

## **BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **Present**

Councillors PA Fisher [Chairman], K Ansell, Mrs P Ansell, Ms IJ Brown [Vice-Chairman], Mrs DM Easton, R Easton, H Farnath, Mrs G Harvey, TA Jones, GN Molineux and N Parton.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss C Harvey 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**

No declarations were given at the commencement of the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **3. POLICE MATTERS**

The Parish Council noted the content of a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, from the Police and Crime Commissioner in response to the Clerk's original letter of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017. A copy of the letter had been circulated.

### **4. CH/17/237 – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING PUBLIC HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AND THE ERECTION OF A REPLACEMENT OFFICE BUILDING WITH MIXED D1/B1 USE [AMENDED PLANS] – LAND AT THE ACADEMY EARLY YEARS CHILDCARE [FORMER TALBOT PUBLIC HOUSE] MAIN ROAD**

The Chairman welcomed the following representatives of the applicants to the meeting:-

Angela Southall [CEO Midlands Psychology]

Ben Davis [White Ridge]

Jason Ridgway [White Ridge]

Helen Boss [Midlands Psychology]

These representatives outlined details of the scheme which was set out in more detail in a leaflet circulated at the meeting.

At this juncture the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow the members of the public present to address the Parish Council.

Members of the public raised the following matters:-

-  The building was a key structure on one of the main gateways into Brereton and many present indicated they would like to see it retained.
-  Considerable concern was expressed as to how the owners had allowed the building to deteriorate over the past two years.

- ✚ Due diligence appeared not to have been followed in relation to the financial viability of the venture.
- ✚ Many present questioned the assertion that the building was damaged beyond repair.
- ✚ A minority view was expressed that in order to improve the site and prevent any further vandalism, a way forward needed to be found to secure some form of redevelopment.

Councillor TA Jones, Chairman of the Planning Committee, sought the following information:-

- ✚ A copy of the original survey prior to purchase.
- ✚ Why was the advice of the District Council not followed in respect of the non-removal of the plaster so as to protect the brick work?
- ✚ Why was the water not turned off to prevent a flood in the cellar?

In response, the applicants advised that the plaster was removed to facilitate the survey. In respect of the water supply, no good reason was given to explain why this was not turned off.

The Chairman duly reconvened the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED**

That being cognisant of the views of local residents, the Planning Committee immediately following this meeting determine the Parish Council's formal response to the planning application.

**5. CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The Clerk circulated the District Council's response to questions raised by Members in respect of the following:-

- ✚ Social deprivation
- ✚ Is Cannock Chase District Council a 'Dementia Friendly' Authority?

**RESOLVED**

That the Parish Council, at its next meeting, consider further the response of the District Council in respect of social deprivation.

**6. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT RELATING TO HAWKSYARD: PA 03/00627/OUT**

The Clerk reported that there had been no response from either Lichfield District Council or Armitage with Handsacre Parish Council in respect of the above.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk endeavour to expedite responses from both the District Council and Parish Council and the matter be further considered at the next meeting.

**7. RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Clerk reported that following consultations with Councillors R Easton and TA Jones, it

had been agreed that all public Rights of Way shown on the Definitive Map within Brereton and Ravenhill should be given priority by the County Council as part of their ongoing review of the network.

**RESOLVED**

That the action taken be approved and confirmed.

**8. DOCUMENTATION**

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

 Staffordshire Pension Fund – Employers Newsletter

**9. RED ENSIGN**

The Parish Council was pleased to note that the Parish Council had received a Certificate of Commemoration for participating in the 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' campaign.

The certificate would be displayed in the Parish Hall.

**10. AMI BLAYMIRES – REDBROOK LANE**

The Clerk circulated a letter from the District Council responding to the concerns of the Parish Council in respect of the security of this site.

**RESOLVED**

That this matter be further considered at the February meeting of the Parish Council.

**11. BRERETON LIBRARY**

The Clerk circulated a letter from Councillor Gill Heath [Cabinet Member for Communities], in which she stated that the County Council remained committed to ensuring that all Staffordshire Libraries remained open and viable.

The Parish Council noted that the Library Service was currently in discussion with a community organisation regarding the potential transfer of Brereton Library into community management.

**12. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

The Clerk reported the contents of a letter from the Community Council of Staffordshire inviting the Parish Council to take part in the Best Kept Village Competition.

**RESOLVED**

That no action be taken.

**13. PROPOSED ADDRESS CHANGE – 'BRERETON'**

The Clerk circulated a letter from Mr and Mrs S and J Dunning of 32 Brereton Road which had been sent to Royal Mail objecting to the proposal to include 'Brereton' in the addresses of all properties within the parish. A copy of the letter had also been sent to the local MP.

The Parish Council noted that the overwhelming response from the community to the change of address had been very supportive.

**14. LANGUAGES FOR ADULTS IN STAFFORDSHIRE**

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be considered, recommended that the Parish Council make a Freedom of Information request to the County Council to ascertain what the Authority provided or supported in respect of the teaching of non-English languages.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk submit the Freedom of Information request.

**15. THE CHICANE WHERE COALPIT LANE BECOMES COLLIERY ROAD**

**RESOLVED**

That this matter be included on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**16. OAK TREE FARM**

The Parish Council reviewed the lack of progress in securing the clearance of material from this site.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk write to the County Council requesting a response to the letter he had previously sent.

**17. DONATION – DEFIBRILLATOR**

The Parish Council noted that a very generous donation of £250.00 had been received from Gymphobics of 3 Market Square, Rugeley, to fund a new defibrillator.

The Clerk reported that he had already sent a letter of thanks and it was

**RESOLVED**

That the Parish Council place on record its thanks to Joanne and Cheryl from Gymphobics for their very kind and generous donation.

**18. CHANGES TO SUBSIDISED BUS JOURNEYS IN STAFFORDSHIRE**

Councillor TA Jones, who had asked for this item to be included on the Agenda, referred to the fact that among the services that would no longer be subsidised by Staffordshire County Council from April 2018, was the 'Lichfield and Rugeley Connect Mobility Link', the only service to Stile Cop cemetery.

The Parish Council expressed its great disappointment at the withdrawal of this service, which would result in many elderly people not being able to access the cemetery to pay their respects at the graves of their loved ones.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Clerk convey the foregoing sentiments to the Chief Executive of the County Council.
2. That in the letter in 1. above, the Clerk also enquire as to the current position relating to the provision of a bus service along Armitage Road.

**19. CONVERSION OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS TO PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

The Parish Council considered details of a consultation paper issued by Cannock Chase District Council in respect of the above. A copy of the paper and associated questionnaire had been circulated. The final date for responses was 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**RESOLVED**

That the Clerk be authorised to complete the questionnaire, making reference to the following:-

- ✚ dogs should be prohibited from entering tennis courts; and
- ✚ in both cemeteries and allotments, dogs should be kept on leads no longer than 2 metres.

**20. COUNCILLOR MRS HJ SOUTHWELL**

Councillors Mrs DM Easton and R Easton had visited Councillor Mrs HJ Southwell and reported that her health had improved and she was hopeful of attending future meetings of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 [as amended], the absence of Councillor Mrs HJ Southwell be approved for a further period of three months.

**21. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That subject to the word 'share' being changed to 'show' in the third line of the resolution, the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, be approved.

**22. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, be approved.

**23. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, be approved.

**24. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**

That the dates of Parish Council meetings in 2018 be as set out below with all meetings commencing at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated:-

- 9<sup>th</sup> January
- 6<sup>th</sup> February
- 6<sup>th</sup> March

3<sup>rd</sup> April [followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8.30 pm]  
1<sup>st</sup> May [Annual Parish Council Meeting]  
5<sup>th</sup> June  
17<sup>th</sup> July  
4<sup>th</sup> September  
2<sup>nd</sup> October  
6<sup>th</sup> November  
4<sup>th</sup> December

## 25. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Members of the public raised the following matters:-

- ✚ Dog fouling in various alleyways in the parish. Councillor GN Molineux would raise this matter again with the District Council and Councillor R Easton invited parishioners to inform him of any problem area and he would arrange for the Parish Council's road sweeper to be deployed.
- ✚ Parking problems – Lea Hall Lane – The Chairman undertook to raise this matter with the Police.
- ✚ The Green, between Armitage Lane and Hobbs View. The Parish Council explained the action that had been taken to register this land as a Village Green.

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[Chairman]