

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 4th October 2016.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, GN Molineux and Mrs HJ Southwell.

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 6th September 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman introduced, and welcomed, Duncan Rollo, Partnership Manager, Staffordshire Police.

Mr Rollo reported that his work involved linking in and working more closely with other agencies. In particular, he was re-assessing how individual areas were policed based on an evaluation of the frequency and types of criminal activity. He outlined details of a pilot scheme which encouraged citizens to log and report potential criminal activity and other community issues as they arose. The data gathered would be evaluated to build up a picture which would be used to ensure that police resources were deployed more effectively. Mr Rollo encouraged people to contact him direct on: 0750801 2597.

The Parish Council expressed its support for this new initiative. Members did, however, raise the following issues which were noted by Mr Rollo:-

- the problems associated with the 101 service – examples were given;
- the inability of the police in Staffordshire to secure funding from developers as part of Section 106 Agreements. Many other forces throughout the country had obtained substantial funding from this source but this was not the case in Staffordshire.

The Chairman thanked Duncan Rollo for attending the meeting.

4. USE OF THE NAME 'BRERETON' IN POSTAL ADDRESSES

Royal Mail had acknowledged that they had received all the information they required from the Parish Council and were now in the process of identifying all the addresses within the Parish.

5. DEFIBRILLATOR

Members concurred that the First Aid Training held on 27th September 2016, had been most successful. The Clerk undertook to send a letter of thanks to St John Ambulance.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk make arrangements for a further training session to be held during November.

6. COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE

The Clerk reported that Brereton Million had indicated that they were not prepared to support the funding of a new Interpretation Panel.

A response was awaited from the District Council but if this proved negative, the replacement of the panel would not be possible in this financial year.

7. LITTER AT RUGELEY TOWN STATION

Members noted that a response had been received from London Midland in which they advised that the issue of litter bins not being emptied had been referred to the Fault Desk for action.

Members indicated that far from the situation being resolved, the problem was getting worse. In particular, the large litter bin at the entrance to the station on the Birmingham bound side was overflowing.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk make London Midland aware of the situation and request that urgent action is taken to empty the bins on a more regular basis.

8. DOCUMENTATION

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

- Press Release – Cannock Chase District Council – Air Quality
- Update on pot hole repairs – Staffordshire County Council
- Ironman update – 18th June 2017

9. BRACE

The Clerk circulated a letter from BRACE thanking the Parish Council for its support of the Brereton Carnival 2016.

The Parish Council considered the possibility of entering a float in next year's carnival procession. The Chairman would be attending the Annual Meeting of BRACE when further information would be available on the theme of next year's carnival. Following this meeting, the Chairman would discuss with colleagues as to whether the Parish Council should enter a float in the 2017 carnival procession.

10. LICHFIELD AND RUGELEY VILLAGE CONNECT

The Clerk circulated a copy of a letter announcing the launch of the 'Lichfield and Rugeley Village Connect'.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk enquire as to the following:-

- Seek confirmation that the service would include the collection of parishioners from Armitage Road?

- Ascertain whether the service would be available for people going to Stile Cop Cemetery?
2. That the provider be encouraged to give more publicity to the new service provision.

11. BRERETON MILLION

Members noted a request from the Chairman of Brereton Million for the Parish Council to consider appointing representatives to attend future meetings. He advised that his commitment remained for joint collaborative working.

12. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2015/2016

Grant Thornton had completed, and approved, the audit of the Parish Council's accounts. They had added an informative in respect of the following:-

- the period for the exercise of public rights to inspect the accounts must be limited to a single period of 30 working days and this period should not be exceeded;
- Local Councils were now required to account for fixed assets at purchase cost, not at insurance value.

RESOLVED

That the informatives be duly noted and acted upon in respect of future years.

13. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Parish Council considered the following documents, copies of which had been circulated:-

- notes of the meeting held on 6th September 2016;
- the District Council's formal consultation document.

RESOLVED

That the response to be made to the District Council be as set out in the attached letter, with copies being sent to Rugeley Town Council and Amanda Milling, MP.

14. PARISH HALL – CAR PARKING

The Parish Council considered the contents of a letter from the Parks and Open Spaces Manager at the District Council, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk, in responding to the Parks and Open Spaces Manager at the District Council, express the Parish Council's concern by highlighting the following:-

- The main problems associated with parking were caused by the number of vehicles being parked by people using the park's facilities and supporters attending football matches, particularly cup matches, at the weekend.
- Ultimately, the problems of access for emergency vehicles and the dangers to which the Parish Council had previously referred, relating to the elderly and disabled, rested with the District Council as land owners of the park.

- The Parish Council remain of the view that the District Council had a duty of care for people in the park and the Parish Council had fulfilled its responsibility by bringing this matter to their attention.

15. ALLEYWAY – MAIN ROAD, BRERETON TO SYCAMORE CRESCENT

Councillor Mrs DM Easton, who had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda, referred to the hedge inside the garden of 42 Sycamore Crescent overhanging the alleyway and spilling out towards Main Road.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the occupiers of the property requesting that they kindly cut back the offending hedge to improve access for pedestrians, particularly the elderly and disabled.

16. OAK TREE FARM

The Parish Council noted the contents of several letters from Amanda Milling, MP, copies of which had been circulated.

A Member reported that the fire which had started on 5th September 2016, was still burning today [4th October]. It was very visible to commuters using the rail line and it was abundantly clear that the dump contained a variety of general waste. It was far from being just timber.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write again to both the District Council and the County Council reinforcing the request already made for the site to be compulsory purchased and, at the same time, he point out a second potential site where a similar nuisance could occur, namely the former EDL building on the Redbrook Lane Industrial Site.

17. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

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

18. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 7th September 2016, be approved.

19. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 7th September 2016, be approved.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 1st November 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

21. **PUBLIC FORUM**

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

[Chairman]