

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Hall and Property Management Committee held at the Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton, on Thursday, 6th October 2022.

Present

Alderman R Easton [Chairman], Alderwoman Mrs P Ansell, Councillors K Ansell, Mrs DM Easton and DR Johnson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G Harvey, JC Harvey and Mrs L Johnson.

Mrs R Davies [Clerk to the Committee] and Mr J Smith [Finance Officer and Caretaker] were also present.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest given at the commencement of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

As listed above.

3. NEWMAN GROVE ALLOTMENTS

The Committee Clerk reported on a telephone conversation that had taken place between herself and Jim Cusack [Allotments Superintendent] with regard to a structure that had been erected by Mr Balbir Ghuman [Plot 14]. Mr Cusack was drawing the Committee's attention to this structure and had requested that it be taken down. The state of the path that had not been reinstated by Jessops was also causing a problem.

Alderman R Easton stated that he would go to the allotments to check on the structure put up by Mr G Ghuman and, at the same time, he would try to contact Jessop's regarding the reinstatement of the path.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2022, be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6. PARISH HALL PROGRESS REPORT

The Clerk to the Committee updated Members on the hire fees for September 2022, which amounted to £1,283.80. Total fees from 1st April to 30th September 2022, amounted to £7,613.41. Fees were down but had steadily started to rise again and there was no question that Covid and the closure of the hall had had a detrimental effect on bookings.

Mr John Smith [Caretaker/Responsible Finance Officer] brought to the attention of the Committee the problem with the cooker in the kitchen [the grill was not working]. Alderman R Easton also mentioned jobs that still needed to be done, including painting and stated that volunteers were needed to undertake the task.

7. WEBSITE MANAGEMENT

All present agreed that website management was proving to be extremely difficult at the

present time. Items were not being placed on the website by the Website Manager, especially with regard to audit regulations.

Alderman R Easton informed the Committee that Councillor Tim Jones was going to write a letter to the Website Manager regarding the Parish Council's concerns.

It was agreed by the Committee that some money should be earmarked if a replacement Website Manager needed to be found. A suggested sum would be £400.00 - £500.00. All present agreed with this course of action.

8. ROAD SWEEPER

Discussion took place regarding the cost effectiveness of keeping the road sweeper which had been used in the past very successfully. The Committee noted that there was always a difficulty in getting rid of the rubbish picked up by the sweeper.

At present, the sweeper was not being used and there had been no call to use it in the last 18 months. Everyone agreed that the sweeper should be sold.

RESOLVED

That a good price be sought for the road sweeper.

This item is also on the Agenda for the Finance and Management Committee.

9. TRACTOR

The tractor had been repaired. The Committee considered whether it should be kept or sold – there were very few volunteers to drive this now.

After discussion by the Committee, it was

RESOLVED

That the tractor be sold for the best price and also the heavy equipment which consisted of the trailer, hedge cutter and grass cutter [topper].

This item is also on the Agenda for the Finance and Management Committee.

10. INVENTORY

Some lists for the inventory had been prepared but everyone present agreed that the current inventory would need updating each financial year, to include any items of equipment that had been written off

11. FINANCE REPORT

The report presented by John Smith, showing the income and expenditure of the Parish Hall as at 30th September 2022, was submitted for information and noted.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting be held on Thursday, 3rd November 2022, at 7.30 p.m.

[Chairman]