

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 2nd May 2017.

Present

Councillors PA Fisher [Chairman], K Ansell, Miss IJ Brown, Mrs DM Easton, R Easton, Mrs G Harvey, TA Jones, GN Molineux and N Parton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Ansell, H Farnath, Miss C Harvey and Mrs HJ Southwell.

District Councillor D Foley was also present.

Mr PG Davies, the Parish Clerk, was also in attendance.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor PA Fisher be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a member of two Credit Unions, Councillor TA Jones declared a personal interest in respect of Minute 10 [Loan Sharks].

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor Miss IJ Brown be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sean Nicholls to the meeting.

PCSO Nicholls presented his report for April [copy attached].

Members noted that following a request for a community trigger, the Police would be preparing an action plan to combat anti-social behaviour in Ravenhill Park. The matter would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the Community Safety Partnership.

In respect of bogus officials, the Police were continuing to offer reassurance to the elderly by, amongst other things, arranging for the distribution of leaflets informing people of the need to be aware of those individuals attempting to gain access to properties.

Members advised that they would be grateful for any information from the Police in respect of 'loan sharks' as the Parish Council was considering applying for funding to enable it to disseminate information on the dangers of this criminal activity.

Reference was also made to concern expressed by some parents of instances of bullying

by older youths in the area. This was noted by the Police, who were continuing to work with schools on this important issue.

6. ADDRESS CHANGE – ‘BRERETON’

The Clerk reported that Royal Mail was again writing to the MP to ensure she continued to support this change, following which they would carry out consultation with the residents of the 3,055 properties in the parish.

Members expressed their concern as they were the duly elected representatives for the area and represented the community. To now consult every household would not only be time-consuming but also very expensive – a cost which was difficult to justify.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk acquaint Royal Mail with the foregoing comments and suggest that surely with the support of the Parish Council, MP, Chamber of Commerce and District Council, they could now proceed.

7. DOCUMENTATION

The Clerk tabled the following documents for the information of the Parish Council:-

-  Leaflet – ‘Growing a Greener Britain’
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Annual Review 2016 – 2017
-  Newsletter – Partnership – Fuel to Rural Communities
-  Update on Automatic Number Plate Recognition from Police

8. CANNOCK CHASE YOUTH ENDEAVOUR AWARD 2017

The Parish Council noted details of this scheme which was designed to recognise young persons who had stood out from the rest by making an outstanding contribution to their community, their school, an organisation or had battled bravely against illness or disability.

The Clerk requested any nominations prior to the 10th May deadline.

9. VILLAGE GREEN

Following a Freedom of Information request made to the County Council, the Authority had confirmed that twenty-five applications were awaiting determination and they were currently dealing with, on average, one a year due to limited resources.

10. ‘LOAN SHARKS’

Councillor TA Jones circulated details of grant funding of up to £5,000 which was available to organisations to help them disseminate information on the dangers of ‘loan sharks’ and their criminal activity.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk liaise with Councillor TA Jones in submitting an application for funding.

11. WEBSITE

Councillor R Easton kindly undertook to produce two or three ‘landscape-format’ images for the ‘headers’ on the website. He would present these to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

12. RUGELEY RUGBY CLUB

RESOLVED

That a letter of congratulations be sent to Rugeley Rugby Club for winning the Staffordshire Cup for the second consecutive year.

13. OAK TREE FARM

The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter from Amanda Milling, MP, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the County Council in respect of the following:-

- ✚ What action was being taken to remove the two distinct non-burning piles of waste situated to the north of the capped waste?
- ✚ To request a reply to the Parish Council's previous correspondence in respect of Landfill Tax.

14. BRERETON LIBRARY

The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter from County Councillor Gill Heath, a copy of which had been circulated. Members particularly noted the statement that "there is no intention to close Brereton Library".

15. RISK REGISTER

The Parish Council considered the contents of a comprehensive Risk Register, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

1. That the Risk Register, as submitted, be approved.
2. That the Finance and Management Committee consider in more detail those higher scoring elements of the Report and they be authorised to take action to further mitigate the risks involved.

16. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Following a review of these documents, it was

RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

17. ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN – 2016/2017 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Parish Council considered the Annual Governance Statement for the 2016/2017 financial year.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement, as submitted, be approved.

18. ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2016/2017

The Parish Council considered the Accounting Statement for the 2016/2017 financial year.

RESOLVED

That the Accounting Statement, as submitted, be approved.

19. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEES

The Parish Council considered the Terms of Reference of its Committees, copies of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That subject to the word 'the' after the word 'either' in Section [2] of the Planning Terms of Reference being replaced by 'a', the documents, as submitted, be formally approved and adopted.

20. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That no changes be made in the Membership of the following Committees for the ensuing year:-

-  Planning Committee
-  Parish Hall Management Committee
-  Finance and Management Committee
-  Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Committee

21. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES AND LOCAL CONTACTS

RESOLVED

1. That subject to [2] below, the membership and local contacts of outside bodies remain unchanged for the ensuing year.
2. That Councillor Mrs P Ansell be appointed as the Parish Council's representative on the District Council's Standards Committee, with Councillor PA Fisher being the nominated substitute Member.

22. STANDARDS REGIME

The Clerk invited Members to update their declarations if this was considered necessary.

23. MEDIA POLICY

The Parish Council noted the contents of the Media Policy, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That no changes be made to the Media Policy.

24. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4th April 2017, be approved.

25. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 5th April 2017, be approved.

26. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 5th April 2017, be approved.

27. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 6th June 2017, at 7.30 pm.

28. PUBLIC FORUM

District Councillor Foley reported that he had instigated the Community Trigger following reports of anti-social behaviour in Ravenhill Park.

The Clerk undertook to bring maps to the next meeting showing details of an improvement scheme bid being made to the Local Enterprise Partnership by the District Council. Councillor Foley was particularly interested in the footpath at the rear of Amazon.

The Parish Council also noted comments from Mr E Jackson [Vice-Chairman of Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council]. Members expressed the hope that the two parishes could work together in respect of cross border issues such as:-

-  Power Station site
-  Improvement to the canal towpath
-  Further development issues on the border between the two parishes

[Chairman]