

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Farnath, Miss C Harvey, N Parton and Mrs HJ Southwell.

District Councillor D Foley was also present.

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 4th October 2016, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

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

4. STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Clerk reported that Mr G Hunt would not be attending the meeting as both the Parish Council and County Council had acknowledged that the transfer of the Nurseryfields Site was not feasible. There was no prospect of either a commuted sum or transfer of the land from the County Council.

The Parish Council noted that Councillor A Dudson was prepared to allocate £500.00 from the Staffordshire Local Community Fund [SLCF] as a contribution towards environmental improvements in Wharf Road.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to make application for the £500.00 from the SLCF.

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

The Clerk undertook to obtain an update from Royal Mail as to progress being made in this matter.

6. BRERETON CO-OP

Members were pleased to learn that following the request from the Parish Council, the Co-op in Redbrook Lane had changed its signage from 'Rugeley' to 'Brereton'.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks be sent to the Manager at the Co-op store.

[Councillor TA Jones declared a personal interest in this matter and did not speak or vote thereon.]

7. DEFIBRILLATOR

Members noted that through the new Parish Council Newsletter, the public were being invited to participate in future training on the use of the defibrillator.

St John Ambulance had undertaken to lead further training subject to sufficient numbers of volunteers coming forward.

RESOLVED

That subject to the requisite number of volunteers coming forward, the next training session be held on 29th November 2016, at 7.00 pm.

8. COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE – NEW INTERPRETATION PANEL

The Parish Council noted that as match-funding had not been forthcoming from either the District Council or Brereton Million, it would not be possible to proceed with this scheme in the current financial year.

9. LITTER AT RUGELEY TOWN STATION

London Midland had advised that this station was visited three times a week. The Area Manager, based at Carlisle, had been advised of the Parish Council's concerns.

Members acknowledged that the litter problem had not been resolved and extra bins or more regular emptying of existing bins was required.

Reference was also made to the extra 4,000 people employed by Amazon on the run-up to Christmas. Well over 50% of these would be arriving by train. The Parish Council considered that this would not only increase the litter problem, but would dramatically increase the numbers using the train service. Additional carriages were required to deal with this increased capacity. Also, it was essential measures were taken to check tickets as some passengers were travelling free of charge.

RESOLVED

That the foregoing views be conveyed to London Midland.

10. LICHFIELD AND RUGELEY VILLAGE CONNECT

The County Council had advised that this service would not cover Armitage Road but that the route would include Stile Cop Road for the cemetery.

The Parish Council acknowledged that the service would be used primarily by the disabled and the less able members of the community.

11. FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members noted that the MP had advised that she was pleased to see that the Parish Council had made a submission to the public consultation and she hoped that the Parish

Council's comments would feed into the District Council's decision making process.

12. ALLEYWAY – MAIN ROAD, BRERETON TO SYCAMORE CRESCENT

The Parish Council was pleased to note that the occupiers of 42 Sycamore Crescent had kindly cut back the offending hedge which had been overhanging the alleyway.

Members had spoken to Mr M Keeling regarding further work which was required to improve access and lighting in the alleyway.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks be sent to the occupiers of 42 Sycamore Crescent for their helpful response.

13. OAK TREE FARM

Members expressed their real concern regarding the fire which was still burning at Oak Tree Farm. The general waste tip was clearly visible from the railway line.

The Parish Council noted the following:-

- The County Council had issued papers in the High Court seeking both prohibitory and mandatory injunction orders in respect of the unlawful waste operations/activity on land at Oak Tree Farm.
- The County Council had acknowledged the Parish Council's letter on 5th October 2016, and advised that they were considering all options, including compulsory purchase.
- The Environment Agency had confirmed that the site was an illegal waste site and did not have any current waste permissions. The site did have two waste exemptions registered for the activities being carried out on the site but the owners had not complied with the terms of the exemptions.
- The contents of a detailed e-mail from Mr and Mrs DH Dale which had been sent to all the statutory authorities.

The Parish Council remained of the opinion that compulsory purchase represented the best way forward.

14. DOCUMENTATION

The Clerk had circulated the following documentation for the information of Members:-

- Community Council of Staffordshire Press Release – Smart Energy

15. CANNOCK CHASE COUNTRY PARK – SHAPING THE FUTURE - CONSULTATION

The Parish Council noted that the County Council was consulting on this document.

Individual Members would be responding setting out their personal preferences.

16. CONVERSATION – STAFFORDSHIRE – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Clerk reported on a number of 'conversation' workshops being organised to examine the challenges facing Health and Social Care.

Members were invited to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend any of the workshops.

17. BT – REVIEW OF PAYPHONE BOXES

The District Council had consulted the Parish Council on a proposal of BT to permanently remove the following payphones:-

Location	Number of calls over 12 months
Outside 62 St Michaels Road	10
Junction of Thompson Road/Lodge Road	0
Junction of Arthur Evans Close/Birch Lane	38

RESOLVED

1. That no objection be raised to the removal of the payphone boxes outside 62 St Michaels Road and at the junction of Thompson Road/Lodge Road.
2. That the District Council be informed that it is essential that the payphone at the junction of Arthur Evans Close/Birch Lane is retained as it serves many very senior members of the community in Arthur Evans Close and the surrounding area and that they be informed that the 38 calls did not represent accurate usage as the phone had been out of use for several months during the year.

18. POTHOLES

The Clerk reported on the latest update on pothole repairs received from the County Council.

The Chairman was collating a list of potholes requiring repair in the parish and this would be forwarded to the County Council in due course.

19. REFERENDUM – PRINCIPLES FOR ENGLISH PARISHES

The report of the Clerk on recently published proposals regarding council tax referendum principles was considered.

Members acknowledged that the Local Council Tax Support Grant was given to compensate Parish Councils for changes in council tax law that would otherwise have reduced the amount of council tax that parishes received. It did not provide extra money for Parish Councils. The District Council had advised that Parish Councils could raise their precept to compensate for its withdrawal. In addition to the unattractive nature of expecting parishes to raise taxes to compensate for district councils' financial issues, Government proposals would prevent this other than in a referendum – a particularly costly exercise.

RESOLVED

That the comments in the report of the Clerk, together with the foregoing views, be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government with a copy being sent to the local MP.

20. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 4th October 2016, be approved.

21. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 5th October 2016, be approved.

22. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 5th October 2016, be approved.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 6th December 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

24. PUBLIC FORUM

District Councillor D Foley reported as follows:-

- The local MP had secured a parliamentary debate on the Chase Line.
- The District Council's budget consultation exercise was nearing its conclusion with over 300 responses having been received to date.

[Chairman]