



Fairfield Village Community Association

Saturday 5th January 2019, 10.00am

Venue: Fairfield Village Hall

Present: Carol Brogan, Carol Edwards, Rita Spense, Alan Mabbett, Janice Boswell MBE, Ian Tisdale, Pat Turbutt, Robert Garvin, Conrad Palmer, Linda Garvin, Mary Gibbs, Brenda Thomas, Trevor Jones, Carole Morris & Pam Jones

1. Apologies

Patricia Steward, Josie Albutt, John Coldicott, Pauline Boulton & Averil Perks,

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

3. Chair's Monthly Report/Update on Issues

The Chair highlighted the following two items, additional items to be included in the minutes:

Café & Post Office

The Café is under new management, the Post Office remains unchanged. National Lottery tickets can no longer be purchased from the Café or the Post Office.

NHS Cold Weather Advice

Several layers of clothes are better for staying warm than one chunky layer. If you are feeling unwell see your local pharmacist or telephone NHS 111. Please check your elderly and vulnerable neighbours.

Additional items not mentioned at the meeting:

Incident

At 1.33pm on Thursday 3rd January fire crews from Bromsgrove, Redditch & Stourbridge responded to a fire involving a tractor within an agricultural building in Fairfield. The quick thinking farmer had removed vehicle from building prior to Fire Service arrival - fire extinguished and area dampened down.

Financial Support For Elderly Residents

Did you know that Belbroughton United Charities provides grants for the relief of poverty for the elderly residents in the Parish of Belbroughton & Fairfield.

If you know of an elderly resident in the Parish struggling to pay their bills, keeping their home warm or have little food to eat Belbroughton United Charities offers one off grants.

To apply or for more information contact:

Pauline Jones

Telephone: 0121 453 7785

Email: pjones456@talktalk.net

Village Hall Keyholder

The Village Hall are looking for a couple of people to join a rota of people who will unlock & lock up the village hall for hirers.

Each person helping two or three hires each month, on a Saturday or Sunday.

Interested? Email secretary.fvh@outlook.com or tel. 01527 833583

Piano/Organ Player Wanted

Would anyone be willing to play the organ or piano at St Mark's, Fairfield on occasional services? Small remuneration available. Contact Pauline Jones or the office.

Quiz Night

Fortnightly quiz at the Swan, Sundays 6th & 20th January 9pm.

SmartWater Signage

To date 225 kits have been issued, there are still many properties that have yet to collect or receive their property marking kit. It is hoped that another door to door exercise will take place in February, when the weather is likely to be slightly warmer.

Going for a walk with your dog?

Local farmers ask that you keep your dog on a lead and to clear up your dog's mess.

There is a bacteria that lives in dog poo that can cause ewes to abort.

4. Neighbourhood Watch

- Bromsgrove District Council have been made aware of a SCAM email being sent to some of their residents which appears to be from their Council Tax department regarding over payments.
The link in the email takes you to a very good copy of the gov.uk website or the Council's website and asks for lots of details - including mother's maiden name etc. Please be aware that this is a SCAM and the Council does not operate in this way. The Council will NEVER ask you for details like this. If you have any concerns or suspicions about correspondence 'from us' then please get in touch with the District Council to query it.
Please make family, friends and neighbours aware of this SCAM.
- Reminder – do not leave your car unattended to warm up/defrost, opportunists may be about who will steal your vehicle. In past few days two vehicles have been stolen from around the North Worcestershire area.
- A film was shown demonstrating some common SCAMS that residents need to be aware of.

5. Treasurer's Report

My report will be slightly longer than usual because there has been a higher level of activity during the past few weeks. Moreover we have just passed the end of our financial year which coincides with the calendar year.

We ended 2018 with a balance of £387 compared with an opening balance of £1,028. Clearly, we cannot spend more than we receive so we shall need to raise funds during the coming months to pay for our insurance and to continue organizing events such as the Remembrance Day centennial event or first aid courses etc. We also need to have money to underwrite events which might not cover their costs.

Turning to the events which have happened since our last meeting, I report:

- The most recent event was the New Year's Eve Party which was enjoyed by all who attended but sadly the ticket sales (there was no ticket charge for children) raised only £125 which was not enough to cover the cost of the disco and food. We are fortunate that a generous supporter paid the shortfall.
- The cost of the wine and mince pies for the Carol Singing evening came to £26. We should shortly receive £18 from Kev's Coaches who kindly sponsored the event and undertook to meet the cost of the mulled wine.
- The Christmas Fair at the Swan brought in £197.50. After deducting the cost of the publicity flyers (£34) there was insufficient to meet the cost (£229.50) of the various prizes and sweets for the stall. However a generous supporter has stepped forward and paid for all the prizes and sweets. The Association expresses its grateful thanks to that anonymous benefactor.

6. Remembering Craig

After consulting Craig's brother, a card will be sent to the family with agreed wording that can be signed by residents. The card was made available at the meeting and will be available for signing at the back of the church from Sunday's Holy Communion Service (6th Jan) for one week, when it will then be passed on to Craig's family.

7. Traffic Update

CP and AM gave an update on progress. AM will update Parish Council. CP has received Freedom of Information responses, which will be used to put forward a case to the County Council for required actions. Residents will be encouraged to support lobbying.

8. Festive Fairfield Review

A discussion took place highlighting what went well and what could be improved.

The 3 Little Pig Tails & Disco – numbers down on last year, which was disappointing. Discussion took place giving a children's event a miss in 2019 and hosting an event aimed at older people.

Outdoor Christmas Fair – Apart from two “paying” stalls, all outdoor stalls had a good evening. The FVCA stalls and Santa’s Grotto did not do so well, due to low number of children attending. Marketing of the event needs to be improved, with less reliance on the Swan.

Carols Around the Christmas Tree - was a success, school choir were amazing. There was an issue regarding people management. It was suggested that the event is held inside, some indicated they preferred the event to stay outside.

Post-Christmas Walk – 9 people enjoyed the ramble, followed by drinks in the pub. Everyone that attended enjoyed the activity.

New Year’s Eve Party – Numbers up on previous year, 25 adults and 3 children. Slight shortfall covering cost of disco. Everyone attending reported having a good time.

FVCA Officers will discuss feedback later in the month.

9. Litter Pick

Saturday 12th January, meet Village Hall 10.30am. BT is coordinating. Litter identified along Stourbridge Rd and Brook Rd.

10. Monthly Lunch

The next lunchtime meal is on Monday 21st January at the Nailers Arms, 12.30pm. Please let Pat know if you are attending by Monday 14th January.

11. Coffee & Natter Wednesdays

Residents & School Parents encouraged to support Coffee and Natter at the Village Hall, Wednesdays 16th, 23rd & 30th January 2.45pm – 3.15pm. Aim - a social drop-in where people can chat over a hot drink.

12. Long Shot

Coming to the Village Hall 10th March, details in the Winter newsletter. Flyers will be circulated in early February.

13. Any Other Business

None

Date of next meeting: Monday 4th February 7.30pm Fairfield Villa Club House (bar open from 7pm)