

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 19th July 2016.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor 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 the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

Reference was made to an incident involving the pursuit by the Police of a vehicle speeding through the parish.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk endeavour to obtain more information from the Police on this particular incident.

4. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council's application to the British Heart Foundation for funding for the purchase of a defibrillator had been approved.

The Parish Hall Management Committee, at its meeting on 20th July 2016, would consider and decide upon the further action that was now required.

5. COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Library Provision

The Chairman welcomed Mr Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer, to the meeting.

Mr Hunt indicated that the County Council was in the process of developing proposals on how Brereton library could continue and in what form. A meeting was being held on 29th July 2016, to determine the way forward with a final announcement expected at the end of August.

The Parish Council reiterated its previous comments that there was simply not an inexhaustible number of volunteers available to operate these services. Members were concerned that the County Council were simply passing on the burden of services provision

to local councils without providing the required resources. The Authority was then claiming credit for not increasing Council Tax.

Mr Hunt undertook to look at previous correspondence between the County Council and the Parish Council on this matter and provide a further update in due course.

Car Park Area – Former Teachers’ Car Park – Old Nursery Fields School

Mr Hunt enquired as to whether the Parish Council would be interested in taking over responsibility for this land from the County Council and managing it for use as a car park. He undertook to set up a meeting where this matter could be discussed further.

‘Town Deals’

Mr Hunt outlined an initiative being adopted by the County Council to produce ‘Town Deals’ for areas such as Rugeley using local intelligence to focus on regenerating the area. He enquired as to whether Brereton and Ravenhill would be interested in participating in the initiative.

The Parish Council agreed, in principle, to participate and highlighted the following areas of common ground:-

- Rugeley Town Station
- Canal Tow Path

Wharf Road

The Parish Council made reference to the very poor state of Wharf Road.

Mr Hunt undertook to liaise with colleagues and come back to the Parish Council with proposals for improving the road.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Mr Hunt for attending the meeting.

6. ALLEYWAYS

Reference was made to the poor state of the following alleyways:-

- Off St Michaels Road – adjacent to Old Nursery Fields School – opening onto the Main Road
- Nursery Road at junction with Swan Close to Coalpit Lane

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to County Highways requesting that remedial action is taken to improve the overall condition of these two alleyways

7. CANNOCK CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY [CCAONB]

Councillor Mrs P Ansell reported that an arbitrary decision had been taken to replace the Advisory Partnership with four Task and Finish Groups. There had been no prior consultation on this change which appeared to be far less cost effective for the organisation.

Members were concerned that too little attention was being given to the interests of the AONB and it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the CCAONB to express the Parish Council's concern at the proposed structural changes, particularly as they were implemented without any prior consultation.

8. PARKING IN ARMITAGE LANE

The Clerk circulated a letter from the Headteacher at Hob Hill School.

Members were pleased to note that consideration was being given to the introduction of 'walking buses'.

Members clarified their comments in relation to coaches by indicating that the problems previously identified by the Parish Council related to the drivers of coaches delivering children from other schools.

RESOLVED

That the foregoing views be conveyed to the Headteacher of Hob Hill School.

9. TREES, MAIN ROAD, BRERETON

The Clerk reported that the County Council had advised that these were not highway trees and did not appear to be causing any danger to the highway. As a result, no further action would be taken.

10. DOCUMENTATION

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

- Public Rights of Way Guide
- Information on the 'SPACE' Scheme

11. OLIVE BRANCH TRAINING

The Parish Council noted details of this training scheme being provided by Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The sessions were designed to identify hazards and vulnerabilities within the home with a view to reducing risks. The sessions were offered free of charge.

12. ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Clerk reported the contents of a letter from the Headteacher at St Joseph's Primary School commending the contribution of the Newman Grove Allotment Association in supporting children at the school in gardening activities and animal husbandry. The Group had supported the children on a weekly basis sharing knowledge and good gardening practice.

RESOLVED

- That a copy of the letter be sent to the Newman Grove Allotment Association expressing the thanks of the Parish Council for what was excellent initiative.
- That a letter of thanks also be sent to the Headteacher of the school.

13. PARKING – ARCH STREET AND LOCKSIDE VIEW

The Parish Council noted that the County Council did not consider that Residents Parking Zones would solve the problems in Arch Street and Lockside View. Although not being able to accurately predict the price of permits, the County Council considered that, based on experiences elsewhere, these were likely to cost residents about £50.00 per year.

The County Council had also highlighted the fact that any scheme could only provide a number of permits based on the available road space. There was, therefore, a risk that some residents would have to park their vehicles outside the zone.

The Clerk would send a copy of the letter to Councillor R Easton, who had kindly agreed to update residents of these two streets on the response from the County Council.

14. ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

The Parish Council noted details of the following Orders:-

Power Station Road – Diversion of Vehicular Traffic

Wharf Road onto A460 Brereton Road – Temporary Suspension of Left Turn

15. COUNCILLOR MRS HJ SOUTHWELL

The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs HJ Southwell was unable to attend meetings at present due to illness. Recognising her contribution to the work of the Parish Council over many years, it was

RESOLVED

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

16. ARRIVA SERVICE PROVISION

RESOLVED

That the Clerk seek a response from Arriva as to the reason for withdrawing the Brereton Circular Number 24 service after 3.30 pm each day.

17. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR MRS P ANSELL TO COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

That Councillor Mrs P Ansell be appointed to serve on both the Parish Hall Management Committee and Finance and Management Committee.

18. 'BRERETON'

The Parish Council considered the contents of a letter from Amanda Milling, MP, in respect of the use of 'Brereton' in postal addresses [copy previously circulated]. She had enclosed a copy of a letter from the Public Affairs Manager of the Royal Mail Group.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to Tanya Gourley at the Address Management Unit of Royal Mail [copy to MP and Peter McPherson-Smith] setting out the case for 'Brereton' to be recognised in postal addresses within the Parish.

19. ARMITAGE ROAD

The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter from Amanda Milling, MP, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council, copies of both letters had been circulated.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from Councillor Alan Dudson indicating that he would support the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit along Armitage Road.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write again to the Chief Executive of the County Council [copy to MP] explaining the following:-

- the assurances given that Armitage Road would have a 30 mph limit following construction of the by-pass;
- amplifying previous comments about the importance of introducing a 30 mph limit before a serious accident occurred; and
- pointing out that this parish was being disadvantaged by the lack of financial resources coming to Brereton and Ravenhill from the County Council.

20. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7th June 2016, be approved.

21. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 8th June 2016, be approved.

22. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 8th June 2016, be approved.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 6th September 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

24. PUBLIC FORUM

The member of the public present made reference to the dangers of speeding on Armitage Road. The Clerk undertook to include her comments in the letter being sent to the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council.

[Chairman]