

# **BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2015  
AT RUGELEY COMMUNITY FIRE STATION, BRYANS LANE, RUGELEY  
7.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors: P. Adams (Chairman)  
D. Cotton  
D. Ballett  
Mrs M.A. Turville  
R. Turville  
A. Pearson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 14 Members of the public (to end of public participation)  
Mrs. T. Williams (Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES**

None - all members were present.

**2. POLICE REPORTS**

No police officers were in attendance and there was no written report.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Fourteen members of the public had attended the meeting for the purpose of expressing concerns about planning application CH.15/01/709M: Retention of sand blending plant for the operational life of Rugeley Quarry, off Stafford Brook Road.

Residents are concerned that there will be many more HGV movements resulting from this proposal than is stated in the documentation. They are strongly against an increase in HGV traffic on local roads that are unsuitable for heavy vehicles and have a significant impact on residential amenity, road safety and the wider environment of the AONB.

One of the local residents had made some calculations, using figures supplied in the application details (based on daily deliveries and blending ratios) and concluded that there was very likely to be many additional journeys generated by the sand blending process through the transportation of the finished product out of the quarry.

The application states that the maximum number of additional HGV movements would be (up to) four each day to facilitate the delivery of 28 tonnes x 2 of limestone dust to the quarry (with the empty vehicles leaving the site). No figures on additional journeys outward had been stated (an explanation for this might be that the marginal quality sand earmarked for blending is not new sand brought into the production process – but the same sand already being dispatched as part of the core business).

Residents reported they had seen what appeared to be many fully laden vehicles arriving at the quarry, and had wondered why aggregate was arriving when loads should be outward bound. It was acknowledged that monitoring compliance with conditions is very difficult and approval for a small defined number of

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additional journeys might in reality lead to many more. It was suggested that transporting aggregate to the Quarry for processing/blending is a different business type to quarrying, redefining it as a manufacturing plant as well as a quarry. There is already a bagging operation on the site.

The existing issues already endured by local people in respect of heavy goods lorries were stated as:

- Noise, dust and exhaust emissions from too many lorries travelling along narrow unclassified roads which are inadequate for large vehicles (which are getting larger)
- Damage to property – vehicles cause property to vibrate through their bumping and banging as they pass by homes (Cllor Turville advised residents to tell their insurance company who should take up the matter and pursue the causes of any damage with the quarry)
- Lorries are arriving and queuing at times which are much earlier than 7am
- Lorries park up in nearby lay-by's waiting to enter the quarry site
- Traffic regularly travels at speeds which are over the speed limit. There has been examples of disrespectful responses when contact has been made directly with the haulage companies concerned No speed or other restrictions are in place – there should be a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes or a road calming scheme introduced
- Verges are getting broken up and road drains quickly become blocked, causing flooding
- There is high wear and tear to road surfaces – causing damage
- Roads are not maintained/cleaned regularly enough – an enquirer was told that the section of Stafford Brook Road nearest to Penkridge Bank Road was not close enough for treatment
- Danger to horse riders, dog walkers and cyclists

Residents also expressed concern at not being consulted about the planning application directly. They were aware of it only because a notice had been put up at the quarry entrance. They also commented that as the application was retrospective, it should have been immediately rejected.

Some residents advised that they had written to the County Planning Department with their objections. Mrs Gray handed a copy of her letter to the Chairman (Cllor Adams), together with a response from the Principal Planning Officer. A copy letter to the Planning Department from Mr David Baker had also been shared.

The Chairman and the Chairman of the Planning Committee (Cllor Cotton) gave residents some background information about their previous contacts with the quarry. A meeting had taken place just a few months ago, when the plant had been mentioned. There were plans for a Quarry Liaison Group Meeting to be set up between quarry staff and representatives of local groups, to include the Parish Council.

It was explained that the Parish Council's Planning Committee had submitted a response to the planning application in May and that it had been based on the headline or main description; making an assumption that the Plant had been longstanding and that its like for like replacement would be the only implication. It had not been recognised that there would be any increase in HGV movements or operational changes to the business.

Residents were advised that the Parish Council had noted the concerns raised and would collate opinions with a view to considering a revised response to the Planning Department. The longer standing issues with lorries would be raised separately with either or both the County Council and Quarry Manager.

It was agreed that Ray Cockerill and David Baker would be the main resident contacts for the Parish Council to report back to, with updates and progress reports.

It was also suggested that a means of getting in contact with horse riders, cyclists and dog walkers should be devised so that these people can be asked for their support.

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The Councillors urged residents to write individual letters stating all their concerns about the application, and also to report day to day issues relating to lorries to the Quarry or County Council as soon as they occur. The telephone number for the Quarry should be circulated (01889 584122).

On a different matter, the planning application involving the lease of Quarry land (off Kingsley Wood Road), to RSPB was discussed. The Parish Council are keen for RSPB to take it on, but feel that it should be fenced (and grazed by cattle) prior to the start of the lease, to prevent its continued use by motorbike scramblers.

The Ironman event (Sunday 14 June 2015) was also discussed and the inconvenience caused to some residents in Stafford Brook Road, Kingsley Wood Road and Bower Lane, who had experienced difficulty getting in and out of their homes because of road closures. The Parish Council hadn't been notified directly about the event but some residents had received letters and public notices had been put up along the route.

Cllor Adams said that he plans to write to County Councillor Winnington to ask some questions about the £2.7 million that the competition was generating for local businesses in Staffordshire.

**4. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

It was confirmed that three written applications had been received for the Councillor vacancy and the candidates were Suzanne Wilkes, Dave Thawley and Jacqui Gray. All had been given an opportunity to support their application with a short informal meeting with Councillors prior to the start of this meeting. Only Jacqui Gray had attended this session.

It was decided that all three candidates should still be considered for the vacancy as detailed biographical information had been given by all applicants along with reasons for wishing to join the council. The reasons for non-attendance had not been given but it was considered that the absences may have been connected to seeing/receiving the email invitation or due to holidays.

After discussing all three applications it was decided unanimously that Suzanne Wilkes would be offered the role. She had applied to join the Council on a previous occasion, 2 years ago.

**Resolved:** To offer the role of Parish Councillor (Brindley Village Ward) to Ms Suzanne Wilkes. Jacqui Gray would be thanked for attending the meeting with Councillors.

**5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2015 were approved as a true record.

**6. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

No items (all items are on agenda)

**7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No report

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

a) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence

All incoming and outgoing correspondence was noted from the Clerks Report.

b) Items of Interest/Requiring a Response

The following items of incoming post were considered:

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- AED Donate – an invitation has been received from this company to take part in fundraising activities for the purpose of assisting local communities to raise money to purchase automated external defibrillators (AED's). A member of staff has offered to attend a future parish meeting.

**Resolved:** To note the services offered by AED Donate but to decline engaging in fundraising activity at the present time. Fundraising for defibrillators is known to be in progress locally through Community First Responders.

The Clerk will however ask for confirmation that defibrillators are installed at Birches Valley Forest Centre and Cannock Chase Visitor Centre.

- James Bailey Commissioner for Highways and the Built County, Staffordshire County Council - Winter Maintenance Review. A request has been made for a Councillor to be nominated to complete a questionnaire about road gritting.

**Resolved:** That Cllor Adams would complete the Winter Maintenance Review questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

- The Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Mr Ian Dudson, is asking for nominations of outstanding volunteer groups locally for the 2016 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (closing date 18 September 2015).

**Resolved:** No nominations were suggested for the award.

- Cannock Chase Council – has given notice that regular Community Forum meetings have ceased but that meetings would still be held if there is a specific issue the District Council want to engage with the community on; or, if there is sufficient interest shown from members of the public (a minimum of ten people). Regular meetings have stopped because public interest has been low.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

- Staffordshire Archives & Heritage Service – are consulting on proposed changes to the future delivery of the service. The public consultation is open from 19 June to 14 August. Public Consultation events are taking place and feedback forms are available (online and in paper form from libraries and records office)

**Resolved:** The information was noted.

- SPCA Weekly Bulletin (which are forwarded to Members via email)

**Resolved:** The Information in the bulletins are noted by those receiving them. No issues or subject areas were highlighted for discussion.

c) Consultations

**Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 – 2030) Final Draft June 2015.**

A final draft of the new plan has been published and there is an opportunity to make representations on its 'soundness'. Information can be found on Staffordshire County Council's website and views and comments are requested by 31 July 2015. Representations will be forwarded to the Secretary of State when the Plan is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector, who will consider whether it complies with legal requirements and is 'sound' as defined by national policy.

**Stafford Borough Council - Preliminary Draft Community Infrastructure Charging Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule**

The charging schedule is available to view and comment upon (via Stafford Borough Council's website) by 15 July 2015

**Stafford Borough Council - Plan for Stafford Borough Part 2 Proposals Document.** This is available to view and comment on by 15 July 2015 (via Stafford Borough Council's website).

**Resolved:** To note the consultations and to submit comments on an individual basis where desired.

**9. PLANNING**

a) Planning Comments Referred to the District Council

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

**CH/15/0156 Penkridge Bank Cottage, Penkridge Bank Road – non material amendment to planning permission CH/13/0168 for the retention of basement, addition of chimney to kitchen, obscure glazed windows to bathrooms, additional patio doors to study and two additional dormer windows to master bedroom**

The following observations were forwarded to the Planning Department on 18 June 2015:

1. *Retention of a basement is hardly an amendment when the house is already built!*
2. *We have concerns about the impact the additional dormer windows will have on the neighbouring property (Hickory House).*
3. *All items on this application seem to be retrospective and it begs the question: why were they not included in the original application?*

*Please may we ask when the District Council approved the conversion of the two car garage into a playroom?*

**CH.15/01/709M Rugeley Quarry – retention of sand blending plant for the operational life of the Quarry**

A letter with the following comments was submitted to Staffordshire County Council on 27 May 2015:

*The Council has no objections to retention of the sand blending plant but is concerned that over the operational life of the quarry (which is another 30+ years), it could as it ages become noisy or other nuisance issues may arise.*

*The Parish Council would prefer permission to be restricted to 5 years to enable noise levels and any other issues to be reviewed and monitored before renewal. A condition should also be applied to the approval notice specifying the required standards of maintenance of the plant.*

Following the issues raised by local residents who attended the 'Public Participation' item of the meeting, the Council will submit a revised response to the County Planning Department expressing concerns about an increase in HGV movements.

The nuisance and other issues that have been highlighted will be submitted to either the County Council or Quarry Staff (either in writing or through a meeting).

**CH/15/0162 Land Adjacent to Unit 2 West Cannock Way, Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre, Hednesford - erection of vehicle repair garage (B2) to accommodate MOT testing, spray area, workshop and office**

A letter was forwarded to the District Council on 29 May 2015 stating no objections but asked that appropriate opening hours for the business premises are specified in the conditions.

Following on from this letter, the Case Officer has asked (in an email message dated 10 July 2015) that the request for the condition be withdrawn. This is because the applicant has been based at other premises on

the estate for 29 years without any complaint about noise, there is another garage nearby without such a condition on working hours and the premises are a distance from residential accommodation.

**Resolved:** That the Case Officer be advised that as a matter of principle, the Parish Council believes that standard/model conditions should be applied to some types of business premises, such as this one, in respect of hours of use/operation. This is to protect the surrounding residential amenity and mitigate against the possibility of nuisances such as intrusive levels of noise (which can travel long distances), traffic movements and artificial lighting, during unsociable hours.

**CH/15/0164 1 Twin Cottages, Kingsley Wood Road - remodelling of existing dwelling including part demolition to side and rear, resulting in a detached dwelling, raised roof height to facilitate habitable rooms at first floor, two storey side extension, underground parking and landscaping to front and rear gardens**

A letter with the following comments was forwarded to the District Council on 18 June 2015:

**Objections:**

*The proposed development is mainly in the adjacent field which is not within the domestic curtilage but a separate field never used as a garden. This fact can be verified by the previous owners.*

*The field at the rear of the existing garage has no development rights either. It is just a field within the Green Belt and AONB.*

**Observations:**

*The two bungalows were originally extended to the rear to both fit within their curtilage and preserve the character of the buildings which are part of the history of the area.*

*The adjacent field has already had trees felled and a new drive put in. This work has been carried out to our knowledge without any permissions.*

*Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We feel this application has no merit to justify support.*

**CH/15/0178 Land off Shooting Butts Road – change of use of land to an equestrian facility including erection of stable block, construction of new access, parking, hard standing and 5 no. touring caravans**

A long letter with objections was submitted to the District Council on 9 June 2015.

Objections were made on the grounds that the equestrian facility is inappropriate and harmful to the Green Belt (it will reduce openness); is unacceptable in the AONB; creates highway issues at the nearby concealed junction, and a negative impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring homes.

Many residents had objected to this planning application and the Parish Council had been copied in on a number of letters of objection that were submitted to the District Council by occupiers of homes around the perimeter of the land.

**Resolved:**

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

b) New Planning Applications Received

No applications (although two are in the process of being despatched by the District Council).

c) Planning Decisions made by the District Council

**CH/15/0106 Base Station, Car Park, Block 1, Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre – removal and replacement of the existing 15m high monopole with 3 no. antennas for a new 20m high monopole with 6 no. antennas, 1 no. 300mm dish and 1 no. FTTA box**

This planning application was approved on 29 May 2015 (decision notice circulated by email)

d) Cannock Chase Council’s Draft DESIGN Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) with Procedure for Creating a Local List

A letter (dated June 2015 and circulated to all Members) gives notice of an opportunity to consider and make comments on all aspect of the Draft Design SPD, incorporating a procedure for creation of a Local List. This follows an early informal consultation in 2010-11 on work to define the character of the District.

Views and comments are requested by 24 July 2015 to the Planning Department.

**Resolved:** That Members make comments individually where desired

e) Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Colwich – Invitation to view and comment by 28 July 2015.

A Pdf document had been forwarded to Members via email.

In addition, an invitation to comment on the Neighbourhood plan for Eccleshall closed on 13 July 2015.

**Resolved:** To submit comments individually where desired

**10. CANNOCK CHASE FOREST**

a) Staffordshire County Council’s Countryside Estates Review

The Clerk, Trudy Williams, attended a meeting to discuss the review of the management of Staffordshire County Council’s countryside estates on 2 June 2015. The purpose of the ‘Developing our Thinking’ meeting was to brief representatives with a countryside site in their area on the Review to date, and to give an opportunity for the sharing of views to assist in shaping the draft management options under consideration. The review is required because there is a tighter budget, and also the County wish to consider both operational efficiencies and alternative ways of achieving better outcomes for both people wildlife. It was stated that there is no plan to sell Cannock Chase and prevent public access.

It was explained that this meeting represented the start of conversations with parish councils (and potential partners) and that there would be further opportunities to discuss the review as well as a public consultation later in the year.

The Commissioner for the Rural County (Ian Wykes) and Rural Access Manager (Noreen Davidson) are asking parish councils to consider:

- Whether there are any other potential options for the management of the Countryside Estates that can be added to the list
- Which option suits each site
- Whether they are interested in working with Staffordshire County Council and if so, the reason why

**Resolved:** To accept an invitation from County staff to be briefed on the Countryside Estates Review and take an opportunity to express views. A member of staff involved with the Review will be invited to attend the next (or a future) parish meeting.

b) Progress with arrangements to meet with other local councils

The Chairman advised that he would postpone working on this item until after the Countryside Estates Review briefing.

c) Forest Concerts on 10, 11, 12 July 2015

There was no noise disturbance to report. There was however some examples of apparent intoxication on a nearby road.

**11. PARISH ISSUES**

a) Chase Side

A report was given on an informal meeting with a planning expert (attended by Cllor Adams, Cllor Cotton and Cllor Ballett) who had provided advice on a range of questions about planning law and permitted development rights. This information will be passed on to any residents who make enquiries.

b) Brindley Village

No issues discussed

**12. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS**

The following invitation was noted:

Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council – invitation to help develop a new project to map heritage and environmental assets across the AONB. A meeting is taking place on 17 July 2015 at Pye Green Community Centre. 1 to 3pm.

Cllor Ballett and Cllor Pearson volunteered to represent the Parish Council at this event.

**13. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

AONB Parish Councils' Meeting on 16 June 2015 – Cllor Mrs Turville and Cllor Turville attended this meeting and provided a summary of the issues discussed.

Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner's meeting on 30 May 2015 for planning to empower neighbourhoods to work better with the Police to cut crime and improve safety in local areas – no Councillors attended this event

'Four Winters at War' Community Event at Birches Valley Concert Venue on 20 and 21 June 2015 – Cllor Pearson attended this event and expressed how wonderful the show was.

Rugeley Network PPG Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 – no representatives attended from the Parish council

**14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

No reports

**15. WEBSITE**

It was noted that the website was slowly evolving and more detail was gradually being added by the Clerk.

**16. 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 14 July 2015).

The HSBC account balance at 2 July 2015 (latest bank statement) is £5641.99 (all cheques have been presented).

**Resolved:** To note the financial position of the Council.

b) To Receive the Internal Auditor's Report for 2014-15

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The report of Julie Hill, Internal Auditor, has not been received.

The completed and approved Annual Return has been submitted to Grant Thornton for External Auditing.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

c) To Consider Requests for Charity Donations

Requests for Charity donations have been received from Staffordshire Women's Aid and Burntwood and District Community First Responders (who are fundraising for a new vehicle to serve Cannock Chase).

**Resolved:** To decline both requests for charity donations. Staffordshire Women's Aid is not directly Parish related and Brindley Heath is served by a more local Community First Responder team who are also accepting donations. The Council would prefer to support this team.

d) Cheques for Payment

100073	Cannock Chase Council	£97.12	Admin charge for Parish Elections on 7 May 2015 £48.56 x 2
100074	Trudy Williams	£556.12	Salary April, May & June 2015 £176.07 x 3, stationery £1.30, Postage £24.11, Good Cllor Guide for new councillor £1.50, Parking for meeting £1

**Resolved:** To authorise payment of the cheque listed.

**17. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

No items

**18. SCHEDULE OF NEW MEETING DATES**

**Resolved:** To set 8 September, 10 November and 8 December as dates for future meetings, to the end of 2015.

**19. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8 September 2015 at the White House (if available).

The start time will be early if a representative from Staffordshire County Council is able to attend the meeting to brief members on the Countryside Estates Review.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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

Date.....

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