

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 7th June 2016.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Farnath, GN Molineux, 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 10th May 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. FAIR OAK SCHOOL

The Principal of the school was not present at the meeting. He had indicated that he would attend a future meeting when details for the amalgamation of the school and provision of a new walkway had been properly formulated.

4. POLICE MATTERS

The Parish Council expressed its concern that the Police were again not present at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to the Chief Inspector expressing Members' concerns at the lack of attendance by the Police at Parish Council meetings.

5. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council's application to the British Heart Foundation for funding for the purchase of a defibrillator had been approved.

6. FAILURE TO RECOGNISE BRERETON

The Parish Council noted the contents of a press release issued by Amanda Milling, MP, calling upon Royal Mail to recognise Brereton in the postal address system.

Both the MP and the Chairman of the Parish Council had stressed the strong identity of Brereton.

7. HOUSING AND PLANNING BILL

Members noted that the local MP had asked to be kept informed of the response of the Department of Communities and Local Government on representations made by the Parish Council on this matter.

8. UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF ROADS IN BRERETON

Councillor R Easton produced a comprehensive list of roads which were in urgent need of repair.

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk write to the County Council requesting that urgent remedial action is taken to improve the state of the roads on the list.
2. That the Clerk inform the County Council that, if considered helpful, the Parish Council would be prepared to meet Officers on site to highlight the areas of major concern.

9. CANNOCK CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY – ANNUAL MEETING WITH PARISH COUNCILS

The Parish Council noted that the meeting scheduled for 24th May 2016, had been cancelled.

Councillor Mrs P Ansell would attend the re-arranged meeting in due course.

10. GREEN FLAG

The Clerk reported that the judges for the Green Flag Award would be visiting Ravenhill Park on 15th June 2016, between 1.00 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. The District Council would be providing a buffet lunch in the Parish Hall.

All Members were invited to attend.

11. ARMITAGE ROAD – 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT AND PUBLIC FORUM

The Clerk circulated a letter from Amanda Milling, MP, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council.

Members expressed concern at the delay in progressing this matter. Armitage Road was a typical urban road where plenty of houses were not set back from the road and did not have long frontages. There were many examples of roads similar to that highlighted by the Chief Executive already subject to 30 mph limits.

At the time Councillor R Easton served as the local County Councillor, he had received an assurance that this scheme would be given priority. It followed research undertaken by the Authority and support received from the Police.

In respect of the safety concerns, reference was also made to many parents/grandparents having to cross Armitage Road to take children to Hob Hill School.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk convey the foregoing views to the Chief Executive of the County Council [copy to Councillor A Dudson] requesting that they respect and adhere to the assurances previously given and introduce a 30 mph speed limit without further delay.

12. PARKING IN ARMITAGE LANE

Councillor TA Jones had requested that this item be included on the Agenda.

The Chairman adjourned the proceedings to enable Members of the public present to address the meeting.

The public were primarily concerned about the safety of children attending Hob Hill School and they highlighted the need to introduce urgent measures to overcome the chaos that existed in Armitage Lane during the 'school run'.

The Chairman duly reconvened the meeting and it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk write to the County Education Department outlining the safety concerns of both local parishioners and the Parish Council and point out that the Members would be happy to meet Officers of the Department on site during a 'school run' if this was considered helpful.
2. That in the letter referred to in [1] above, the Clerk also request:-
 - that a 'No Through' road sign be erected at the junction with Priory Road because people were still trying to use Armitage Lane to reach the Golf Club;
 - that they investigate whether it would be possible to provide parking on the opposite side of the by-pass to accommodate those attending the school from outside the parish.
3. That the Clerk write to the Headteacher of Hob Hill School suggesting the following:-
 - that the school follows the example of Etching Hill School and has someone on duty at the gate to ensure children are collected quickly thus overcoming the need for parents to wait in their cars on the road;
 - walking buses for children;
 - that coaches delivering children from other schools do not wait for long periods of time outside people's homes, but instead park somewhere more appropriate [e.g. the part of the lane where no houses are situated].
4. That both the County Council and Headteacher be made aware that bad and excessive parking could impede access by fire engines and, in the worst case scenario, by ambulances.

13. TREES - MAIN ROAD, BRERETON

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write to both the County Council and District Council requesting them to take action in respect of these conifer trees which had grown to an unacceptable height and were in danger of falling onto the highway.

14. WEB SITE

The Parish Council acknowledged that progress was being made with the website. The Clerk invited Members to send him big images to use on the website headers.

The Clerk reported that Mr Michael Rowley of 42 Redbrook Lane had written to the MP to complain about the lack of progress in formulating the website. He outlined the response he had sent to the MP, which would be passed onto Mr Rowley.

15. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

The Parish Council considered the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 be approved.

16. ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN 2015/16

The Parish Council considered the Annual Audit Return 2015/16, a copy of which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Audit Return 2015/16 be approved.

17. CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL – STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The District Council had requested the name of a Parish Council nominee to serve on the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED

That Councillor PA Fisher be appointed as this Parish Council's representative to serve on the Standards Committee.

18. ARMED FORCES DAY

The Clerk reported that to celebrate this day, Cannock Chase District Council would be raising the Armed Forces Day flag on 20th June 2016, at the Civic Offices in Cannock at 10.00 a.m.

RESOLVED

1. That the Chairman, Councillor PA Fisher and Councillor K Ansell represent this Parish Council at the ceremony.
2. That the Clerk make arrangements to acquire an Armed Forces Day flag for raising on the flag pole in front of the Parish Hall.

19. DOG FOULING IN ARMITAGE LANE

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be put on the Agenda, was pleased to note that appropriate signage had been erected by fellow Parish Councillors. He thanked the Members concerned for doing this.

20. RUGELEY POWER STATION

The Parish Council considered the contents of letters from Amanda Milling, MP.

The Parish Council, although agreeing with many of the sentiments expressed in the letters, considered it was now appropriate for the MP to secure extra funding from the Government to minimise the disruption to the local work force.

The MP had referred to the closure being a blow to 'Rugeley' but it was also a blow to

'Brereton and Ravenhill', in which parish the Power Station was situated.

RESOLVED

1. That in responding to the MP, the Clerk inform her of the facilities available in the Parish Hall for dancing, band practice, bowls, etc. and also the one tennis court which was freely available for use by the public.
2. That the MP be advised of the Parish Council's disappointment with the decision of ENGIE to close the Golf Course as it was situated on Flood Zone 3 where built development would not be allowed.
3. That the Clerk ask the MP to keep the Parish Council informed of developments and, if necessary, to attend a future Parish Council meeting.

21. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10th May 2016, be approved.

22. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 11th May 2016, be approved.

23. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 11th May 2016, be approved.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 19th July 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

[Chairman]