

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Thursday, 18th August 2016.

Present

Councillors: Miss IJ Brown [Vice-Chairman in the Chair], K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, Mrs DM Easton, R Easton, Mrs G Harvey and GN Molineux.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors PA Fisher [Chairman], Miss C Harvey, TA Jones and Mrs HJ Southwell.

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were given at the commencement of the meeting.

2. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Parish Council considered the contents of a letter from the Managing Director of Cannock Chase District Council in respect of two potential finance savings options. A copy of the letter had been circulated.

The Parish Council was critical of the timeframe and the period allowed for proper consultation as it did not give all Members [holiday commitments, etc.] sufficient time to assimilate all the information and make a more considered response.

Members expressed their concern at the proposed reduction in funding, and it was:-

RESOLVED

(1) That a letter be sent to the Managing Director of the District Council itemising the following:-

- ✚ “the Parish Council would oppose any reduction in funding and would respectfully request the District Council to identify other areas for savings. To expect the Council Tax payers of Brereton and Ravenhill to meet a shortfall of £10,721.00 when our current precept is just £59,500.00 would be placing a totally unacceptable burden on them;

It should be acknowledged that the “grant” that we received is to compensate us for changes to the amount of Council Tax we receive, brought about by legislation – it hasn’t increased the money available to us.

- ✚ the Parish Council never received any share of the Business Rates from the Power Station, despite the Cannock Chase part being entirely in our parish – yet we are now expected to suffer from its loss. We understand that for as long as the buildings on the site remain, Business Rates will continue to be paid. The Parish Council require clarification on this point;
- ✚ the penultimate paragraph of the letter amounts to saying that we should raise taxes to pay for District Council cuts;
- ✚ clarification is sought as to what will happen in those areas of the District which remain unparished. To expect the parished areas to meet the full £112,260.00 is simply inequitable and will certainly adversely impact on our parishioners.

(2) That a copy of the letter in (1) above be sent to the District Councillors representing Brereton and Ravenhill and they be requested to do all they can in supporting the stance being taken by the Parish Council.

- (3) That the Clerk acquaint Amanda Milling, MP, with the position and ask her to clarify, as a matter of urgency, the position in relation to grant funding from Central Government.
- (4) That the Clerk invite all Town and Parish Councils in Cannock Chase to send two representatives to a meeting to be held at the Parish Hall, Brereton, on 6th September 2016, at 6.30 p.m. when it was hoped a joint response could be prepared for submission to the District Council.
- (5) That the Managing Director, or his representative, be invited to attend the meeting referred to in (4) above.

[Chairman]