

BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2015 AT THE WHITE HOUSE, MARQUIS DRIVE, BRINDLEY HEATH 7.30PM

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: P. Adams (Chairman)
D. Cotton
D. Ballett
A. Pearson
Ms S. Wilkes

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO Suki Mander (present to the end of item 2)
PCSO Dave Hughes (present to end of item 2)
Mrs. T. Williams (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllor Mrs Turville and Cllor R. Turville.

The Chairman and Members welcomed Cllor Ms S. Wilkes to the meeting.

PCSO Suki Mander and PCSO Dave Hughes were also welcomed to the meeting.

2. POLICE REPORTS

The Police Community Support Officers reported that they had attended the meeting in place of PC Paul Bradbury, who had been permanently relocated to the Cannock area.

This news was very disappointing for Members as PC Bradbury has worked hard for the area for a number of years and has built up an extensive local knowledge of Rugeley and surrounds.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Inspector at Cannock Police Station to advise of the Council's disappointment at losing PC Bradbury's local knowledge and conscientious service. The Council's best wishes would also be forwarded to him.

Local issues discussed with the Officers were:

- Boy racers driving around the area, especially on Fridays.
- Drugs being sold from cars parked up in Marquis Drive.
- Cyclists riding around the Chase after dark. The halogen lights on their helmets cause blinding to motorists. Cyclists should also be more aware of the danger they present to walkers'/dog walkers' when they pass them at speed with no warning they are approaching from behind.
The Police officers said they would raise the matter with the bike shop at the Forestry Centre. It was suggested that posters could be displayed to make bikers aware.
- Shooting wildlife (randomly and in all directions) posing danger to the general public and local residents in their gardens (Kingsley Wood Road area).
- An incident where a car was witnessed reversing and driving repeatedly in an attempt to hit deer.

Chairman's Initials

The PCSOs' noted the issues and reminded Members that PC Lee Turner is the Rural Police Officer and would deal with these types of incidents.

The Officers were asked by Members if they could patrol the area as much as possible to make their presence known.

At the end of the item PCSO Suki Mander and PCSO Dave Hughes were thanked for their attendance before leaving the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 were approved as a true record subject to noting that Cllor Pearson had expressed a personal interest at the start of item 9 (Planning) on the agenda in respect of CH/15/0273 414 Rugeley Road.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Attending to deer casualties on roads around Cannock Chase: Noreen Davidson, Rural Access Manager has advised that the County Council's Ranger Service responds to most incidents involving deer casualties on roads, although the Forestry Commission responds on some occasions. The operational arrangements are that a callout service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Callouts (either from the Police or a member of the public) are responded to immediately upon receipt but the time it takes to arrive depends on the Ranger's location at the time of the report. The Ranger on duty may be working or live some distance away from the incident.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence

All incoming correspondence was noted from the Clerks Report. Outgoing post hadn't been listed.

b) Items of Interest/Requiring a Response

The following items of incoming post were considered:

Fully Funded Defibrillator Grants – an email message (received on 13 October 2015) from Paul Dadge, Chair to Burntwood and District Community First Responders advises that £1 million in funding has been released by the Government to the British Heart Foundation which has enabled an enhanced grants scheme. If a location could be identified within the Parish, and permissions obtained, funding might cover the cost of installation of both defibrillator (£400) and cabinet (from £525). Fitting the electrical connection is still required.

After giving consideration to possible locations it was decided that the White House would potentially be a good one for a defibrillator as it is in a well-used part of Cannock Chase with a busy public car park opposite. It was decided that staff at One Another Ministries would be asked whether they would be interested in having a public access defibrillator installed externally at the site. If agreeable, the Parish Council would cover the costs of the installation and electrical connections.

Resolved: To ask One Another Ministries if they are interested in having a public access defibrillator installed externally at the White House. To find out more information about the grant application

process before inviting Rugeley & District Community First Responders to give a demonstration on the use and benefits of the device (in the New Year).

Staffordshire County Council 's final plans for mobile and travelling libraries – Cllor Ben Adams, Cabinet Member for learning and Skills has provided parish councils with an update on final plans for Mobile and Travelling Libraries following a nine-week public consultation (letter dated 2 October 2015). Assurances were given that the County Council will continue to support deprived areas that are more than two miles from a library building. Routes and stops will be reviewed annually.

Resolved: That the information is noted.

Winter Maintenance Review – James Bailey, Commissioner for Highways and the Built Environment has advised (in a letter dated 4 November 2015) that the Highway winter service will involve focussing on the primary network of A and B roads in more marginal conditions (when frosts are forecast); and in more severe weather, gritting the wider secondary network when ice is expected for more than two hours between 7 am and 7pm. This means that in prolonged cold weather there will be no change to the extent of the treated network in 2015.

Resolved: The information was noted. The Clerk will ask the Highways Department to refill all grit bins in the parish.

SPCA Weekly Bulletin (forwarded to Members via email)

Resolved: The Information in the bulletins is noted by Members able to receive them electronically.

c) Consultations

Cannock Chase Local Air Quality Management Consultation: Updating & Screening Assessment 2015 (final date for comments is 13 November 2015)

Colwich Neighbourhood Plan Publication (final date for comments is 20 November 2015)

Merger of Schools: Hagley Park and Fair Oaks from September 2016 (final date for comments is 27 November 2015)

Resolved: To note the consultations and that Members will respond individually where desired.

8. CANNOCK CHASE FOREST

a) Thinning works to be undertaken by Staffordshire County Council

An email from Noreen Davidson, Rural Access Manager (dated 15 October 2015) advises that Staffordshire County Council are planning to start some thinning works in Brindley Heath towards the end of 2015. The work will involve:

- Returning to the previously thinned belt of pine running around the perimeter of Brindley Heath to improve the growing trees and remove any dead, dying or diseased trees
- To improve the structure and diversity of tree species composition within the belts on Brindley Heath. This is to allow continued management in the future by developing compartments with a more mixed composition, a higher constituent of Oak.
- To develop some glades along the Duffield's track to create a higher light level to encourage a more diverse woodland shrub layer to develop and to dry out the track in some wet patches
- Improvements to some surfaced tracks. To reinstate any damaged track including removal of bratch

The lop and top from the trees will be left on the ground to rot down and feed the remaining trees. The felled timber will be sold into local markets. Notices will be posted to inform the public.

Resolved: The information was noted.

b) Countryside Estates Review

Update and next steps

A letter (dated 2 November 2015) from Cllor Mark Winnington, Cabinet Member for Economy, Environment and Transport advises that a twelve-week public consultation has opened for feedback on four proposed options. These are:

- Maintain Council ownership and seek opportunities to increase income from existing sites by working with volunteers, community, third sector and private parties;
- Transfer management on a site by site basis to local community or voluntary sector groups, such as parish councils
- Establish a partnership of landowners to manage all green spaces in a particular area;
- Establish a not for profit trading company to run and develop parts of the estate.

More information can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/countrysidereview and the final date for comment is 24 January 2015. Results will be considered by Cabinet in spring 2016.

Cannock Chase AONB response to the Review

Cannock Chase AONB consultation response to the Countryside Estates Review has been shared with parish councils (in an email attachment from Anne Walker on 21 October 2015).

Anne advised that at the last Parish Councils' meeting on 20 October 2015, an additional meeting with other members of the Partnership was requested to discuss AONB governance and funding. A meeting has been arranged on 23 November 2015.

Also, members who attended this meeting indicated that they would like to be involved in the discussion with the AONB over Staffordshire County Council's Countryside Estate Review. An Extraordinary meeting will therefore be held on either Thursday 7th or Monday 11th January 2016 at 10:00am, specifically to discuss the Review. A report will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolved: To come back to the next meeting with thoughts on the Review.

c) Any other forest related issues

None

9. PLANNING

a) Planning Comments Referred to the District Council

To confirm the observations made by the Parish Council's Planning Committee:

CH.15/10/779 W Pumping Station, Rugeley Road

A letter dated 16 September 2015 was submitted to Staffordshire County Council stating that the Parish Council has no objections to the proposal.

CH/15/0148 Brackendale, Penkrige Bank Road

A letter was forwarded to the District Council on 28 September 2015 with the following comments:

Chairman's Initials

The Parish Council objects in the strongest terms to this application. It runs contrary to Cannock Chase Council's own policy for the area.

We feel changing the wording of this new application from the previous application in our opinion does not alter the fact that the applicant wishes to divide the property for the purpose of creating two dwellings on the same plot.

It was for this reason that Cannock Chase District Council placed a condition restricting the owners from developing such a building in this manner.

The restriction was for good reason – mainly to prevent people circumventing planning law and local plans. Allowing this application could have a devastating effect across the whole of Cannock Chase, where there have been many applications over recent years to convert part or all of a garage for domestic occupation. The District Council would have no defence if all applied for removal of this condition in order to make huge profits.

If any person within Cannock Chase applied to build a house, such as this would be, in their garden, it would be so close to the existing property it would be turned down in accordance with current policy. This is no different and should be treated in a likewise manner.

This application would also impact upon the traffic on Penkrige Bank Road as this is probably the most dangerous stretch of the road.

This site is in a very sensitive area of Cannock Chase and such development – the conversion to a habitable dwelling with a new drive/hardstanding and the like, would have a serious detrimental effect.

We would also point out that if allowed, it is very likely that applications will be received from the new owners of both houses for the construction of double or triple garages with playrooms etc. The result would be to permit the creation of a high density development within this area of the Green Belt and Cannock Chase Council must take all steps to avoid such a situation developing.

We strongly urge that this application be rejected.

CH/15/0331 1 Twin Cottages, Kingsley Wood Road

A letter with the following comments was forwarded to the District Council on 9 October 2015:

The Parish Council's Planning Committee is of the opinion that this area of land does not, and should not, form part of the domestic garden of the cottage. It makes no difference that the land has been incorporated into the residential curtilage through removal of boundary demarcation treatments some years ago; what matters is the use that the land has been put to for planning purposes. The land does not form part of the original planning unit and its use has not changed to domestic over the years. It has always been used as a field, not cultivated and regularly maintained as a garden.

Objections to its future development are raised in the interests of preserving the AONB and protecting the openness of the Green Belt.

CH/15/0386 Crossing Cottage, Moors Gorse

A letter stating that the Parish Council was in support of this application and has no objections, was submitted to the District Council on 5 October 2015.

Resolved:

To confirm the comments submitted to the District and County Councils for all planning applications listed.

b) New Planning Applications Received

No new planning applications had been received after issue of the agenda.

The matter of giving comments on planning proposals directly to members of the public was discussed. It was agreed that planning observations should only be given when they are part of the formal consultation process that is instigated by the Planning Department. This happens after a planning application has been formally submitted.

Cllor Cotton reported that he had been contacted by local residents about planning application 15/21940/FUL for an anaerobic digestion renewable energy facility, associated landscaping and vehicular access at land adjacent to Severn Trent Water Authority Sewage Treatment Works, Lichfield Road, Wolseley Bridge, Stafford.

The application site is just outside the district boundary (in Stafford Borough) but local residents are concerned about the implications for greater traffic movements along Bower Lane and Stafford Brook Road.

Neither Stafford Borough Council nor Cannock Chase Council had advised Brindley Heath Parish Council about the application, which has now been approved (although subject to a final decision by the Secretary of State).

Members were of the opinion that potentially contentious or controversial planning applications should be distributed more widely for consultation. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to both Local Planning Authorities to ask that they include all nearby parish councils in the consultation process, whose parishes have the potential to be affected, regardless of whether they are in adjoining districts.

c) Planning Decisions made by the District Council

CH/15/0281 132 Bradbury Lane, Hednesford

Application approved at Planning Committee on 28 October 2015.

CH/15/0156 Penkridge Bank Cottage, Penkridge Bank Road

Application approved on 7 September 2015.

CH/15/0132 Smallholding, Kingsley Wood Road

Application approved on 1 September 2015.

CH.15/01/709M Rugeley Quarry

Application approved at County Planning Committee on 1 October 2015.

CH/15/0148 Brackendale, Penkridge Bank Road

This application has been withdrawn (notified 3 November 2015)

Resolved: All planning decisions were noted.

10. PARISH ISSUES

a) Chase Side

Woodland Wedding Events Update

The Managing Director of Events Collective Ltd has advised that he is in the process of finalising the woodland wedding event calendar for next year at Tackeroo and will send it to the Parish Council as soon as it is complete. He has used the Lady Hill site just once this year (as Tackeroo was not available for that date) but does not intend using it again in the future.

Access Gate recently installed along Penkridge Bank Road

Chairman's Initials

The Enforcement Officer at Cannock Chase Council has reported that the Conservation Officer has looked at the new gates and posts and advises they are located 4.8 metres away from the highway and are below 2 metres in height. They are therefore classed as permitted development. The Conservation Officer and the AONB Officer are going to try to arrange a meeting onsite with the owner to discuss any proposals they may have for the land, and advise about the AONB protection.

Felling Licence

The Forestry Commission has approved a felling licence for the tree work carried out at Harley's corner. A booklet called Tree Felling: Getting Permission was forwarded to the Council (electronically) for information.

Review of SSSI Boundaries

Jaclyn Lake (Conservation Advisor) has confirmed that Natural England are unlikely to start work on an SSSI boundary review for several years due to insufficient staff resources locally and nationally.

Rugeley Quarry

The Clerk was asked to ask quarry staff whether they have been able to take measures to ask (and then remind) lorry drivers to keep to 30mph speed limits on surrounding local roads.

b) Brindley Village

Overhanging brambles at the bus stop (along from 416 Rugeley Road) have been cleared. An order had been raised with County Highways (Neighbourhood Highway Team) but in meantime the overgrown vegetation was cut back by Severn Trent Water after Cllor Pearson asked one of the water board officers who was working on site last week (28 October 2015).

11. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS

The following invitation was noted:

Armistice Service for working dogs on 11 November 2015 (2pm at Freda's Grave, Chase Road, Brocton)

AONB Parish Councils' Meeting with Members of the Partnership (Chairman of the Joint Committee, Cllor Bob McCardle, and Chairman of the Officers Working Group, Hazel McDowall will be in attendance). Pye Green Community Centre on 23 November 2015 at 7pm.

SPCA AGM on Monday 7 December 2015 (motions for debate to be submitted by 13 November 2015).

Resolved: All events were noted.

12. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Meeting at Hednesford Raceway with Race Director of Incarace on 8 October 2015 – Cllor Adams and Cllor Cotton reported on this meeting. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Ness, Senior Environmental Health Officer to ask that, at the appropriate time (when the lease/licence is due for renewal), consideration is given to incorporating a condition for planting fast growing trees to screen the north and west boundaries. In addition, investigations should be undertaken into the type of silencers that are fitted to the race vehicles.

AONB Parish Councils' Meeting on 20 October 2015 – Cllor Pearson and Cllor Ballett gave a report on this meeting and pointed out the additional AONB meetings (involving Parish Councils) to be held on 23 November 2015 and 7 or 11 January 2016. They also confirmed that they had attended the AONB members lunch on 23 October 2015.

Cllor Adams advised that he had attended **Etching Hill/Playing Fields meetings**. He also reported on the review of the SSSI boundaries (which won't be taking place for a number of years) following contact with Jaclyn Lake of Natural England.

Cllor Pearson and Cllor Ballett reported on some of the detail from the **Heritage and Environmental Assets meeting** with Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist. The Chairman asked that the Clerk writes to Mr Dean informing him of the support the Parish Council has for the project.

13. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

None

14. WEBSITE

A link to information about the Adder snake has been added to the welcome page of the website.

The annual subscription for the website design tool (provide through Squarespace.com) has been renewed at a cost of £124.65.

Resolved: It was agreed that reimbursement of the costs of the annual subscription would be made to the Clerk.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Position of the Council

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year to date was provided (Clerks Report dated 10 November 2015).

The HSBC account balance at 2 November 2015 (latest bank statement) is £6514.05 (all cheques have been presented). This includes the second instalment of the precept which was credited to the account on 1 October 2015.

Any ideas for expenditure during the new financial year should be brought to the next meeting as budgets and precept setting will be on the agenda.

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Cheques for Payment

100078	The White House	£25.00	Use of room for meeting on 10 November 2015
100079	Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	£35.00	Planning Training on 11 November 2015 for Cllor Ballett and Cllor Pearson
100080	Trudy Williams	£477.59	Salary September & October 2015 & stationery items. Reimbursement for renewal of subscription to Squarespace.com

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheque listed.

16. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Budgetary considerations and precept for 2016-17
Schedule of meeting dates

Chairman's Initials

The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Department to ask that the lines on Fosters Bend by Stafford Brook Farm, Stafford Brook Road are repainted, and that 'slow' is written on the road at the approach to the bend in both directions.

17. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8 December 2015 at the White House. The start time will be 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.....
Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....