



Fairfield Village Community Association

Saturday 3rd February 2018, 10.00am

Venue: Fairfield Village Hall

Present

Averil Perks, Janice Boswell MBE, Mary Gibbs, Brenda Thomas, Carol Brogan, Conrad Palmer, Carol Edwards, Josie Albutt, Julie Baldwin

1. Welcome

Conrad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Josh Hudson, Louisa Jeppesen, Sheila Bretheron, Pat Steward, Pat Turbutt, Robert Garvin Linda Garvin, Trevor Jones, Ian Tisdale, Rita Spence, John Coldicott, Pauline Boulton, Simon Baldwin

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Chair's Report/Update on Issues

- **Walking Bus** – School are consulting parents to 1. Whether parents would support a Walking Bus, 2. Whether parents would volunteer to assist a Walking Bus. An information morning has been arranged for parents on Friday 9th February, 9am.
- **Traffic & Drop-down Kerbs** – It is unknown whether Cty Cllr Webb has met the Cabinet Portfolio. No update has been received from Adnan Ali regarding Community Speedwatch.
- **Village Hall Hearing Loop** – To aide people that have a hearing impairment the Village Hall Trustees have applied for grant to equip the building with a hearing loop. It is hoped that the trustees will find out if they are successful by the end of April.
- **318 Bus Services** – Central Buses takeover the service 26th February. They will not accept Diamond season passes. For a Diamond season bus pass refund please contact Diamond Buses.

- **Bus Shelter Bench** – Parish Council have installed bench in the bus shelter near the Swan Inn. FVCA have thanked the Parish Council.
- **Village Hall** – Village Hall are seeking a self-employed person to deliver the Facilities Management Contract, paying up to £2500 p.a. Further information from the Village Hall.
- **Inconsiderate Vehicles Parked in the Village** – There have been further incidents of inconsiderate parking on vehicles, including one vehicle partially blocking the entrance to the Village Hall car park, one vehicle parked on a restricted parking line (motorist gave verbal abuse to a resident), a vehicle parked on the footpath in Wood Lane a few yards from the Stourbridge Rd junction (forcing children in to the road potentially facing vehicles as they turn in to Wood Lane and another vehicle on Wood Lane obstructing the footpath. FVCA will continue to post on the village Facebook page images of inconsiderately parked vehicles obstructing the safe passage of pedestrians – the elderly, children and people with mobility aids. The vehicle registration number will be redacted. If you wish any image to be removed send Facebook message or email fvcommunityassociation@outlook.com

Posting images of inconsiderately parked vehicles does not give any member of the Association pleasure, we are trying to create a safe community for ALL.

- **Parish Council** – Next full Council meeting Monday 5th February 7.30pm Fairfield First School. At the start of the meeting there is a period of up to 15 minutes for an open surgery, where residents can question their councillors and comment on the agenda. Council agenda includes:

6. Traffic Calming

To consider the requested actions from the Working Group report.

7. Fairfield Recreation Ground

a. To consider actions to prevent the flooding of the footpath.

b. To consider a replacement bin for the damaged unit on the Recreation ground.

8. First World War – Commemorations

To note progress from the Working Group and to consider event(s) funding.

9. Fairfield War Memorial

To note the current position concerning the proposed cleaning of the memorial and to consider a request from the Fairfield Community Association to arrange cleaning.

10. Communication

To consider using the 'All About Belbroughton' Facebook page as a communication channel to promote the council.

5. Treasurer's Report

"The only activity on the Association's account during January was the receipt of coffee money (£3.00) at last month's meeting. Our credit balance stands at £1,031.05 but, as always, I remind everyone that we shall need much of this cash to maintain the defibrillator.

I confirm that Dave and Linda Jackson have agreed to carry out an Independent Examination of the 2017 accounts which will be presented at our AGM."

6. Insurance

"Despite earlier indications that we may be able to obtain adequate insurance for around £120 - £200, it now appears that it may prove to be much more expensive.

I have been informed that the officers of FVCA may not be adequately protected if FVCA effected only public liability insurance because there are other risks (not covered by a public liability insurance policy) which could quite conceivably arise. For example suppose somebody on a litter-pick picked up an infected needle which led to them becoming HIV+ that individual could initiate proceedings against FVCA for not providing them with a 'safe working environment'. Note, whether or not the individual in those particular circumstances would be successful in making their compensation claim, their action of making the claim would necessarily incur a large cost for the FVCA. That cost would have to be borne by ALL members of the Association.

I am awaiting further details and premium quotations from the insurance broker and I shall update members at our next meeting."

7. Neighbourhood Watch News

- **Shed Break-in** - Several sheds were broken into during late January. PCSO Cadwallader has informed the Community Association that he intends to do a leaflet drop of security advice to properties neighbouring shed where break-ins took place. Conrad will include an article in the next issue of the FVCA newsletter. Vigilance is required, reporting anything suspicious, including cut fencing, to the police, telephone 101.
- **Defibrillator** – Cabinet vandalised sometime between 9pm Thursday 25th January and 6pm Sunday 28th January. Looks like someone has tried to prise open the cabinet. Lock undamaged and defibrillator was not accessed, unfortunately the surrounding casing was broken, revealing insulation. Dennis Gibbs has been asked if he can fix. If it is not possible a replacement cabinet will need to be procured – with installation costs approx. £1K.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

Julie Baldwin gave brief update on the meeting that was held 22nd January. Of the 28 people that attended the meeting, approximately 50% were from Fairfield & Stoneybridge. The District Council are reviewing their Housing Plan, starting the consultation soon. The Neighbourhood Plan has to conform to the District Plan

What is a neighbourhood plan?

In very simple terms, a neighbourhood plan is:

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority
- A powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.

Local people can create a plan that allows them to develop planning policies that reflect the priorities of their area and have real legal weight. The whole community then decides at a referendum vote whether the local authority should bring the plan into force.

The Neighbourhood Plan can identify solutions to local needs, e.g. services & recreation facilities.

Next Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Monday 26th February, 7pm, Bell Inn.

9. Commemorating the end of the First World War, 11th November 2018

Pre-grant application submitted to War Memorials Trust who having assessed our need decided not to proceed with taking application further, advising cleaning of the memorial manually (soft brush & water) and marking plaques with SmartWater. A SmartWater kit is being sent to Conrad (free of charge). Carol Edwards will clean a small area of the memorial, ensuring that there is no detrimental effect to the stonework. Conrad has commenced community consultation.

It was agreed to identify suitable areas for planting poppy seeds during February's community litter pick. Carol Edwards will liaise with Robert Garvin (Treasurer) to procure seeds.

10. Community Litter Pick

- The next Community Litter Pick will be on Saturday 10th February 10.30am, meet outside Village Hall.
- 100 Yard Challenge – Residents to be encouraged to spruce up their property with the simple 100 yards challenge. Once a week or fortnight litter pick 50 yards either side of the entrance to your property/driveway. By doing so not only will they help make the village grot free, you will also make the entrance to their property more attractive.

11. Floral Displays at the entrances to Fairfield on Stourbridge Road

Suggestions needed for suitable spring plants that can trail in front of planters. It was suggested that long stalked polyanthus or heathers are planted behind trailing plants.

12. Fundraising & Social Activities

- a. **Monthly Luncheon** – 19th February, The Gate, Doctors Hill, Bournheath 12.30pm. Please contact Pat Steward (01527 832360) by Monday 12th February if you wish to attend.

- b. **Mummy Monster** – A Live & Local show will be performing at the Village Hall 10th March. Tickets on sale from the Post Office.
- c. **Wind in the Willows – A Folk Opera** – A Live & Local show will be performing at the Village Hall 14th April. Tickets on sale in March

13. How can we engage more people to support village events & activities?

A working group to be formed, to be facilitated by Julie, to discuss comments received and to put forward suggestions for consideration. Working group to look at how we can better engage with members of the community.

14. Any other business

Question from the floor regarding the shop unit. It is understood that the hairdressing salon will be open mid-February. Elderly residents are missing not have a local store where they can purchase bread, milk & newspapers.

Date of next meeting: Annual General Meeting – 3rd March, 10am