinary BDC Full Council meeting. Bromsgrove District Council led on the procurement for both sets of consultants (Mutual Ventures and KPMG) to support this important exercise.
- Our Lifeline Team has ensured we are a digitally inclusive alarm provider ahead of the national target date of January 2027.

- Spadesbourne Homes Shareholders Committee is showing a net income on the rental of 37 new apartments at the former Parkside council offices site.
- Funding has been secured to provide additional services to families through an extended Social Prescribing Contract with the Primary Care Networks. The Family Hubs contract has been extended with additional funding and the youth service contract is delivering support to young people services.
- Our accounts for 2024/25 achieved the statutory deadline for submission of 30th June 2025
- From a planning perspective for Major applications, we have a target to determine 60% within 13 weeks (or within an agreed extended period). BDC is currently reported as determining 92.9% of applications in this period. For Minor applications we need to determine 70% of applications within 8 weeks (or within an agreed extended period). BDC is currently reported as determining 87.5% of applications.
- We have Invested in a number of key financial posts including Chief Accountant, an additional Senior Finance Business Partner, two new Finance Business Partners and backed filled the Deputy S151 Officer role to support the interim S151 Officer.
- We successfully delivered Worcestershire County Elections in May 2025, as the lead across the county area and completed the 2025 Electoral Canvass
- We've played an active part in securing £600k of Art Council funding across areas including our District.
- The consultation exercise around the Local Plan saw an unprecedented number of responses which included the use of a now expanded range of consultation methods.
- We commissioned the Planning Advisory Services to review how we approach development management and local planning matters. The outcome of which will be considered in the New Year.
- We have been delivering against our regeneration scheme commitments through projects such as Nailers Yard and Windsor Street.
- A tender for the new food waste service is being procured.
- 30% of our power tools (e.g. strimmers) used by the Place team, which previously used two-stroke fuel have been replaced by battery powered ones.
- Since Worcestershire Regulatory Services took over the enviro-crime functions on behalf of Bromsgrove officers have issued 37 Fixed Penalty Notices and 12 Closure Orders and a 1 section 215 (T&CPA) notice demonstrating our commitment to enforcement where this is necessary.
- We've delivered our first burial strategy for the district.
- Our work with the Homes for Ukraine continues in our communities.
- We've received four new 26 tonne Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) and one new 18 tonne RCV, with a further ten 26tonne RCV's scheduled by the end of January 2026 and midway through 2026 a further 18t RCV are scheduled for arrival supporting the 2,309,400 grey and green waste collections we make and the 400,000 garden waste collections made a year
- The above list represents some highlights within a busy day job for our officers which includes activity such as operating our CCTV service, Customer Services, keeping our streets clean and our parks and open spaces well maintained. Beyond this there are also many unsung heroes in Democratic Services, Finance and ICT etc who work tirelessly often in the background.
- Next year will provide opportunities and challenges as we continue to strive to deliver the best services possible for the residents of Bromsgrove. As we approach 2026, we are resolute in always endeavouring to meet the needs, aspirations and priorities of Members and the communities we all serve.

7/26 – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S

County Cllr May –

- Cllr May confirmed she is concerned about the grit that is being put down by the County Council as the roads seem to be re-freezing quickly and she is questioning this with officers and leaders. There are some roads that seem worse than others and cars are slipping.

- Some of the grit bins need filling up. Cllr Sadler and the clerk will speak to the Lengthsman about the parish bins.
- There have been some emergency tree cutting in Belbroughton and Clent recently.
- The County Council are looking at the budget and there have been suggestions of a 10% increase on council tax. There will be several meetings over the next couple of weeks to discuss this. A 10% increase is high and Cllr May confirmed she is concerned, especially with the current costs of living crisis.

County Cllr Dunkley – Cllr Dunkley sent his apologies, as he could not attend the meeting.

8/26 – POLICE UPDATE REPORT –

Hagley and Rubery SNT sent the following report:

Incidents Reported

- **Residential Burglary**
 - **Location:** Hartle Lane
 - **Details:** One report of a residential burglary was received during this period.
- **Theft of Motor Vehicle**
 - **Location:** High Street
 - **Details:** One report of a motor vehicle theft was recorded.
- **Patrol Activity**
 - Daytime and evening patrols have been conducted throughout the village.
- **Current Focus**
 - Continued visibility in key areas
 - Monitoring of Hartle Lane and High Street

There was no report from Bromsgrove North and Rural SNT Team.

9/26 – FINANCE –

MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

- **Review and authorise the monthly accounts for payment** – The clerk had sent out the January 2026 accounts prior to the meeting for all income and expenditure and **it was approved by all** to pay all the invoices.

FINANCIAL UPDATES/CORRESPONDENCE –

- **Budget 2026/2027** - Following an initial discussion in October, a few amendments were made to the 2026/2027 budget and this was discussed at the December meeting. A forecast outturn was also circulated to all councillors for 2025/2026. The budget was **approved by all councillors**.
- **Approve the precept for 2026/2027** – After a robust discussion about the finances and the changes that will be occurring in councils, **it was approved** for the council to increase the precept to £80,000. This will mean an increase of £3.48 per year on Band D property.

10/26 PLANNING

- **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
 - **25/01295/FUL – 37A High Street, Belbroughton** – Erection of a first-floor rear extension to create an additional bedroom – No objection, however there was concerns about the design.
 - **25/01371/FUL – Mead End, Galtons Lane, Belbroughton** – Alteration to existing outbuilding – No objection.
 - **25/01327/FUL - Bell Heath Farm, Gorse Green Lane, Belbroughton** - Conversion of part of old agricultural building currently used as household and garden store into a yoga studio, installation of air source heat pump, installation of solar panels, and associated works – No objection.
 - **25/01442/FUL - Fairfield Police Station, 198 Stourbridge Road, Fairfield** - Use of outbuilding as independent dwelling – No objection, but concerns were raised about the access.

- **25/01203/HYB - Land At, Bradford Lane Belbroughton** - Hybrid planning application to include a full planning application for 46 dwellings inclusive of details to confirm house types, layout, site access, drainage, and landscaping. Outline planning approval for 1 self-build plot with all matters reserved except for access. Total number of dwellings to be 47 – Objection – The council are concerned about highways, the rural landscape and views, the land is greenbelt and transport. **It was approved** for the council to get quotes for a consultant to look at highways/transport and for the clerk to have delegated powers to work with Cllrs Sadler and Standing to agree the employment of the consultant and report back to the council.
- **PLANNING VALIDATIONS:**
 - **25/01471/AGR - Land At, Holy Cross Lane Belbroughton** - Construction of hay, feed and machinery building – No objection.
- **PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS:**
 - **25/01177/HHPRIO - The Bungalow, Hartle Lane, Belbroughton** - Additional storey under Class AA – Approved
- **PLANNING APPEALS:**
 - **25/01069/PIP - Land Off, Bromsgrove Road** - Application for Permission in Principle for the Erection of up to Four Dwellings – **Appeal**
 - **25/00698/FUL - Gorse Grove Lodge , Bromsgrove Road** - Demolition of garage to be replaced with car port. Construction of new garage at the rear. Remedial earthworks to reduce the levels of the land to facilitate access to rear and construction of the garage - **Appeal**

11/25 - BELLAMY CLOSE – At this point it was confirmed that the council would be excluding the public and press due to legal reasons. The chairman read out the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 statement and took a vote; **the council approved** that this Item is to be transacted in PRIVATE.

Cllr Standing gave an update to councillors and it was agreed that the next steps would be to meet with residents, the Parish Council and the County Councillor.

The **council approved unanimously** to come out of private session.

12/26 - VAS SIGN DATA – Cllr Knight confirmed she had analysed the data and confirmed the sign gives averages of speed data. Cllr Knight would like the information drilled down more, so will look in to how this can be done.

13/26 - CHRISTMAS EVENT IN BELBROUGHTON – This item will be added to the next agenda.

14/26 - COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCE – There have been some changes to legislation and councillors can now claim an allowance, **It was approved by all** that councillors would not join the councillors allowance scheme and will not be claiming an allowance.

15/26 - 11KV OVERHEAD LINE REFURBISHMENT – National Grid would like to do some updating of cables that is on Parish Council farming land. **It was approved by all** to confirm this work can go ahead. The farm tenant will be contacted as part of these works.

16/26 - TO RECEIVE REPORT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS –

Cllr Knight – It was requested for the Parish grit bins to be filled as some were now quite low. The Lengthsman will be asked to complete this work.

Cllr Sadler – Cllr Sadler has been liaising with Talbots solicitors with regards to The Deli lease and will give an update to councillors soon.

Cllr S Davies – A bench has been damaged the Fairfield Rec. The clerk will get the bench taped off and get a contractor to come and have a look at it.

17/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd February at 7pm at the Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

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

Signed

Date.....