

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 1st March 2016.

Present

Councillors Mrs G Harvey [Chairman], K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, Miss IJ Brown, Mrs DM Easton, R Easton, H Farnath, PA Fisher, Miss C Harvey, TA Jones, GN Molineux, N Parton 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 2nd February 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

The Parish Council noted that in respect of minute 5 it was the post not the Information Panel that had been removed.

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Sheldon reported that Inspector Cooke had moved on elsewhere in the Police Force and had been replaced by Inspector Brownsword.

PCSO Sheldon advised that there had been five cases of theft of catalytic convertors, also thefts of purses from people shopping in Rugeley. The Police stressed the need to be vigilant at all times and they agreed to make available a supply of alarms for use by the elderly.

The Parish Council noted that vandalism had occurred to one of the dugouts owned by Brereton Town Football Club.

Members indicated that they would welcome the Police making more use of the Police Office in the Parish Hall.

4. THORN SITE

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Coles [Senior Technical Manager, Barratt Homes West Midlands] to the meeting.

Mr Coles circulated a leaflet outlining details of the development and the changes that had been made following engagement with the local community. Layouts of the overall proposals were displayed at the meeting.

The Parish Council acknowledged that the majority of residents were now pleased with the proposals and Members expressed their thanks to Barratt Homes West Midlands for involving both the Parish Council and local residents in the consultative process.

Mr Coles undertook to consider the possibility of the Mining Memorial being sited at a suitable location on the site of the development. He would also consider the possibility of providing an Information Panel in respect of Maurice Buckmaster who was born on

this site. The Parish Council had already written to the District Council requesting that one of the streets on the development be named after him.

5. **2 MADDEN CLOSE**

The Parish Council noted the current position in respect of the occupancy of this property.

6. **CPI FUNDING 2015/2016**

The Parish Council noted that the new Interpretation Panel would be situated on the stretch of the Brereton and Ravenhill Way on The Levels side of Colliery Road.

7. **GATE AND FENCING**

Reference was made to repairs being required to the gate at the end of Cherry Tree Road and the link fencing in Madden Close and Newman Grove.

RESOLVED

That authority be given for the repair work to be undertaken subject to any expenditure incurred being reimbursed by the County Council.

8. **BUS SERVICE – X70 BRERETON TO WOLVERHAMPTON**

The Clerk reported a letter from Amanda Milling, MP, in which she advised that the X70 service was a trial service which, unfortunately, Arriva withdrew because of limited passenger demand. She had sent the Parish Council a copy of a letter she had received from the Chief Executive of the County Council in which he advised that there were a small number of operators delivering local service bus transport in the area but all the services supported by the County Council were offered for tender through a robust procurement tendering process.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive of the County Council be informed of the Parish Council's continuing concern with the removal of the service, particularly as more people would be travelling to Wolverhampton to access expanding employment opportunities and also hospital services following the problems at Stafford Hospital.

9. **DEMENTIA FRIENDLY STRATEGY**

Councillor Mrs P Ansell reported that the Special Conference held on this subject for the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty had been designed to source information for inclusion in their strategy.

Members were reminded of the public meeting on 16th March 2016 to discuss further development of a Dementia Strategy for Brereton and Ravenhill.

10. **DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was excluded from applying for funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. Accordingly, the Heritage Committee would be asked to authorise an application for funding.

Reference was made to the Playing Fields Legacy Fund as a further possible source of funding. The Clerk undertook to investigate.

11. PARKING – ATTLEE CRESCENT

The Parish Council noted the contents of a further letter from Mr P Haycock of 17 Attlee Crescent outlining his preference for a hard tarmac area at the bottom of the crescent.

RESOLVED

That a copy of the letter be sent to the District Council and they be informed that the Parish Council concur with the views expressed by Mr Haycock.

12. CCTV

The Clerk reported that the Legal Department at the District Council were examining the agreement for CCTV provision and their response was awaited.

The Clerk also reminded Members of the radio service that currently operated between the Parish Hall and the CCTV Control Room. The withdrawal from the CCTV contract would render this current radio system obsolete.

13. DOCUMENTATION

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

- Ironman – Newsletter
- CCAONB – Review 2014 – 2015

14. CPI BID 2016/2017

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to make a bid for a new Interpretation Panel on the Public Right of Way in the Rugeley Town Station Car Park in the sum of £1,000.00, together with equipment in the sum of £200.00.

15. HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II – 90th BIRTHDAY

The Parish Council noted details of a 2016 Collector's Medal being made available to commemorate this historic event.

16. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

The Parish Council expressed its concern at an incorrect response from Staffordshire Police in which they advised "*it's completely up to the councils what they allocate developer funding towards*". This statement was wholly incorrect. Many other Police Forces were represented at planning appeals and obtained money in that way. This view had been supported by a High Court Judge.

RESOLVED

That an open letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner expressing the concern of the Parish Council with this inaccurate statement.

17. FRACKING

A copy of a paper on fracking received from the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Beauty, had been circulated to Members.

Members expressed concern at the decision of the government to allow fracking below

National Parks, World Heritage Sites and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Parish Council considered that this was wholly inappropriate as there were many potential risks, including toxic chemicals reaching the water supply. Also in this area there were numerous obsolete mining tunnels which further increased the risks associated with this type of excavation.

Members were also cognisant of what would be the negative impact on the local community, particularly with a large increase in heavy vehicles entering and leaving any site excavation.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk inform the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that the Parish Council would strongly object to any fracking on Cannock Chase for the reasons outlined above.

18. FAILURE TO RECOGNISE BRERETON

The Parish Council considered a letter from the Chairman of Brereton Royal British Legion in which he expressed concern that the identity of Brereton was under threat by continual reference to places in this parish as 'Rugeley'.

Members echoed the sentiments outlined in the letter as Brereton was a unique distinct community first mentioned in the Domesday Book.

RESOLVED

1. That a photo call be arranged to highlight this issue both for the press and the local community.
2. That the Clerk write to Amanda Milling, MP, requesting her support to launch a campaign to highlight the distinctiveness of Brereton and also ask her to liaise with the Post Office with a view to measures being introduced to highlight Brereton and not Rugeley in addresses, etc.
3. That the Chief Executive of the County Council and the Managing Director of the District Council be acquainted with this initiative and asked to arrange for all correspondence etc. relating to this parish to be worded correctly by referring to Brereton and not Rugeley.

19. REDBROOK LANE/BRICK KILN WAY – HIGHWAY SAFETY

The Parish Council, on 1st December 2015, had agreed to review this matter at this meeting.

Members acknowledged that there had been limited improvements, with the local haulage company introducing some helpful measures. The matter would be kept under review.

20. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd February 2016, be approved.

21. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 10th February 2016, be approved.

22. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Management Committee held on 10th February 2016 be approved.

23. PARKING IN ARCH STREET AND LOCKSIDE VIEW

Councillor TA Jones had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda.

Councillor PA Fisher, who had spoken to an officer from the County Council, outlined details of the costs involved in introducing a permit scheme. The County Council had agreed to write to the Clerk with these details, following which the Parish Council would arrange to consult local residents on the possible introduction of such a scheme.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 5th April 2016, followed by the Annual Parish meeting at 8.30 p.m.

25. PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised.

[Chairman]