

## **Balsall Parish Assembly**

### **Unapproved Minutes of the Parish Assembly 2019**

Unapproved Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 23 May 2019 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, 112 Station Road, Balsall Common CV7 7FF

#### **Present**

Councillor Andrew Burrow (Parish Council Chairman and Chair), Councillor Kay Howles, Councillor Marion Keeley, Councillor Richard Drake, Councillor Richard Lloyd, Councillor Sheila Cooper, Councillor Keith Tindall, Ward Councillor Diane Howell and 16 members of the public, 7 of whom were Balsall parish electors. The Clerk to the Council was present to take the minutes.

The Parish Council Chairman welcomed members of the public and outlined the nature of the meeting – to raise parish issues, prepare a motion and vote on it to advise the Parish Council.

#### **Minutes of Parish Assembly 2018**

A resident expressed concern that the minutes for 2018 are not truly representative. It was suggested that they need to be a little more than just resolutions to provide a historical record. In addition they don't reflect (apart from the first part on HS2) what was said by parishioners at the meeting and responses made. It was suggested that they were noted but not signed as a true record or that a qualifying note was added.

The Clerk provided legal advice was that the minutes are evidential and 'signed as 'duly convened and held', 'all persons present at the meeting are duly qualified' and that the meeting had 'power to deal with matters referred to in the minutes.'

There was support to take minutes in future that were fuller minutes on comments and observations raised. There was also a suggestion that a qualifying note be added to the 2018 minutes.

**Action: The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that the minutes of the Parish Assembly in future would contain the comments and observations raised. A qualifying note was added to the 2018 minutes to read "Parishioners would have liked a fuller minute on the comments and observations raised."**

#### **Matters from the Parish Assembly 2018**

1. The Chairman to advise Meriden Parish Council Chair that Berkswell PC would like an invitation to their meetings with SMBC to explore the possibility of engaging an enforcement officer.  
The Clerk to the Parish Council will write to Meriden Parish Council to ask what the state of play on the enforcement officer is.
2. The Jubilee Centre to be contacted regarding a post box.  
The Clerk to the Parish Council contacted the Jubilee Centre who confirmed that they were installing one and it has subsequently been fitted.
3. The Chairman of Balsall Parish Council and Chairman of Berkswell Parish Council to meet.  
The Chair confirmed that the meeting had taken place.
4. The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that there should be a parish meeting more frequently than every 12 months and that this meeting would support a joint parish meeting.  
Neither a further Parish Meeting nor a joint Parish Meeting was called in 2018/19.

There was discussion over the possibilities of a joint meeting involving Berkswell and Balsall electors rather than a joint Parish Meeting which would not be legally constituted. It was suggested that the next Parish

Meeting (Assembly) took place in conjunction with the BCVRA (Balsall Common Village Residents Association) AGM which may attract more Balsall electors.

**Action: The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that the Parish Council writes to the BCVRA suggesting that the next Parish Assembly (2020) is held in conjunction with the BCVRA AGM.**

#### Issues raised

##### Police Consultative Committee

A resident said he had written to Carline Spelman indicating that he was not happy that the monthly Police Consultative Committee has been stood down. He felt it was important that the police to be made aware of local crime concerns from local organisations and representatives. A leaflet had been obtained from Jayne Turner, Solihull Partnerships Team who is seeking expressions of interest from community members to join the WM Police Independent Advisory Group and this was passed to the Clerk of the Council.

**Action: The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that the Clerk to the Parish Council will find out what the IAG is and work to notify local people who might put themselves forward.**

##### Footpath outside Heart of England School

A resident indicated that the footpath had not been improved. The Chair encouraged the reporting of this to SMBC through Solihull Connect.

##### Balsall Common centre plan

A request was made that the Parish Council encourages SMBC to place plans to improve to the village centre (inset plan) near the top of their list.

**Action: The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors that the Parish Council write to SMBC asking when the village centre plan work is going to commence.**

##### Balsall Common village maintenance and repair

The poor state of the paving and flooding was raised. The Clerk confirmed that the matter was on a list of issues raised with SMBC and pursued on a regular basis. The BCVRA also confirmed that their organisation also regularly send concerns to SMBC.

**Action: The meeting voted by a majority of Balsall electors to request that both Balsall and Berkswell Parish Councils send a joint letter to SMBC requesting action on the outstanding items.**

##### Flower planters on railings in Balsall Common

It was confirmed by the Clerk that the railing planters and the 8 pavement planters were maintained by a Parish Council contractor and would be planted with summer plants soon.

##### Update on the Parish Council Meeting concerning the Balsall Parish NDP

As a result of a resident's question, the Chair said that the council had considered the complaint of a resident at the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of 22 June 2019. The complaint was that an input made to the consultation process on the draft Plan had not been taken account of. The Parish Council decided that it would be inappropriate to address these concerns by withdrawing the NDP. Individual Councillors offered assistance to the resident to submit comments at the Regulation 16 stage.

##### School capacity

A resident asked how the local schools are coping with extra placements. Comments in response indicated that the BC Primary School is struggling for capacity and has 30% children attending from outside Balsall and Berkswell parishes, Heart of England has around 50% children attending from outside the ward. Lady Katherine Leveson is currently short of pupils and competes for Knowle and BC Primary School that are rated outstanding.

The Chair indicated that the SMBC Local Plan shows the provision of a school site in the masterplan for Barratt's Farm (Berkswell parish) strategic housing site.

Councillor Andrew Burrow undertook to speak to the local estate agents regarding the profile given to local schools.

#### Council houses

A resident raised a question on the availability of council houses in Balsall Common and the lack of access to affordable homes for young people.

In response, the Chair indicated that in the SMBC Local Plan on new sites 40% will be affordable houses at 80% of market rent and below, shared ownership (part buy, part rent) and cheap homes to buy. The recent Local Plan consultation also considered formulae to further oblige developers to provide increased numbers of affordable homes.

A representative of Berkswell Society described the contribution that almshouses can provide to a community.

Councillor Diane Howell acknowledged the concerns expressed over affordable housing provision in Balsall Common.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm