

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 6th September 2016.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors PA Fisher [Chairman], H Farnath, Miss C Harvey, N Parton 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 the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 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. The matter had been originally raised at the last meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

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

4. WHARF ROAD - UPDATE

Councillor TA Jones informed the Parish Council that, as suggested by Graham Hunt at the last meeting, he had reported the existence of several pot holes in Wharf Road and each one had been dealt with within one week.

The Parish Council noted action was still needed to clear away overgrown vegetation to improve this important access into the parish.

5. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Parish Council noted that training for the use of the new defibrillator would be held on 27th September 2016, at 7.00 pm at the Parish Hall.

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

Royal Mail had enquired as to whether the Parish Council would wish to use the name 'Ravenhill' in addition to 'Brereton' in postal addresses in the parish.

RESOLVED

That Royal Mail be informed that the postal addresses of all properties in this parish should be referred to as 'Brereton', 'Rugeley' and that the Clerk send the further information they had requested to enable them to make a final decision on the proposal.

7. ARMITAGE ROAD – 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT

The County Council had advised that Councillor A Dudson was supportive of the Parish Council's views on this matter. The scheme was recorded on Councillor Dudson's Divisional Highway Programme [DHP] but could not be identified as a priority for this year due to other demands taking precedence. It remained the case that this request might be considered a DHP priority in future years.

A letter in similar terms had been received from the MP.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the County Council [copy to Councillor Dudson] to enquire, if at any stage, a Section 106 contribution had been received from developers on or using Armitage Road.

8. COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE

The County Council had advised that they could only grant-fund the sum of £500.00 towards the replacement Interpretation Panel to be sited adjacent to the public footpath at Rugeley Town Station.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk make application to Brereton Million for the remaining funding of £500.00 for the Interpretation Panel and £200.00 for materials.

9. INTERPRETATION PANEL – THE LEVELS

The District Council had enquired as to why the new wooden-framed lectern style sign on the mineral line at The Levels did not acknowledge the District Council who were the land owners. They had sought confirmation that the Parish Council had erected the sign and that it would be responsible for its ongoing maintenance. In addition, they had enquired as to when the original sign would be removed.

RESOLVED

That in responding to the District Council, the Clerk enquire as to whether they could assist with part-funding the new Interpretation Panel being provided in the vicinity of Rugeley Town Station.

10. LITTER AT RUGELEY TOWN STATION

Councillor TA Jones requested that a letter be sent to London Midland requesting that the litter bins on the Birmingham bound platform be emptied more regularly. Currently, the bins were often overflowing, spilling litter onto the platform.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk arrange for the letter to be sent.

11. WEST MIDLANDS FRANCHISE

Mr J Morgan from the District Council had advised that the DfT had published its Stakeholder Briefing Document and consultation responses which included Chase Line services in the next franchise from October 2017. The Crew-Stoke-Stafford-Rugeley Trent Valley-Euston service would be diverted to operate between Stafford-Crewe and the direct Rugeley Trent Valley-Stoke service would end. There would also be two Walsall-Euston

peak journeys a day.

Councillor TA Jones referred to significant improvements to the Chase Line made possible by electrification.

12. NEW COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Staffordshire County Council were offering two sessions for people thinking of standing for election as a County Councillor. The sessions would be held on 23rd November and 30th November 2016, between 5.30 and 7.30 pm. The sessions would be held at the County Buildings, Stafford.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Members noted that this Annual General Meeting would be held at Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall on 6th October 2016, at 7.30 pm.

14. CANNOCK CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY – TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Clerk had circulated information on the future direction of this organisation.

RESOLVED

That the information be noted.

15. HIGHWAYS – NEW APPROACH – STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Parish Council noted the contents of Asset Management documentation received from the County Council. A copy of each of the documents had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk respond to the consultation process as follows:-

- The documents were not user-friendly – there was too much ‘management style speak’;
- Page 6 referred to the County Council having no information on either culverts [1.0 – 1.5 metre span] or any other culverts. This was deeply regrettable as the culverts were the main cause for flooding in the parish;
- Page 7 – data confidence on trees was reported as low with no indication of the numbers involved. This was again wholly unsatisfactory as good data was essential in ensuring trees on or near the highway were properly maintained. Reference would again be made to the trees opposite the Thorn site which were dangerous and, in windy conditions, could fall down the embankment onto Brereton Main Road.

16. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council considered the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th August 2016.

The Clerk circulated a letter from Amanda Milling MP, responding to the Parish Council’s concern regarding the withdrawal of grant funding.

The Clerk sought a steer from Members regarding future attendance at Clerks’ meetings with the District Council.

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 18th August 2016, be approved and confirmed.
2. That the Clerk determine whether attendance at future Clerks' meetings would be beneficial taking into account the contents of the Agenda for each meeting.

17. OAK TREE FARM – SLITTING MILL ROAD

Members made reference to a large fire on this site which had resulted in smoke engulfing all parts of this and neighbouring parishes. The fire started on 5th September and flames could still be seen at 7.10 am the following morning, with large amounts of smoke continuing to cause a nuisance in the parish.

It was understood that the Fire Service did attend at 5.00 pm on 5th September 2016, but felt unable to intervene because of contamination on the site.

Members noted that the site was an illegal waste dump which would have been removed if an Enforcement Notice served on the owner had been complied with. There had also been previous prosecutions in respect of this repeat offender.

Due to the circumstances in this case, it was:-

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to both Environmental Health at the District Council and the Waste Planning Department of the County Council requesting them to compulsorily purchase the site in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 226 [1] [b] which was approved by the Court of Appeal in Sharkey v Secretary of State and South Buckinghamshire District Council.

18. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 19th July 2016, be approved.

19. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 20th July 2016, be approved.

20. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 20th July 2016, be approved.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 4th October 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

22. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

23. **BRERETON MILLION**

The Parish Council reviewed its membership on Brereton Million.

The matter would be further discussed at a future meeting.

[Chairman]