



Fairfield Village Community Association

Saturday 5th May 2018, 10.00am

Venue: Fairfield Village Hall

1. Apologies

Robert & Linda Garvin, Ian Tisdale, Averil Perks, John Coldicott, Pauline Boulton, Brenda Clarke & Carol Edwards

2. Approval of minutes of last meeting

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

3. Chair's Report/Update on Issues

- **Wind in the Willows** – Last Live & Local show of the season, low turnout, enjoyed by all. Raffle raised £40.00 for the Community Association.
- **Rogation Service** – Sunday 6th May (tomorrow) 11.15am. There will be some lambs at the back of the church.
- **Community Bring & Share Lunch** – Sunday 6th May (tomorrow) 12 noon – 1.30 pm, Village Hall.
- **Village Hall** - Volunteers Needed: various roles - committee member, treasurer, administrative support. If you can help, whether 1 hour a week or 3 hours a month contact Conrad.
- **Bread and Milk** can now be purchased from the Café.
- **Community Litter Pick** – Saturday 12th May, meet outside Village Hall 10.30am.
- **Newsletter** – the next edition will be ready for distribution later in May.
- **Recreation Ground Dog Mess Signs** – Email sent to local Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, highlighting the mess issue and suggesting suitable signage and locations for the signs.
- **SmartWater** – The Parish Council have agreed to reconsider their decision not to use Council funds to procure SmartWater kits for residents of the Parish, enabling the Parish to be designated a “We Don't Buy Any Crime” area.

- **Fundraising** – Association funds need a boost, ideas needed to cover Associations costs, including newsletters, insurance and future projects.
- **New Vicar For Fairfield** - The Bishop of Worcester is pleased to announce the appointment of The Revd Canon Susan Oliver as Curate-in-Charge of Fairfield. The Revd Canon Susan Oliver will also be the Priest-in-Charge of Churchill, Blakedown and Broome, and Curate-in-Charge (to be known as Associate Priest) Belbroughton. Sue is currently Vicar of St. Mark's Pensnett, Dudley. She is married to Bob and they have four adult children. The Bishop of Dudley will license Sue to her new post on Sunday 2 September at 4pm at St James's Church, Blakedown.
- **318 Bus Update** – Conrad has emailed Cty Cllr Webb, who replies that there is no update. Residents are concerned as Diamond will have withdrawn from the service on 4th June.
- **Fairfield First School** – Conrad has emailed Cty Cllr Webb seeking an update on the proposed school expansion. Cllr Webb says that she does not have an update. Conrad has heard from a separate source that a briefing paper is being prepared for consideration by the County Council Cabinet.

- **Swan Inn Update**

The pub closes on 14 May and re open to the public on Monday 4 June.

New, permanent, senior team in place:

- Jim - GM - 30 + years' experience (Swallows Nest Romsley, Foley Arms, Seven Stars Stourbridge, Mitre Oak and many others).
- Jane Head Chef - 30 + years of experience (Whitbread, Mitchells & Butlers and others)
- Phil Head Chef - 20 + Years of Experience, (Swallows Nest Romsley, Red Lion Alvechurch, Mermaid Whitwick and others)
- Carl - Assistant Manager, 12+ years' experience (Whitbread, Mitre Oak and many others)
- Natasha Front of House team lead - 6 Years previous experience at The Swan.

The Swan invites residents to pop in for a complimentary hot drink before they close so they can share the exciting plans.

4. Neighbourhood Watch

- Several sheds have recently been broken into in the Blackwell, Burcot and Lickey End area. Please review your shed security.
- Who's Reading Your Post? - Residents with external post boxes are asked to check that they are secure and cannot be accessed by people unknown. Your post may contain personal and sensitive information that could be used by criminals to defraud you. There are reports of external post boxes being targeted in the West Mercia area, with householders only becoming

aware when they find out that someone unknown to them has taken out an online loan or a payment has been taken out of their bank account.

- Suspicious White Van - On the 18th April an old White van with some sort of roof/ladder holder with a couple of dark skinned chaps with beards were seen slowly driving along Yew Tree Lane, driver & passenger looking in to people's front gardens. There have also been further reports of a white van doing similar elsewhere in North Worcestershire. Residents are asked to report any suspicious activities to the police, telephone 101. If safe to do so please obtain the vehicle registration number

5. Treasurer's Report & Insurance

The only transactions since our meeting in April have been the receipt of £40 from the raffle at the Shindig/Wind in the Willows event and the cash donations received for coffee and biscuits at our last meeting. The bank account balance currently stands at £731.32. As always, I remind everyone that we have commitments to meet the costs of servicing and maintaining the defibrillator during the next two years and therefore not all the money in the Association's account is available for spending.

I am embarrassed to report that I have not made any progress with arranging insurance for the Association. I have been remiss in not chasing the broker until the date when I prepared this report.

6. Traffic Update

As discussed at last meeting, Conrad sent Cty Cllr Webb an email detailing residents disappointment with response to date from County Council. Cllr Webb has responded, Conrad read out emails. Cllr Webb has asked if she could attend a FVCA meeting to meet disappointed residents. Cllr Webb has been invited to June's meeting.

Conrad to speak to Cllr Mabbett regarding Cllr Webbs response as finding a traffic calming & pedestrian accessibility solution has been a joint project between FVCA and the PC.

7. WW1 Commemorations

Mary updated residents:

- Poppy beds have been created on the Recreation Ground (Memorial Orchard & raised beds) and along the rear church wall. Rita Spence will create a poppy bed on the bank that overlooks the mini island. Seeds are available to any residents

wishing to create permanent poppy beds that are on public view – see Carol Edwards.

- In the next few weeks work will commence to clean the war memorial.
- A meeting is to be arranged with Mary Fairbain (Church Warden) to discuss November's Remembrance Service. Under consideration, the purchase of war silhouettes that will be sited in the church.

Janice informed residents of the events that will be taking place in Belbroughton, that residents can attend. Full details in the monthly church magazine.

8. Engagement, Social Activities & Fund Raising

Picnic in the Park was discussed, to include low risk activities, and it was agreed that Conrad and the Social & Engagement Group explore whether it is possible for an event to take place in June, liaising with Fairfield Villa FC and the Parish Council. If it is possible to arrange an event, promoting in the Community Association's June newsletter.

The Association urgently needs to raise funds, ideas put forward included a race night, skittles evening and whist night. Conrad asked that these ideas are explored, for further discussion with costings, plus any other ideas, at June's meeting.

9. Floral Fairfield

July will once again be Floral Fairfield, full details in the newsletter and on the website. Judges are needed – anyone interested to contact Conrad.

10. Any other business

Burglar Alarms – Encouraging residents to phone 101 should they hear alarm ringing. School fire alarm went off during the Easter Holiday (nothing the police could do), headteacher has been asked if he could provide FVCA or the PC with a contact phone number. Mary has spoken to school secretary who says she will provide Mary with a contact number for school breaks.

Dog Bins – Question regarding whether general rubbish can be put in the dog waste bin and what contractors did with the dog waste. Conrad to speak to Cllr Mabbett.

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th June, 7pm for 7.30pm start, Fairfield Villa FC Social Club