

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Tuesday, 4th September 2018.

Present

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors PA Fisher, Miss C Harvey, N Parton 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. COUNCILLOR H FARNATH

The Chairman reported the sad news that Councillor H Farnath had passed away. He paid tribute to the work of Councillor Farnath, who had been a loyal friend to Brereton over many years. These sentiments were echoed by other Members at the meeting.

All present stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect.

3. CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER AND FILLING OF FURTHER VACANCY

The Clerk reported that following the resignation of Councillor Mrs H Southwell, notice of the vacancy had been given. As ten electors had not requested an election, the Clerk advised that the Parish Council could now co-opt to fill the vacancy.

RESOLVED

1. That Mrs R Harvey be co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.
2. That the Clerk arrange to give notice of the remaining vacancy.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2018, be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Dave Hughes to the meeting. The PCSO gave a breakdown of incidents in the parish during August [copy attached].

The Parish Council was pleased to note that patrols had been increased to cover both The Levels and Ravenhill Park.

Members reiterated their wish for the Police Office to be manned on a regular basis. PCSO Hughes indicated that initially it was hoped to occupy the office during periods over the weekend.

The Clerk made reference to the PCSOs hosting a Dementia Awareness Day entitled 'A Step Back in Time' on 17th November 2018, 10.30 am to 2.30 pm at Rugeley Community

Centre. The event was designed to raise awareness of dementia and the PCSOs were hoping that as many Councillors as possible would attend.

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

The public present made reference to the following:-

- ✚ Noise from industrial units at The Levels which was particularly problematic early in the morning. Some of the language being used by employees was not appropriate, particularly as it could be heard by children living in properties whose gardens backed onto The Levels.
- ✚ Concern was expressed regarding vehicles speeding near the corner into Birch Lane and then down Birch Lane into Redbrook Lane.
- ✚ Some metal debris had fallen off a lorry speeding down Birch Lane [this was displayed at the meeting].
- ✚ Reference was made to the problems of parking, particularly in the vicinity of the Co-op in Redbrook Lane.

The Chairman made reference to representations already made to the County Council in respect of various problems associated with heavy vehicles from The Levels Industrial Estate. The Clerk circulated a response from the County Council, a resume of which is set out below.

- ✚ The County Council had advised that part of Redbrook Lane was traffic calmed and was signed at the junction with Main Road to notify drivers they were entering an area subject to speed humps. The Authority did not have any traffic data for this location and therefore consideration could be given to a traffic count to determine the speed of vehicles. There had been one recorded accident within the first 100 metres of the junction with Main Road within the last five-year period.
- ✚ With regards to HGVs travelling at 4.00 am, the County Council had suggested that Cannock Chase District Council Planning Department be contacted to ascertain whether there were any planning conditions for times of delivery to and from The Levels Industrial Estate.
- ✚ A request was being made to the County Enforcement Team for additional enforcement to be carried out in respect of the parking on double yellow lines.
- ✚ The County Council advised that the costs associated with the introduction of a weight restriction limit would exceed the only available budget via the local member, as such a limit would require a traffic regulation order and signs at all leading roads within the designated area. The signs would be required to be illuminated and would exceed Councillor Dudson's budget.
- ✚ The Parish Council noted that when Councillor Dudson had his next Divisional Highway Programme budget meeting, the Highways Team would raise with him the possible funding for a speed survey.

In addition, the Parish Council had submitted a bid for funding from the Staffordshire Safer Road Partnership for vehicle activated speed signs for Redbrook Lane.

A Member pointed out that problems regarding noise should be referred to the Environmental Health Department of the District Council as they had powers to deal with

such statutory nuisances. Horns from vehicles should not be used between the hours of 23.30 and 07.00 in such areas as Birch Lane/Redbrook Lane.

Other members of the public present raised the following matters:-

- ✚ Illegal multi-occupation of properties in Coulthwaite Way.
- ✚ A Community Speedwatch Training Session held at Brereton Library. Eighteen people had attended and 15 of these registered to take part in training sessions. The parishioner present did not agree that volunteers should be undertaking Community Speedwatch activity in the parish.
- ✚ Reference was also made to vehicles parking on Armitage Road and the consequential road safety implications. The Parish Council had made representations for a 30 mph speed limit on the road and would be considering possible other measures at its next meeting.

The Chairman duly reconvened the Parish Council meeting.

6. TREE ON PRIVATE LAND ABOVE MAIN ROAD

The County Council had inspected these trees but did not intend to take any further action. The Authority had suggested that, if considered appropriate, the Parish Council might itself wish to consider writing to the owners of the property concerned.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk write in suitable terms to the owner of the property expressing the Parish Council's considerable concern regarding the dangers associated with these trees and pointing out that it was their duty to inform their own insurance company of the position, including the advice received from the Parish Council.

7. DOCUMENTATION

The Clerk tabled the following document for circulation to Members:-

- ✚ Staffordshire Pension Fund – Employer Focus – July and August
- ✚ Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service – Conference 15th November 2018, entitled 'Making a Difference'
- ✚ Press release – Community Council of Staffordshire

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Parish Council noted that Mazars, the external auditor, had completed their audit for the year ended 31st March 2018. The Clerk was pleased to report that the Auditor had issued his Certificate making no adverse comments on the accounts.

9. 'PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE'

The Parish Council considered a letter from the County Council's Cabinet Support Member for Communities, a copy of which had been circulated. The letter contained an invitation for Members to attend a meeting in the Ball Room at Cannock Chase District Council on 13th September 2018, at 6.00 pm.

Members again expressed their concern at the stance being taken by the County Council as they continued to assume that there was an inexhaustible number of volunteers available to undertake work previously undertaken by the Authority.

10. CANNOCK CHASE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND [SDF]

The Clerk had circulated an email from the Rural County Development Officer giving details of the SDF.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk be authorised to submit a bid for funding of £1,200.00 for an Interpretation Board to be sited near the Brereton and Ravenhill Way/Colliery Road.

11. CANNOCK CHASE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

Councillor TA Jones circulated a draft response to the Cannock Chase Local Plan Review.

RESOLVED

That the draft response, as circulated, be approved for submission to Cannock Chase District Council.

12. CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL – GAMBLING ACT 2005 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES - CONSULTATION

The Parish Council considered a Draft Statement of Principles for the period 2019 – 2021. A copy of the document had been circulated.

RESOLVED

That the document be noted.

13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 17th July 2018, be approved.

14. PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Hall Management Committee held on 18th July 2018, be approved.

15. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Finance and Management Committee held on 18th July 2018, be approved.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 2nd October 2018.

[Chairman]