



Fairfield Village Community Association

Monday 4th June 2018, 7.30pm
Venue: Fairfield Villa Club House

Present: 30 residents, Cty Cllr Webb & Richard Clewer (Worcestershire Cty Ciuncil Highways)

1. Welcome

The Chair (Conrad Palmer) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Kevin Nind & Fairfield Villa FC for the use of the Club House. Future meetings will alternate each month between the Village Hall (Saturday mornings) and the Club House (Monday evenings).

2. Apologies

Carol Brogan, Janice Boswell, Trevor Jones, Alan Mabbett, Tim Bradford, Averil Perks, John Coldicott, Pauline Boulton & Brenda Clarke

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

- **Community Litter Pick** – The Great Plastic Pick Up (12th May) was a success and staff from the Swan litter picked Swan Lane, Mill Lane, Recreation Ground & Spinney on Sunday 20th May. The next Community Litter Pick 9th June, meet outside Village Hall 10.30am.
- **Community Lunch** – the “Bring & Share” lunch, following the Rogation Service was well attended, unfortunately low attendance from Fairfield & Stoneybridge. The lambs at the back of the church were well behaved, bleating during the lay-readers talk.
- **Plant Sale** – St. Mark's would like to thank everyone for supporting the annual plant sale, which raised approximately £1K.
- **Swan Inn** – After a 3 week refurbishment the Swan officially reopened 4th June, several residents attended the reopening, the ribbon was cut by Sue Rae (her parents ran the pub between the early 1950s to the mid-1970s).

- **Foot Care** - Foot Health Practitioner Sam Evans will be at SK Hair & Beauty Thursday 7th June. Sam will be visiting Fairfield once a month. To see Sam, book an appointment.
- **318 Bus Service** - Update received from Cty Cllr Webb (14th May 2018) "The replacement service is currently out to tender and an extension has been agreed with Diamond buses to align the start dates, the service will continue with Diamond bus until September." Kevin Nind informed the meeting that the service had not yet been put out to tender by County Hall, as his company is considering taking on the service. Cllr Webb to make enquiries.

5. Treasurer's Report & Insurance

Since the previous meeting, we have received a payment of £31.78 from the Parish Council to meet the cost of plants in the boxes at each end of the village. In addition to the small donations for coffee we have received also a one-off donation of some £32 from a villager. Our only expense during the past month has been the printing of the newsletter which cost £359.79. Our cleared bank balance currently stands at £407.09.

6. Neighbourhood Watch

Update circulated of recent Neighbourhood Watch news. Too late for inclusion is that during Monday 4th June a White Van was seen driving slowly along Yew Tree Lane, two men in front, looking up driveways, claiming to be looking for scrap metal. Residents are reminded to report suspicious activity to the police (tel. 101) and, if appropriate, to FVCA for general circulation.

7. Traffic

To address speeding through the village requires 1. Psychological interventions e.g. signs, 2. Enforcement and 3. Engineering work.

The Chair reminded everyone of progress to date; additional road signage for the village, that enforcement can now take place due to Stourbridge Road being compliant with the Road Traffic Order and, in the past few days, the Safer Road Partnership have informed the Community Association that if everything goes according to plan they will be advertising mobile speed enforcement week commencing 4th June week and the enforcement along Stourbridge Road, by a mobile speed enforcement officer, is to start the week after.

Residents were invited to share their experiences and observations; traffic speeding through the village, the dangers they encounter, near misses and the inconsiderate parking forcing vulnerable adults and children to walk on the road.

Cllr Webb explained that she will be arranging a meeting with highways and other partners to discuss traffic issues within the Division that she represents (Catshill, Bournheath, Dodford & Fairfield), inviting a member of each Parish Council to attend.

Cllr Webb handed over to Mr. Clewer who acknowledged that there was an issue with the mini-roundabout and that Highways will review the junction to see what can be done.

With regard engineering works to slow down traffic, Mr. Clewer informed the meeting that “engineering works is most unlikely to happen”, adding that the Stourbridge Road was a main arterial commuter B-road. Mr. Clewer was challenged and was asked to qualify why works cannot be done? Is there a legal reason? Is there an engineering reason? Or is it cost? If cost, Mr. Clewer & Cllr Webb were asked for figures as it could be a cost that the community could fund through a joint fundraising initiative with groups in the community. Emails previously sent from FVCA have asked for justifications and have suggested works that are low cost, are effective and have minimal impact on residents; e.g. a road table between the Post Office & School Drive and works at a point before the village entrance where there are no properties. The works suggested by FVCA are accepted by the Department of Transport and, according to the Parliamentary Select Committee, have been found to be effective.

It was stressed that works proposed to Highways, subject to there being no legal or engineering reasons why that cannot go ahead, would need further consultation with the community.

Cllr Webb listened to further comments from residents, saying that she will see what can be done.

School – Question from a resident regarding an update on the proposed expansion. Cllr Webb informed the meeting that she did not have an update to what the Association were aware of and that the tenant on land behind the school will have left the property by March 2019.

Cllr Webb and Mr. Clewer left the meeting.

8. WW1 Commemorations

Carol updated residents; shoots from the poppy seeds sown are starting to appear and the war memorial base & column has been cleaned, the cross at the top of the memorial needs to be cleaned, does anyone have any scaffolding the can be borrowed?

9. Engagement, Social Activities & Fund Raising

- a. **Picnic in the Park 2019** – Julie informed the meeting that planning is underway for a community event in June 2019.
- b. **Floral Fairfield** – July is Floral Fairfield, please encourage your neighbours to be part of the challenge to create ribbons of colour through the village. Certificates will be issued to winners and runners-up for each category. Judges are needed – please contact the Chair if you would like to be part of the judging team.
- c. **Fairfield Walkers** – First outing Friday 8th June, meet at the Rec. 10am. 3.5 mile walk planned. Future dates:
 - Friday 13th July
 - Friday 10th August
 - Friday 7th September
 - Friday 5th October
 - Friday 9th November
 - Friday 7th December
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- d. **Monthly Luncheon** – 18th June, this month's meal will be at the Swan Inn, Fairfield, please contact Pat by 11th June if you will be attending.
- e. **Afternoon Tea** – 16th August, afternoon high tea at the Village Hall, full details in the latest FVCA newsletter.
- f. **Musical Bingo** – September, new activity to bring the village together. Will be held at the Club House, full details in Autumn's newsletter, which will be distributed late August.
- g. **Other Engagement & Social Activities:**
 - 8th June Squeaky Pete's Liquor & Poker Band, Swan Inn, 8pm
 - 23rd June Bollywood Summer Fair, Village Hall, 11am - 4pm. Entry £1.00 (Under 10's FREE). Indian Cuisine, Henna Tattoo, Bollywood Dancing, Indian Clothing for Sale and Games.

10. Any other business

Rita thanked the Chair for the meeting, other residents agreed.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 7th July 9.30am for 10.00am start, Fairfield Village Hall