BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2014
AT THE WHITE HOUSE, MARQUIS DRIVE, BRINDLEY HEATH
7.30PM

PRESENT:	Parish Councillors:	P. Adams (Chairman)
		A. Pearson
		P. Bishop
		D. Ballett
		D. Cotton
		R. Turville
		Mrs A. Turville
IN ATTENDANCE:		Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES
None

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
No members of the public present

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2014 were approved as a true record.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM LAST MINUTES

- The defective street light has been repaired in Kingsley Wood Road.
- The 'Kingsley Wood Road' name plate has not been replaced. To ask Steve Schofield at Cannock Chase Council for an update on job status.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS
Items raised under other headings on agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Incoming and Outgoing

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

b) Items of Interest and Items Requiring a Response

- Community Council of Staffordshire – letter dated 26 February 2014 from Andrew Halden, Contract Manager about Good Neighbour Schemes in Staffordshire.

  The Community Council are seeking to establish how many communities in Staffordshire might like to set up schemes to address isolation and loneliness in their area (often experienced by elderly, disabled or vulnerable people) and wish to hear whether this would be of interest to the Parish.

  Resolved: That the form enclosed with the letter be returned requesting more information about the Good Neighbour Scheme.

- Cannock Chase Visitor Centre – Email dated 5 February 2014 from Fiona King, Barker Langham Consultants, London. Barker Langham are working with the Rural Access Team at Staffordshire County Council to explore the future of the Visitor Centre site and consider what a new and enhanced Centre should offer. Fiona was asking for the Council's views but needed them speedily, and prior to the Parish Meeting. She indicated that this was the initial stage of the project and that it was likely there would be more opportunities to make a contribution in the future.

  Members commented that currently parking was not policed/managed.

  Resolved: To note the information.

- SPCA Bulletin Summary

  Resolved: The Bulletin Summary was noted – including advice about the holding of Annual Meetings and Annual Parish Meetings on the same evening.

c) Consultations

Cannock Chase AONB Consultation on Visitor Strategy

The AONB Team are asking that a questionnaire on Visitor Strategy be completed by 28 March 2014. Parish Council members had also been invited to a discussion with Cannock Chase AONB Partnership representatives and Craggatak Consulting on how visitors are welcomed to Cannock Chase AONB (14 March 2014).

It was commented that there was no joined up strategy linking stakeholder organisations and their work across Cannock Chase, and that each appears to operate entirely independently.

Resolved: That Members complete the questionnaire and return it to the AONB Team on an individual basis.

Staffordshire County Council's Libraries Review

The content of an email (dated 29 January 2014) from Graham Hunt, Community Partnerships Officer (Cannock Chase and East Staffordshire) was noted. The Parish Council has been invited to forward views on the future of the library service in Staffordshire.

A discussion took place about library services and how they have changed over the years.

Resolved: That Members forward their views to Staffordshire County Council on an individual basis.

Public Consultation in Lichfield, Rugeley and Tamworth on County Council contracted bus services to be retendered for operation from 1 September 2014.

This consultation ran from 1 to 28 February 2014 and its aim was to seek the public's view on the current local bus service journeys that the County council subsidises, and what if anything they would like to see change/improve/stay the same.

Local bus services in the consultation were: Rugeley to Lea Hall (service number 12), Rugeley to Slitting Mill (service number 13) and Rugeley to Lichfield (service number 823).

The Chairman, Cllor Adams had telephoned to make an enquiry with County staff and offered his comments.

Resolved: The consultation was noted.

7. FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

Hednesford Town Council has decided to honour Watchman independently, and not in collaboration with other local councils. Members of Brindley Heath Parish Council therefore agreed to go ahead with arrangements to hold a specially convened meeting to admit the position of Watchman, his handler and their successors to hold Freedom of the Parish of Brindley Heath. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 details how the award is granted.

The traditional gift of a scroll will be presented in formal recognition of the honour. The presentation will be made at a future parish meeting, to be determined later. It was agreed that the scroll will be purchased from Clerks and Council's Direct.

Resolved:

To hold a specially convened meeting to permit Cpl Watchman V (former regimental mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment) his handler and their successors to hold Freedom of the Parish of Brindley Heath, in recognition of the role's historic service representing the fighting men and women of Brindley Heath and Staffordshire.

To hold the meeting in May 2014, prior to the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting on the date set later in the agenda.

To purchase a scroll from Clerks and Council's Direct at a cost of £59 + Vat (after the special meeting).

8. PLANNING

a) Planning Comments Referred to the District Council

CH/13/0449 Aldene, Stafford Brook Road, Rugeley - Two Storey Side, Single Storey Rear and First Floor Extension to Main Dwelling Including External Alterations. Single Storey Rear Extension to Outbuilding, Including Part Reconfiguration and External Alterations to Create Granny Annexe

A letter stating the following observations was forwarded to Cannock Chase Council on 29 January 2014:

Thank you for your letter dated 9 January 2014 inviting Brindley Heath Parish Council to comment on this planning application.

The Parish Council strongly opposes this development for the reasons listed below:

Objections

1. *The conversion of outbuildings with a single storey rear extension to create a 'granny annexe' would in effect result in a new build detached property. It is nowhere near the main dwelling and at some point in the future the plot could be split into two to create a self-contained independent dwelling with its own garden and access onto Penkridge Bank Road.*

2. *The Local Plan does not permit new buildings in the Green Belt unless very special conditions relating to agriculture, forestry, leisure and recreation are fulfilled. Approval of the Granny Annexe doesn't meet these criteria and could set a precedent in the area, leading to a flood of conversions of sheds and outbuildings into dwellings.*

3. *National and local planning policy states that there is a presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The conversion and extension of the outbuildings into a habitable dwelling would be an inappropriate development. The enlargement of the building would have a materially greater impact than the present use on the openness of the Green Belt; and other changes might be made to the garden to develop it further*

without the need for planning permission. Trees and vegetation currently shield the side of the site but these could be cut back in years to come, to expose the buildings to the road.

4. *The extension to the main dwelling is considered too large and its massing quite out of character with its adjacent property. Saved Policy C2 of the Local Plan 1997 permits the ground floor area of an extension to be 50% of the floor area of the original house. However, in this case the proposal overwhelms the adjoining property and does nothing to preserve the openness and landscape character of the AONB. Character cottages on the Chase will be lost if these kinds of extensions are allowed.*

Observations

1. *The agent claims in section 17 of the Planning Application Form that only one residential unit is proposed whereas two are projected.*

2. *There are concerns with the drainage and sewerage. At the present time the adjoining property houses a septic tank which serves both dwellings. The new development would require independent disposal of surface water and sewerage, and not disposal into the existing drainage system as is stated on the Planning Application Form.*

3. *A bat report has been compiled but there is concern about the effect the development will have on the bats and believe it will affect them significantly despite the provisions made in the plans to accommodate them.*

In conclusion, the visual amenities of the Green Belt and AONB should not be injured by proposals for this development. The Parish Council raises objections because it will reduce the openness of the Green Belt and harm the landscape character of the AONB.

CH/14/0025 CCAT Cannock Chase, Kingsley Wood Road, Rugeley – erection of modular building for classroom facility

A letter stating the following observations was forwarded to Cannock Chase Council on 24 February 2014:

Thank you for your letter dated 4 February 2014 inviting Brindley Heath Parish Council to comment on this planning application.

I may confirm that the Planning Committee has no objections to the proposed development and in fact supports the application.

CH/14/0051 Beau Desert Golf Club, Rugeley Road – part change of use to containerised biomass system to power golf club

A letter confirming 'no objections' was forwarded to Cannock Chase Council on 14 March 2014:

CH/14/0057 13 Bracken Close, Hednesford – demolition of existing single storey element and erection of replacement single storey side extension.

A letter confirming 'no objections' was forwarded to Cannock Chase Council on 14 March 2014:

CH/14/0063 Go Ape, Birches Valley, Rugeley – replacement of existing log cabin with larger log cabin

A letter confirming 'No objections' was forwarded to Cannock Chase Council on 14 March 2014.

It was suggested that in all consultation responses to the District Council, in respect of appropriate planning applications received in the future, that a request is made for planners to apply a condition defining the hours within which building activity can take place. This is to minimise noise and other nuisance to neighbours.

b) New Planning Applications Received

No new applications received

Concerns were raised about the likelihood that a new planning application will be submitted in the near future for an extension to a touring caravan site in Kingsley Wood Road. It has been established that a certificated touring site without planning permission is entitled to take a maximum of five caravans at any one time.

c) Planning Decisions Made by Cannock Chase Council

CH/13/0390 Former Ultra Electronics, A460 Rugeley Road, Rugeley – variation of condition 27 of planning permission CH/10/0069 to vary design of the proposed dwelling

Planning approval was awarded on 19 February 2014.

d) Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1)

Anthony Lancaster, Planning Policy, Cannock Chase Council has advised (in a letter dated 25 February 2014) that the Inspector appointed by the secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to examine the Submission 2013 Local Plan (Part 1) has published his report on legal compliance and soundness.

The Inspector's Report concludes that the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) is legally compliant and provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the District until 2028, subject to a number of modifications. The inspector has recommended Main Modifications to make the Plan sound and legally compliant and capable of adoption. With these Main Modifications the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) satisfies the requirement of Section 20 (5) of the 2004 Act and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Inspectors Report, including the Main Modifications (as an Appendix to the Inspectors Report) is available to view on Cannock Chase District Council's website at: www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy. Hard copies are available for inspection at the Council Offices (Cannock & Rugeley) and at public libraries.

A report is to be made to the April 2014 Council meeting recommending adoption of the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) with both the Main Modifications identified in the Inspectors Report and some Additional (minor) modifications identified by the Council. The additional (minor) modifications are available for viewing on the Council's website or a paper copy requested from the Planning Policy Team.

Resolved: To note the information.

9. PARISH ISSUES

a) Kingsley Wood Road – Email responses to the enquiry about whether the latest shooting incident and motorbike scrambling nuisance could be dealt with under environmental protection legislation, have been received from: John Ness, Senior Environmental Health Officer (dated 24 January 2014) and Val Pottinger, ASB Prevention Officer (dated 7 February 2014). The content of each message was enclosed within Clerks Report.

Cllr Adams advised that he had made contact with the Gun Officer at Staffordshire Police and was waiting for him to get back on the matter of shooting/shotgun fire.

b) Land in Stafford Brook Road – Cllor Cotton provided an update on information supplied by Chris White, Planning Assistant, Development Control and Chris Garner, Tree and Landscape Protection Officer at Cannock Chase Council. The whole site is protected by a blanket Tree Preservation Order although trees are not documented individually.

Work activity on the site will be noted by Members of the Council and the community generally.

c) Disused Quarry Entrance on A460 – Cllor Pearson reported that this matter is ongoing as funding for permanent restoration of the site is not currently available.

d) Highway matters – Ideas of jobs that could be given to the Neighbourhood Highways Team when in the Brindley Heath/Rugeley areas (for 13 days from 17 April 2014) should be referred to the Clerk.

The Clerk was asked to forward the following items to County Highways (the first two items may be put forward to the Neighbourhood Highways Team):

- Clean road signs around Cannock Chase
- Tidy grass verge around Slitting Mill Village Hall
- Mud in kerbs/gutters along Stafford Brook Road
- Drains require a clean in Stafford Brook Road

Concern was expressed for the shop keepers in Rugeley due to the road works that are causing gridlock in the town. Stafford Brook Road is being used increasingly as a shortcut by motorists attempting to avoid the road works.

e) Cannock Chase and AONB – Cllor Adams reported that he had contacted the AONB Team in response to the consultation on the Cannock Chase AONB Draft Management Plan 2014-19. He has advised staff that the report could have been written in a simpler and shorter format with 6 or 7 bullet points clearly identifying how Cannock Chase AONB should be looked after. The Management Plan and reports were thought excessive with more content and theory than was necessary or effective in applying it to management on the ground.

Cllor Adams asked the Clerk to contact Natural England again to ask for a progress report on the revision of open access/Right to Roam and review of SSSI boundaries. Previous advice was that these matters would be considered at some point in the future.

The Clerk was asked to find out from Cannock Chase Council the management arrangements for the upcoming Forest Concerts in 2014.

Cllor Adams asked that the officer from Environmental Services at South Staffordshire Council is thanked for his efforts in dealing with noise complaints relating to the V Festival at Weston Park last year. To also ask for confirmation of contact number and the program for the V Fest event this year (Cllor Adams to forward the officer's name).

It was noted that the contact phone number for issues with deer on Cannock Chase is now 101 (non-emergency Police number) and not the previous phone number to the Rangers.

Resolved: To note the updates and make the required referrals.

10. INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS/EVENTS

The following meetings were noted:

- Standards Committee Meeting on 7 April 2014 (Cllor Turville and Cllor Pearson only).
- Special conference to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of SPCA – Wednesday 11 June 2014.

  Cllor Turville wishes to attend this event.
- AONB Parish Councils' Meeting on Monday 23 June 2013 (White House, Marquis Drive from 5.30pm). Bernadette Noake (Staffordshire Wildlife Trust) will be leading a walk around the Connecting Cannock Chase Grazing Project. There will be a buffet at 6.30pm and the meeting starts at 7pm.

  Cllor Mrs Turville, Cllor Pearson and Cllor Ballett would like to attend the meeting.
- Cannock Chase Council's Freedom March for the Mercian Regiment – Friday 27 June 2013. An invitation will be issued to each Parish/Town Council Chairman and consort.
- Rugeley & Brereton Community Forum on 23 June 2014
- Hednesford Community Forum on 1 July 2014

11. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Cllor Pearson updated the members on the topics discussed at the Hednesford Forum on 10 March 2014. This included burglaries and other problems in the town including traffic issues resulting from the bridge works.

Cllor Pearson also attended the raising of the Commonwealth Flat event at Cannock Chase Council offices on 10 March 2014.

12. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Raised in other agenda items.

13. FINANCE

a) Financial Position of the Council

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year to date was provided (Clerks Report 18 March 2014).

The HSBC account balance at 2 March 2014 is £4739.86 (all cheques presented).

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Cheques for Payment

100044	The White House	£25.00	Room Hire for meeting on 18 March 2014
100045	SPCA	£245.00	Subscription for 2014-15 (same charge as last year) *New financial year*

100046	AONB	£125.00	Nightjar Group Membership 2014 (current financial year)
100047	Trudy Williams	£565.24	Salary January to March 2014 = 3 x £172.28. Postage £18.40 (incl. 24 first class stamps) Printing £30 (contribution to costs of printer cartridge)
	TOTAL	£960.24	SPCA subscription is for new financial year

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed.

14. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

Resolved: That future meetings of the Council will be held on the following dates:

- 6 May 2014 – Special Meeting 6.45pm, Annual Parish Meeting 7pm, Annual Meeting 7.45pm
- 15 July 2014 – Ordinary meeting at 7.30pm
- 9 September 2014 – Ordinary meeting at 7.30pm

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

Cllor Ballett & Cllor Pearson are interested in attending an SPCA training session on planning. A session is coming up on 24 March 2014 and the Clerk will enquire whether places are available.

Members were advised that Mr Summerfield of the Tackeroo Club had contacted the Chairman to express his concern about ineffective diversion signs around the station road bridge closure and the negative effect it was having on his business. Customers to his venue (who are often not local to the area) are getting lost and business has dropped off. The Clerk has reported the matter to the Highways Department and asked that a representative contact Mr Summerfield to discuss how the problem could be resolved.

Cllor Pearson is also aware of these concerns and has spoken with Mr Summerfield.

16. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at the White House, Marquis Drive, Brindley Heath. Three meetings will be held on this evening:

Special Meeting (Honorary Freedom of the Parish – Watchman, Watchman's Handler and their successors) at 6.45pm
Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm
Annual Meeting at 7.45pm

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

Signed……..
Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date……

Chairman's Initials ……..