

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 10th January 2017.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss C Harvey, GN Molineux and Mrs HJ Southwell and District Councillor D Foley.

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest given at the commencement of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That subject to the word 'almost' being added after the word 'from' in the second line of the Resolution in minute 9, the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that Chief Inspector Geoffrey Knight had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Inspector be informed that in addition to any report he might wish to present, the Parish Council would welcome an update on the following:-

- The action being taken by Staffordshire Police to secure Section 106 funding from local developers.
- The future use of the Police Office in the Parish Hall, particularly the one-hour drop-in sessions prior to Parish Council meetings.

4. LITTER AT RUGELEY TOWN STATION

The Parish Council was pleased to note that a new litter bin had been provided at the station.

5. BT – REVIEW OF PAYPHONE – JUNCTION OF ARTHUR EVANS CLOSE/BIRCH LANE

The Clerk reported that Cannock Chase District Council had issued a notification under Section 49[4] of the Communications Act consenting to the removal of several payphones in the District. They had, however, concurred with the views of this Parish Council and objected to the removal of the payphone at the above location amid concerns that elderly residents would be adversely affected.

6. SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE

Support Staffordshire had advised that the Annual General Meeting had been postponed to

a later date due to concerns from members and partners about the time and location of the event.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write again to Support Staffordshire reiterating the following comments:-

- An evening meeting was preferred in order that Members who were still working would be able to attend.
- The meeting should be held in a location which was accessible by public transport for the vast majority of towns in Staffordshire.

7. ZIP WIRE – RAVENHILL PARK

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager had advised that, in his view, the park play area could accommodate a zip wire if it was erected on the right-hand side of the main entrance. Brereton Million had been asked provide more details for consideration by the District Council.

The Parish Council expressed its concern that such a piece of equipment was being provided in the actual play area. If this was the case, it must be stipulated that the equipment was for the use of children in the same age group as those permitted to use the equipment in the park. It was important that the Parish Council was kept informed of developments as Members were anxious to see details of the scheme before it was given the 'go-ahead'.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk convey these views to the District Council.

8. POTHOLES

The Parish Council expressed its concern that in the weekly update on repairs, there was no evidence of any action being taken in Brereton and Ravenhill. This was despite the Chairman having previously submitted a list of potholes requiring attention.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to County Highways to express concern that no action had been taken to repair the numerous potholes requiring attention in Brereton and Ravenhill.

9. OAK TREE FARM

Amanda Milling, MP, had referred the Parish Council's comments on Oak Tree Farm to both the County Council and the District Council and was awaiting a response. She undertook to update the Parish Council in due course.

10. DOCUMENTATION

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

- Western Power Distribution – Summary Report 2015/2016

11. DEBT BENEFIT AND CONSUMER ADVICE

The Parish Council noted that the County Council currently commissioned this service from

Citizens Advice at an annual cost of £439,000. As a result of a £15 million funding gap in its budget, the authority was inviting other organisations, including Parish Councils to contribute towards the cost of the service. They had estimated that £300,000 would be required collectively from all partners to maintain some level of service.

Members considered it to be totally unrealistic to expect the Parish Council to contribute to such a shortfall in funding when it was, itself, experiencing a reduction in funding of over £10,000 from the District Council. The County Council had made large savings from changes to the library service, etc. In addition, despite repeated requests for potholes to be repaired in Brereton and Ravenhill, these had not been dealt with, presumably resulting in further savings to the County Council.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk, in conveying the foregoing views to the County Council, point out that the savings identified should provide sufficient resources to enable the Authority to support this very worthwhile cause.

12. CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL – SECOND STAGE BUDGET CONSULTATION

RESOLVED

1. That in response to this consultation exercise, the Clerk reaffirm the Parish Council's objection to the cuts in funding of £10,721.00 made up as follows:-

Precept Council Tax Grant	-	£8,435.00
Christmas Illuminations	-	£2,286.00

2. That the Parish Council also object to any increase in car parking charges in the District.

13. MAJOR ADDRESS CHANGE – 'BRERETON'

The Clerk reported that Royal Mail had agreed to the addition of 'Brereton' to all addresses within the parish. Before they could proceed further, they required letters of support from both Cannock Chase District Council and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Parish Council noted that the Clerk had already written to both bodies and responses were awaited.

14. MINING MEMORIAL

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on action being taken to construct a new mining memorial in Ravenhill Park and it was

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council agree to undertake the future maintenance of the mining memorial and also arrange for it to be included in its insurance portfolio with Zurich.

[Councillor TA Jones declared a personal interest in this matter and did not speak or vote thereon.]

15. PROVISION OF NEW LITTER BINS – TOWERS BUSINESS PARK

The Clerk reported the contents of an e-mail sent on behalf of Amanda Milling, MP,

requesting the Parish Council to consider providing litter bins on the Towers Business Park in an attempt to prevent fly tipping.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk respond on behalf of the Parish Council to advise that the request for litter bins should be directed to the District Council and that consideration should also be given to an approach being made to those companies to whom deliveries were being made, inviting them to also consider providing such bins.

16. FOOTPATH AND CYCLE IMPROVEMENTS – BRERETON AND RUGELEY

The District Council had indicated that officers would like to meet a delegation of three Members from the Parish Council to discuss the details of the above initiative.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman, together with Councillor Mrs DM Easton and R Easton and the Clerk, be authorised to represent the Parish Council at the meeting.

17. WESTERN POWER

The Parish Council noted details of various stakeholder workshops being organised by Western Power.

Any Members wishing to attend the workshops were invited to inform the Clerk as soon as possible.

18. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Clerk reported that the District Council was currently reviewing the need to convert existing Dog Control Orders to Public Space Protection Orders under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Police Act 2014.

The Parish Council indicated its response to the various questions in the consultative document. The Clerk undertook to forward these comments onto the District Council.

19. RUGELEY TOWN COUNCIL – CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Parish Council noted an exchange of correspondence between Rugeley Town Council and Hednesford Town Council regarding car parking charges.

[Councillor Mrs P Ansell declared a personal interest in this matter and did not speak or vote thereon.]

20. COUNCILLOR MRS H SOUTHWELL

The Parish Council was pleased to learn that Councillor Mrs H Southwell was improving physically and was in good mental health.

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 [as amended], the absence of Councillor Mr H Southwell be approved for a further period of six months.

21. PRECEPT 2017/2018

The report of the Clerk on the precept 2017/2018 was considered.

RESOLVED

[1] That subject to the following amendments, the budget, as submitted, be approved:-

Item	Draft Budget 2017/2018 £
<u>Projects</u>	
Tennis Court Fund	1,000.00
Street Cleaning Machine Replacement Fund	1,000.00
Defibrillator	150.00
<u>Other Initiatives</u>	
Neighbourhood Development Plan	800.00

[2] That the revised total budget of £76,314.12 be approved.

[3] That the Parish Council's precept be increased by 15.6% to £59,490.00 for the 2017/2018 financial year.

22. WORLD BOOK NIGHT 2017

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda, sought the views of the Parish Council on this very worthwhile initiative.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk inform the organisation that the Parish Council would wish to participate in World Book Night and seek their advice on how best to secure the involvement of the local community, with particular emphasis being given to elderly residents.

23. TOILET FACILITIES FOR AMAZON DELIVERY DRIVERS

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda, referred to the lack of toilet facilities for delivery drivers for Amazon. Members noted the consequential implications of such a lack of facilities which was causing distress to local residents and did not provide the drivers with any dignity. The problem was particularly prevalent during busy periods of the year.

RESOLVED

[1] That the Clerk, in acquainting Amazon with the foregoing, request that they give urgent consideration to providing improved toilet provision and washing facilities.

[2] That the company also be advised that the Parish Council would welcome an opportunity to visit and tour their site.

24. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6th December 2016, be approved.

25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 7th February 2017, at 7.30 pm.

26. **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present at this juncture in the meeting.

[Chairman]