

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 7th November 2017.

Present

Councillors Ms IJ Brown [Vice-Chairman in the Chair], K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, Mrs DM Easton, R Easton, Miss C Harvey, Mrs G Harvey, TA Jones and GN Molineux.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Farnath, PA Fisher [Chairman], 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

No declarations were given at the commencement of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

3. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSOs Andy Hickman and Sean Nicholls to the meeting. A copy of the Police Report is attached.

Members raised the following additional matters:-

- ✚ the need for parking issues in the vicinity of Hobb Hill School to be resolved as quickly as possible;
- ✚ concern was expressed regarding the train passenger assaulted by six men at Rugeley Town Station;
- ✚ the need for seminars, convened by the Police, to be held outside of the normal working day so as to enable people still in employment to attend.

The PCSOs duly noted these comments and they undertook to take action where this was appropriate.

4. TRANSFORMING THE TRENT VALLEY [TTTV] LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

The TTTV Landscape Partnership Manager had noted the Parish Council's comments regarding access and had undertaken to keep Members updated on the project.

5. CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Clerk reported that the District Council's new Corporate Plan was due to be published in Spring 2018, setting out the Authority's priorities for 2018 – 2021. The Council itself was proposing that its key aim would be 'Promoting Prosperity and Community Wellbeing'.

Members considered that the following should be given priority:-

- ✚ Increasing policing to tackle rising crime.

- ✚ Taking stronger action against environmental crime.
- ✚ Improvements in education.
- ✚ Ensuring priority was given to encouraging business and, as a consequence, opportunities for apprenticeships on the Power Station site.
- ✚ To support the maintenance and improvement of health facilities and, in particular, the retention of the local hospital in Cannock.

Members also enquired as to the District Council's stance in dealing with the important subject of dementia and what, if any, action they had taken in this regard.

RESOLVED

1. That the Parish Council consider that the District Council's priorities should include the items listed above.
2. That in relation to the social deprivation index [LSOA], the Clerk seek clarification as to whether the Ravenhill part of the parish was still within the lower quartile.
3. That the District Council be invited to indicate as to whether they were a 'dementia friendly' body and what, if any, action they had taken in this regard.

6. OAK TREE FARM

The County Council had advised that the defendants were required to clear the waste from the site within 24 weeks of when they were told by the Authority that the burning waste piles had ceased burning and the waste material was safe to be removed. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue would advise the County Council when the waste had stopped burning. The Authority was, therefore, unable to anticipate when the waste would be cleared as the fire was still burning under the soil cap.

Members remained very concerned as the site was detracting from a prominent part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk inform the County Council that the Parish Council's original enquiry related to the piles of rubbish that were not burning and he again seek an indication as to when this material would be removed.

7. MINING MEMORIAL

Councillor R Easton reported on various measures which had been taken to secure the repair and renovation of the coal truck which would form an integral part of the Mining Memorial in Ravenhill Park. Much of the work had been done on a voluntary basis but Members recognised that it might be necessary to purchase materials and engage some paid labour to finalise the work.

RESOLVED

1. That a sum of £200.00 be specifically allocated to facilitate completion of outstanding work.
2. That the Parish Council place on record its thanks to Councillor R Easton for the considerable amount of work he had carried out in securing the total refurbishment of the coal truck.

8. PARISH COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

The Chairman introduced, and welcomed, Mr Nigel Ferguson, Website Manager, to the meeting.

A discussion ensued on improvements to the website. All present concurred that the following items would further enhance the site:-

- ✚ The production of large photographic images which could be used as headers
- ✚ Links to other local organisations and community bodies
- ✚ News items
- ✚ Photo Gallery
- ✚ Photographs of current Members of the Parish Council

The Clerk and Members undertook to prepare additional material for incorporation onto the site.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ferguson for attending the meeting.

9. WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Parish Council noted the contents of a letter from the Team Manager – Sustainability and Waste Strategy, a copy of which had been circulated.

The letter set out, in detail, the reasons for the County Council introducing charges for non-household waste, i.e. certain wastes generated from household maintenance and improvement and garden landscaping work.

In respect of fly tipping, the County Council was working closely with District and Borough Councils to monitor the impacts of the charging scheme. The number of fly tipping incidents reported following the introduction of charging on 1st November 2016, had continued to fluctuate, with fly tipping of the chargeable waste streams remaining relatively steady.

10. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT RELATNG TO HAWKESYARD: PA 03/00627/OUT

The Clerk had circulated a letter and enclosures received from Lichfield District Council in respect of the above.

Members noted that of the total financial contribution received by the District Council [£802,000.00], fifty percent [£401,000.00] had been allocated “to facilitate serving the people residing on site”. Paragraph 2[b] of the agreement stated:-

“The remaining proportion of the Social and Community Facilities Contribution shall be applied towards the provision of social recreation education community and health within the Parish of Brereton and Ravenhill or Armitage and Handsacre as appropriate which are affected by and of benefit to people residing within the Development.”

In order to determine how best to allocate this remaining £401,000, the District Council was inviting the two parish councils to submit capital schemes that they considered should benefit from this funding. The District Council would then assess these, having regard to the provisions of Paragraph 2.[b] and the criteria set out on the application form. This funding could only be awarded to **one** of the parishes and it was the District Council's view that the agreement did not allow for it to be divided between the two.”

The Parish Council had received advice from a serving barrister with a civil practice who

did not concur with the District Council's interpretation of this key paragraph in the Agreement

The Parish Council had been asked to complete its submission prior to the deadline of Wednesday, 31st January 2018, at 5.00 pm.

Members considered the following capital schemes would benefit residents living on the development. They could either be undertaken alone or jointly with Armitage and Handsacre:-

- ✚ Improvements to the canal towpath which would, amongst other things, enable residents from both parishes to access Rugeley Town Centre on a bike, in a wheelchair or with a pushchair.
- ✚ Real time electronic information boards at bus stops on the 825 bus route through the two parishes. There was also one 829 bus every school day each way along this route.
- ✚ Capital improvements to Parish Hall facilities – in the case of Brereton and Ravenhill, this could involve increased car parking provision.

RESOLVED

1. That Lichfield District Council be respectfully requested to take legal advice on their interpretation of Paragraph 2 of the agreement as a barrister with a civil practice had advised this Parish Council that he did not concur with the explanation given in the letter.
2. That the Clerk write to the Clerk of Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council suggesting that representatives from both councils meet to discuss possible projects that would benefit both areas.
3. That, in advance of preliminary discussions, this Parish Council would suggest the projects listed above and the Clerk in his letter referred to in [2] above, make reference to these.
4. That Mr T Walsh at Cannock Chase District Council be acquainted with the background and, to assist the Parish Council in the bidding process, he be invited to give an indication of the cost of providing an additional six car parking spaces on land to the north of the Parish Hall.

11. RIGHTS OF WAY

The Parish Council noted the contents of a press release issued by the County Council inviting comments on the future shape of the Rights of Way network in Staffordshire. The Authority intended to identify the most used and valued paths where they would focus the majority of their resources.

Members were invited to submit any views to the Clerk prior to him meeting with Councillors TA Jones and R Easton in identifying the public footpaths in the parish, which should be given priority as part of the new scheme.

12. SPEED LIMIT IN ARMITAGE ROAD

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda, referred to previous assurances given by the County Council that when the by-pass was completed, a

30 mph speed limit would be introduced along the built up part of Armitage Road. Since completion of the by-pass, there had been a significant increase in residential development along Armitage Road, both within, and immediately adjacent to the parish, making an even stronger case for the imposition of this speed limit.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write again to the County Council conveying the foregoing views and requesting the early introduction of a 30 mph speed limit along the built up part of Armitage Road.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3rd October 2017, be approved.

14. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 4th October 2017, be approved.

15. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 4th October 2017, be approved.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 5th December 2017, at 7.30 pm.

17. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present at this juncture in the meeting.

[Chairman]