

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 3rd November 2015.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Farnath and N Parton 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 6th October 2015, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Sheldon indicated that the intercom at Rugeley Police Station was now operating correctly. He undertook to expedite feedback in respect of the incident in Birch Lane.

PCSO Sheldon highlighted two main priority areas for the Police at present, namely:-

- A spate of burglaries in both this parish and the surrounding areas, and
- Bogus callers

Members expressed real concern about the number of burglaries locally and asked the Police to provide further advice and reassurance, particularly to the elderly.

Members noted that the Police were stepping up patrols regarding the continued nuisance being caused by motor bikes in the vicinity of Madden Close. The Police were thanked for the action that had been taken to provide some reassurance to the public on this matter.

The Parish Council requested that the following issues be reported back for action to be taken:-

- The Parish Council would wish to see more high visibility policing and extra patrols in the area, particularly in the light of the recent number of burglaries.
- To follow up the lack of any response of substance to an e-mail sent by Councillor TA Jones regarding accessing money from developers as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy Section 106. Such funding could be used to increase Police numbers and purchase equipment, etc. Although this initiative was being used elsewhere in the country, it had not, so far, been adopted in Staffordshire.

4. SHORTAGE OF SCHOOL PLACES

Councillor TA Jones, who had requested that this item be included on the Agenda, referred to the proposals for enlarging the capacity of Hob Hill Primary School.

The Clerk reported that the Headteacher had advised that the expansion of the school would involve a two-storey building to the rear of the school to accommodate five/six classrooms as well as small group rooms, offices and toilets. There would also be remodelling to some of the existing facilities. It was hoped to start work in February 2016 with a finish towards the end of that year.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write back to the Headteacher requesting:-

1. That the Parish Council be given the opportunity to comment on the design and build proposals before the plans are finalised, and
2. An indication as to how the school intended to accommodate the children during the redevelopment phase.

5. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from Nigel Ferguson to set up and manage the Parish Council's website on the following terms:-

- Initial set-up costs [£400.00]
- Annual hosting of domain name [£100.00 per annum]
- Inputting of data [£200.00 per annum]

The Parish Council noted that the domain name of BreretonandRavenhill.co.uk was available and was priced at £6.00 per annum.

RESOLVED

That the proposals, as outlined above, be agreed and the Clerk liaise with Nigel Ferguson in setting up the website.

6. PROBLEMS CAUSED TO RESIDENTS BY OVER-LARGE TREES

Councillor TA Jones, who had requested that this item be included on the Agenda, referred to the large number of complaints being received from residents whose quality of life was being affected by the nuisance from trees in the vicinity of their properties. The offending trees were not only blocking out sunlight but also causing problems as a result of overhanging branches and the spread of roots causing damage to pavements, etc.

Councillor GN Molineux kindly undertook to bring this matter to the attention of the Tree Officer at the District Council.

7. DEFIBRILLATORS

The Clerk reported that the British Heart Foundation was making available 100% grant funding for the purchase of both defibrillators and the cabinets in which they could be housed.

The Parish Council noted that the proposals agreed at the last meeting would involve fundraising, with a proportion of the monies raised going to AED Donate.

RESOLVED

1. That the decision in minute 4 of the meeting held on 6th October 2015, be rescinded.
2. That the Clerk apply for grant funding from the British Heart Foundation for both the defibrillator and the cabinet.

8. **TWO OVERHANGING MAPLE TREES – 8A TRENT VIEW CLOSE**

The Clerk reported the contents of letters from both Lindens Estates and Cannock Chase District Council in respect of the above.

The Parish Council noted that following a request from the occupier of 8A Trent View Close to fell the trees, the District Council had forwarded to him a Tree Preservation Order application form, together with Guidance Notes. These had been sent on 24th August 2015, and the District Council was awaiting their return.

The Clerk undertook to send Councillor PA Fisher a copy of the correspondence.

9. **DOCUMENTATION**

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

- CCTV statistics for September and October
- NHS Workshops – Care Transformation Programme

10. **TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER – ARMITAGE LANE AND MAIN ROAD REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2015**

The Clerk submitted details of this proposed temporary road closure.

11. **ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE – RAVENHILL WARD SOCIAL CLUB**

The Parish Council noted that application had been made to the District Council for the above building to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. The District Council would determine the application at its meeting on 7th December 2015.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk inform the District Council that this Parish Council fully supports the application and would wish to see this building listed as an Asset of Community Value.

[Councillors PA Fisher, TA Jones and Mrs HJ Southwell declared a personal interest in this matter.]

12. **THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**

The Parish Council noted the contents of an e-mail received from Staffordshire County Council in respect of the above matter.

Members were strongly of the opinion that the County Council-owned parts of Cannock Chase should remain in County Council ownership. There should be no question of selling off land for any other use. In addition, the Parish Council again re-affirmed its view that there was not an inexhaustible number of volunteers and with the commitments already made in other areas, it was not practical to expect volunteers to

take the lead on this issue. The Parish Council were, therefore, opposed to the establishment of another voluntary body.

Councillor Mrs P Ansell reported that a similar view on governance had been taken at a recent Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty liaison meeting with Parish Councils. She had already attended one meeting on the subject and a further meeting was planned to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED

That the County Council be acquainted with the views of the Parish Council as outlined above.

13. APPLICATION TO REGISTER LAND AS VILLAGE GREEN AT THE GREEN, OAKTREE ROAD AND BEECHES ROAD, BRERETON

The Clerk circulated a further letter from the County Council in respect of the above matter. The letter enquired as to whether the Parish Council would be providing evidence from Cannock Chase District Council regarding grass cutting.

The Parish Council expressed concern at this request as it was not the Parish Council who had informed the County Council that the District Council had carried out grass cutting. The Parish Council was simply responding to a request they had made for information in this regard.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk liaise with Councillor TA Jones in preparing a response to the letter from the County Council.

[Councillors Mrs DM Easton and R Easton declared a personal interest in respect of this item.]

14. POWER STATION

The Parish Council referred to numerous complaints received in respect of ash and other materials being emitted from the Power Station. Contractors had been engaged by the Company to decontaminate properties and cars. Members were most anxious about this matter and expressed real concern as to the long-term health implications for the parishioners of Brereton and Ravenhill.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk write to the Managing Director at the Power Station requesting him to comment on the long-term health implications for the parishioners of Brereton and Ravenhill and request that he indicate what action was being taken to prevent further discharges into the atmosphere.
2. That a copy of the letter referred to in [1.] above be sent to the Department of Health, Environment Agency and Cannock Chase District Council, with them also being given an opportunity to comment on the matter.

15. DRAFT AIR QUALITY UPDATING AND SCREENING ASSESSMENT

The Parish Council considered this draft document, a copy of which had been circulated.

The Parish Council noted that the District Council did not have any monitoring equipment situated permanently in Brereton and Ravenhill to detect particles [PM10]. With the intermittent releases of particulates from the Power Station, Members considered it essential that such equipment should be provided as a matter of urgency.

The release of this material was having an adverse effect on both people and property. The long-term health effects were of greatest concern, particularly in a community where so many former miners with severe bronchial conditions lived – this only served to exacerbate the problems.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk respond to the consultation, as outlined above, requesting that monitoring equipment be permanently positioned in Brereton and Ravenhill to monitor future discharges from the Power Station.
2. That on Page 7 – penultimate paragraph – reference be made to the Power Station being in Brereton and Ravenhill, with the words ‘located near Rugeley’ being deleted.

16. PROPOSED NO WAITING AT ANY TIME AND PROPOSED LIMITED WAITING – WHEELHOUSE ROAD AND POWER STATION ROAD

The Parish Council considered these proposals, details of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

1. That the County Council be informed that the Parish Council had no objection to the order in respect of normal working days but the following should be excluded:-

Saturdays/Sundays/Bank and Public Holidays

2. That the following reason for the decision in [1.] above be submitted to the County Council:-

“Wheelhouse Road is used as overspill for parking when major events are held on the above days in Ravenhill Park. If the County Council proceed on the basis of a total ban, it would disadvantage the local community who would be forced to park elsewhere in a less desirable location, causing problems for other local residents”.

17. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6th October 2015, be approved.

18. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 14th October 2015, be approved.

19. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Management Committee held on 14th October 2015, be approved.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 1st December 2015, at 7.30 pm.

21. PUBLIC FORUM

The Parish Council was informed that the discharges from the Power Station were as a consequence of a new boiler being installed and the type of fuel being used.

[Chairman]