

## **BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

### **Present**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Farnath, Miss C Harvey, Mrs G Harvey 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3. POLICE MATTERS**

The Chairman introduced, and welcomed, PC Jo Manser and PCSO Tom Sheldon to the meeting.

The officers reported that the transformation period in Staffordshire Police had concluded with two Police Officers designated to operate in the Brereton and Ravenhill and Rugeley area. It was hoped this would improve a visible presence in the parish, particularly with increased use of the Police Office in the Parish Hall.

PCSO Sheldon advised that the crime figures for the area were available to view on the Staffordshire Police website. In addition, the Police were using a 'Smart Alert' [free App] to disseminate information to the public.

Members of the Parish Council raised the following issues:-

- The increasing evidence of fraud [both cold calling and telephone fraud] involving elderly people. Members invited the Police to circulate a leaflet to educate people on the dangers of this type of criminal activity.
- The evidence of anti-social behaviour in the park, particularly during the summer months;
- The Parish Council would very much support increased use of the Police Office in the Parish Hall. Disseminating information to the public on dedicated dates and times when the office was manned would be very advantageous.

The Chairman thanked the two Police Officers for attending the meeting.

### **4. BRERETON LIBRARY - UPDATE**

The Chairman introduced, and welcomed, Lillian Thompson, Nation Leader of Governance – Chair of Governors at Redbrook Hayes and Helen Farr, Libraries Community Support Officer – Staffordshire County Council.

Helen Farr and Lillian Thompson gave an update on library provision in Staffordshire as follows:-

- 23 of the 43 libraries were to become community managed
- 11 of the 23 libraries were currently in operation
- The next phase of roll-out included the library in Brereton and Ravenhill
- Work on transition and the formation of an Action Plan was underway
- The priority now was to identify volunteers who would receive training to operate the library
- Two volunteers had been identified to date, with others expected to come forward. The following training dates had been agreed:-

15<sup>th</sup> February

22<sup>nd</sup> February

1<sup>st</sup> March

- It was hoped the library would open on 6<sup>th</sup> March, with the formal handover taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> March

The County Council would continue to be responsible for the following:-

- Maintenance of the building
- Provision and upgrade of computers
- Heating and lighting
- The supply of books
- Any income generated would remain with the library

It was hoped to transform the library into a local community hub to encourage and facilitate other uses.

The Parish Council noted the information but continued to have concerns regarding the County Council's policy in securing ever increasing voluntary support. There simply was not an inexhaustible supply of volunteers to fulfil all the various roles.

Members also expressed their concern at the tight timetable for implementation of the project. There should also have been more consultation and feedback with the Parish Council at an earlier stage.

The Chairman, after thanking the two representatives for attending the meeting, invited them both to attend the February meeting of the Parish Council to update Members on progress.

## **5. LITTER AT RUGELEY TOWN STATION**

London Midland had advised that the concrete bin at the station entrance had been provided by the District Council. Members acknowledged that this may be the case but the bin was on land which was the responsibility of London Midland.

The Company had advised that they did not have the capacity at present to put on extra carriages on the Cannock line service. They did not consider it would be possible to increase capacity until the line was electrified.

The Company was aware of the increased usage flowing from the Amazon site. They

were trying to address the consequential implications of this with their Revenue Protection Team.

**6. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Councillor R Easton reported that PAB Alarms had advised that there had been a slight delay in installing the temporary CCTV cameras. As soon as the temporary cameras were in operation, arrangements would be made for the defibrillator to be installed. A further training session would then be organised to be led by St John Ambulance.

**7. BT – REVIEW OF PAYPHONE – JUNCTION OF ARTHUR EVANS CLOSE/BIRCH LANE**

The District Council had advised that they were consenting to the removal of this payphone as BT had a right of appeal and could claim costs against the Council.

Members considered that before the District Council made a final decision on this payphone, they should obtain information from BT as to how many days in the last twelve months the facility had been out of operation. It was essential this information was available to enable the District Council to make a rational decision on whether the payphone should be retained.

The Parish Council took the view that it would be most unlikely the District Council would incur costs for a facility which BT themselves had not properly maintained.

**RESOLVED**

That the foregoing views be conveyed to the District Council.

**8. POTHLES**

Members expressed concern that the weekly update on pothole repairs made very little reference to activity in Brereton and Ravenhill. The Chairman was thanked for kindly reporting numerous potholes in the parish requiring repair.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk write to County Highways expressing the Parish Council's concern about the lack of activity in relation to repairing pot holes in this parish.

**9. SUPPORT STAFFORDSHIRE**

The Clerk reported that the Annual General Meeting of Support Staffordshire would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016, at 2.45 pm at The Salvation Army Building, Leek.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk inform Support Staffordshire that the venue for the meeting would be extremely difficult to access on public transport from all parts of the County and that an evening meeting would have been preferable as a day-time meeting prevented many Councillors who are working from attending.

**10. ZIP WIRE – RAVENHILL PARK**

Members and the public were concerned at any proposal to erect a zip wire play facility in the small children's play area.

Councillor R Easton reported that despite repeated attempts to contact Tom Walsh at the District Council on this matter, the officer had not responded to several messages which

had been left for him.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk write to the Managing Director of the District Council regarding the lack of a response on this matter and asking him to clarify the position regarding the provision of this zip wire facility.

**11. OAK TREE FARM**

The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter and enclosure from Amanda Milling, MP, a copy of which had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk inform the MP as follows:-

- *“The Parish Council has serious doubts about the effectiveness of injunctive relief. It is both our view, and that of the public, that compulsory purchase powers should be used so that this land cannot again be used in breach of planning and environmental laws.*
- *The landowner is 76 years of age and with proceedings brought against him, it is most unlikely, because of his age, that he will be sent to prison. Compulsory purchase would have been a much better option to pursue.”*

**12. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, be approved.

**13. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, be approved.

**24. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, be approved.

**23. DATES OF MEETINGS - 2017**

**RESOLVED**

That the dates of Parish Council meetings during 2017 be as follows:-

10<sup>th</sup> January

7<sup>th</sup> February

7<sup>th</sup> March

4<sup>th</sup> April [followed at 8.30 pm by the Annual Parish Meeting]

2<sup>nd</sup> May [Annual Parish Council Meeting]

6<sup>th</sup> June  
18<sup>th</sup> July  
5<sup>th</sup> September  
3<sup>rd</sup> October  
7<sup>th</sup> November  
5<sup>th</sup> December

All meetings would commence at 7.30 pm [unless otherwise stated] and be held in the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park.

**16. PUBLIC FORUM**

The member of the public present did not wish to address the Parish Council.

---

[Chairman]