

BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30PM

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S. Pearson
Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies from parish councillors.

Apologies were received from County Councillors: B. Jones and P. Hewitt.

2. POLICE REPORTS

No Police officers were in attendance, but a written Police report had been provided by PCSO Liz Dale which was circulated before the meeting.

The report detailed that between 7 January and 7 February 2021 there had been 3 suspicious incidents (Lower Cliff Farm, Slitting Mill Road and Millside), 1 concern about safety (Stonehouse Road to Chaseley Road), 3 road traffic collisions (one in Birches Valley and two in Penkridge Bank), 6 Covid breaches, 3 transport related incidents (Penkridge Bank Road, Stafford Brook Road and Hednesford Road), 1 Public safety (Penkridge Bank Road) 5 vehicle crimes, one drugs related offence in Brindley Heath Road, 2 Anti-social behaviour related incidents (Horns Croft and Kingsley Wood Road) and one vehicle recovered with no insurance (Brindley Heath Road).

PCSO Dale advised the Council that she had forwarded the speeding concerns to the area officer and had sent an email to the 'Special Constabulary' as she had not received a reply to her previous request.

PCSO Dale has seen no parking issues around Birches Valley/Marquis Drive over the past month and believes the situation has improved markedly.

She has seen lots of visitors to Cannock Chase including groups who have been challenged and fined where found to be breaking the Covid-19 rules. She asked that members bear in mind that some families are in support bubbles and the situation is not always as it might appear.

The Council expressed concern about the large number of incidents that had arisen in the period, which reflected the nature of issues the parish council was concerned about.

Chairman's Initials

61/2019-21

It was noted that larger numbers of cars have been seen on the Chase, presumably connected with people visiting for exercise.

Councillors were pleased that warning tickets place on cars parked in Stafford Brook Road by the Police were having a positive effect.

3. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

It was again confirmed that the co-option of a Parish Councillor should be deferred to a future meeting when it would be possible for Members to meet applicants physically.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No issues were raised by members of the public.

5. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To declare interests for this meeting:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Councillor P. Adams	Chetwynd's Charity	Personal
Councillor A. Pearson	District Councillor	Personal
Councillor A. Pearson	District Council representative on Cannock Chase AONB Partnership	Personal

6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8 December 2020 were noted.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Road surface damage in Stafford Brook Road. Repair report references: 4224160 and 4224162.

'Brindley Heath' road sign on the Rugeley Road. Cannock Chase Council has agreed to replace one of the two supporting posts and to collect the sign from Councillor Pearson.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no report/announcements under this item.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Items of Interest/Requiring a Response

The following items of incoming post were considered:

Letter from Vice Lord-Lieutenant – A letter (dated 1 February 2021) from Mr James Leavesley, written on behalf of Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Mr Ian Dudson CBE, expressing his wish to enlist parish councils in identifying the County's unsung heroes who have volunteered in their local communities through the Covid-19 pandemic. He is seeking those people who are deserving of national recognition.

Submissions should be submitted in the form of a citation with the nomination form downloaded from the Cabinet Office website.

Chairman's Initials

The Clerk informed the meeting that Mr Levesley had telephoned the parish council, to reinforce the content of his letter.

Members discussed cases worthy of consideration and the Chairman invited each to put their nominations forward to the Clerk.

b. Consultations

Cannock Chase District Council: Statement of Community Involvement – Temporary Update

An email (dated 15 January 2021) from the Planning Policy Team at Cannock Chase Council advises that Government changes to the planning regulations in response to the Coronavirus pandemic had resulted in updates to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to better reflect the current working arrangements and processes of the Planning Department at Cannock Chase Council. This has been done via an Addendum to the existing SCI and the changes are anticipated to stay in effect until 31st December 2021 (or until the Government reviews them if circumstances change).

Revised Taxi Policy Consultation 2021

An Email (dated 25 January 2021) from the Senior Licensing Officer advises that Cannock Chase District Council had published its consultation on the revised Taxi Policy and observations were invited by 21 February 2021.

Resolved: That the public consultations are noted.

10. FEEDBACK ON LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR WILSON

The Council considered the feedback it could forward to Councillor Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture at Staffordshire County Council, following her letter about community responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council agreed that it was not in a position to contribute very much as a collective body, but each Councillor was contributing to the Covid-19 response in their individual roles. Checking on neighbours to ensure they were well and had everything they needed gave them reassurance that support was there and they were not alone in their thoughts.

It was pointed out that some Members are needing to isolate and community contact could only be achieved by telephone and email.

11. ROAD SAFETY

The Council had noted the content of PCSO Liz Dale's report which included work on road safety, earlier in the meeting.

12. PARISH WARD ISSUES – CHASE SIDE

a. Rugeley Quarry

The Parish Council noted that no response had been received from the Quarry Manager and Land and Estate Manager at Cemex Quarry (to an email dated 1 December 2020) informing them that the issue of lorries failing to stop at the junction of Wolseley Road and Stafford Brook Road was still happening and that near misses had continued to occur.

The Council asked that enquiries be made about the use of firearms on quarry land after residents of neighbouring homes had heard shooting.

The Council noted the content of an email from County Planning confirming that there was an existing requirement for Cemex to arrange liaison committee meetings. This was referenced in planning permission CH.00/0577 & S.400/18 and more, specifying the Section 106 Legal Agreement (Section 9).

The Planning, Policy & Development Control Manager said his team was seeking to update/refresh the requirement for the liaison committee meetings via an updated legal agreement. With the most recent application (reference CH.20/04/709 M) Cemex has submitted draft proposals for a community liaison group constitution.

13. PARISH WARD ISSUES – BRINDLEY VILLAGE

a. Removal of Brindley Village Road Signs

The Council noted the content of two emails (dated 1 and 2 February 2021) from the Duty Archivist at the Staffordshire Record Office, received in response to an enquiry about the historic origins of the ‘Brindley Village’ ward name.

The Parish Council had made the enquiry after questions had been raised about the authenticity of the ward name. The Council were aware that the original ‘Brindley Village’ was located off the Brindley Road in the forest area of Cannock Chase which was a different location to the parish ward as it is today.

Brindley Village Legacy Group had indicated that they believed the name should be preserved for the original site where the military hospital was constructed on the heath during WW1. The area became known as Brindley Village when the local miners later moved onto the site.

Records held by Cannock Chase Council did not indicate any name changes to the ward over the years which suggested it could have been named in 1934 when the parish of Brindley Heath (and the Parish Council) was created via a ‘Staffordshire Review Order’. The answer to the question may be in the Order.

The Duty Archivist advised that she had looked on the County Council catalogue for local government orders specifying the search name ‘Brindley’ without any result. The reference C/C/O/36 contains maps (1-7 and 9) relating to the 1934 Staffordshire Review Order. She confirmed the County have minute books for the parish council from 1958 and it is possible there is a discussion about the ward names somewhere in the minutes.

The Duty Archivist has looked more generally at the name Brindley Village, and could see that the local school was called that from its start in 1926 and the school was still called that in the 1950s (they have managers’ minutes from 1926). The area covered by the school might explain why it seems to have expanded away from the original wartime hospital site, when houses started to be built further away. It would be possible to look at Ordnance Survey sheets to see roughly when the houses first appear.

The Duty Archivist has also looked at an electoral register (1930 at random, after the school opened) to see if the name is used there but it is hard to see where the Brindley area would be recorded without a more extensive search. She said she didn’t know anything about any rules for naming wards but any of the records mentioned above may be helpful.

The Duty Archivist later said (in her email on 2 February 2021) that a colleague had told her that 'Brindley Village' was taken by the residents (miners) when they were moved from the original site in the former hospital, because they wanted to keep the same sense of community. The book 'A Town for Four Winters' by Jake Whitehouse was suggested as being helpful.

The Council concluded that Brindley Village included the area along Brindley Heath Road, from the visitor centre to the crossroads with Station Road and encompassed the area where the school used to be located and housing at the time. When the occupants of the original Brindley Village moved to the new houses 'Brindley Village' the name effectively moved with them. The suggestion was made that the original site could be referred to as Old Brindley Village.

Resolved: That 'Brindley Village' in its current location was very likely named in 1934 and has historic significance in its own right. It is well known to local people and the parish Council is not able or willing to influence the change of ward name or removal of name signs on Brindley Heath Road.

CANNOCK CHASE FOREST

Staffordshire County Council's Car Parking Review

The Council asked that the Environmental Advice Manager be invited to attend a physical meeting of the parish council when normality resumes in order to talk about the SAC proposals agreed by the County Council's Cabinet and the implications of the Car Park Review.

The Council expressed concern about the damage being cause by overuse of the Chase which will be worsened by people parking on verges to avoid the introduction of car park charges.

The Council considered that overuse of the Chase needed to be managed with urgency alongside the car park review and the introduction of charges should not be treated independently as a means to generate revenue. Members said that many years ago, erosion of the Chase was managed by closing areas off to allow the ground to replenish.

County Councillor Sutherland said the car park revenue would be put back into Cannock Chase (as a ring-fenced item) and not be redirected to other County services.

14. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Council noted the invitation to take part in a CPRE Staffordshire Citizen Science Survey; Star Count 2021 from 6 to 14 February 2021.

15. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Councillors have attended various Zoom meetings through the Covid-19 pandemic.

16. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

There were no reports.

17. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Financial Position of the Council

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year to date was given in the Clerks Report (dated 8 December 2020). The budget statement shows the current financial position of the Council with reserves totalling £17,126.86.

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Community Infrastructure Levy – Notice Board Project

The Council agreed that the position of the notice board needed further consideration as there were a number of positions to consider in the area around the Tackeroo car park (entrance to Bracken Close).

The notice board needs to be sited where it will be seen, where it will not be at great risk of vandalism and not create grounds maintenance issues.

It was agreed that Councillor Pearson would survey the site when Covid-19 conditions allow.

c) Compensation from Cannock Chase Council for a Tax Base decrease

The content of an email (dated 18 January 2021) from the Accountant (Financial Planning) at Cannock Chase Council, was noted.

The Head of Finance had asked him to check for the effect of increased Local Council Tax Support expenditure and the implication for parishes and town councils. He calculated that £25.62 was due to Brindley Heath Parish Council and that the payment would be made in the 2021-22 financial year.

d) To consider a request for a charity donation

Cannock Chase Shed

The Council considered a request for a grant from Cannock Chase Shed, a voluntary not for profit community group providing practical construction facilities in a workshop environment for members to build or repair their own items or construct items for themselves or the community. The charity donation would support the costs of woodworking materials for its members.

The Parish Council was impressed with the work Cannock Chase Shed is doing and the opportunities it is providing for people to enjoy the company of others and to develop and practise woodworking skills.

The Council noted the group was not at present meeting physically and does not appear to be currently incurring expenses. It also noted that the accounts were in a very healthy state with an income exceeding expenditure by a significant sum.

Resolved: That the parish council would decline the award of the grant but ask Cannock Chase Shed to apply again in the near future as their activities and plans to expand progress.

e) To confirm/authorise cheques for payment

100180	Trudy Williams (reimbursement)	£176.31	Squarespace Design Tool – Website (annual)
100180	Trudy Williams	£661.05 Gross	Salary Oct, Nov, December 2020. Third quarter (£220.35 Gross x 3)

100181 Trudy Williams (reimbursement)

£43.17

Zoom Subscription for virtual meetings
Jan, Feb, Mar 2021

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed.

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

No additional information.

19. SCHEDULE OF NEW MEETING DATES AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 6 April 2021. The meeting will be held via Zoom if a physical meeting is not possible.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....