

# **BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
MOUNT ROAD, ETCHING HILL, RUGELEY AT 7.00PM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from County Councillors: P. Hewitt and Dr J. McMahan.

**2. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman welcomed Parish Councillors to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

**3. TO WELCOME DEPUTY LIEUTENANT OF STAFFORDSHIRE, CHARLES HAWLEY**

The Chairman welcomed Deputy Lieutenant, Charles Hawley, and invited him to address the Council.

The Deputy Lieutenant advised the Council that the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire represented the Queen in the County, and due to its high population had appointed a number of deputies – of which Mr Hawley was one of 50 – to assist him in his role.

The Deputy Lieutenant informed the meeting that despite a high population the ceremonial side of the County had become dormant and was underrepresented by the honours (MBE, OBE, Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, Queen’s Awards for Enterprise etc). He said that other areas were perhaps publicising themselves better and in Staffordshire people were more modest.

Mr Hawley advised the meeting that he was working to contact people at a local level to encourage more proposals and nominations for various awards and honours. The County had been divided up amongst the deputies and he had volunteered (through living locally) to look after Brindley Heath. He was seeking to build local contacts and asked the Council to consider whether there were good people who deserved recognition (at a national level) for the work they were doing in the community and further afield. This might involve identifying people who had assisted others through the Covid-19 pandemic. He said parishioners tended to know what was going on locally more so than at County level.

Chairman’s Initials.....

Mr Hawley advised the meeting that everyone was busy keeping their heads above water and doing mundane things but sometimes it was worth stopping and thinking and looking. There are various ways that people can be recognised, thanked and honoured through the honours system, and this included events such as the Queen’s Garden Parties which are wonderful occasions to attend and appreciated by many people.

Councillors introduced themselves one by one and Councillor Sutherland gave brief details of two ladies he had in mind who deserved recognition for the work they were doing in Rugeley.

Mr Hawley handed some leaflets and cards to Councillors and offered to answer questions and provide support with the nomination process which needed to be instigated by people who knew the nominee well. He said that not everyone that is put forward for an award wins one, and the way the citation was presented was a relevant factor. In his role as honours liaison contact, he would look at the nomination forms (which go through the cabinet office) and offer guidance in completing them. If anyone had questions, he invited them to get in touch.

The Chairman and Councillors thanked Mr Hawley, before he left the meeting.

**4. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

**5. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the lockdown and pandemic restrictions had been an unknown and strange experience for all. In spite of this, many parish councils had continued to function in an exemplary manner. He said that wasn’t the case with all public services as many were working at reduced capacity.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the parish had endured eighteen months of disturbance due to thousands of people from across the West Midlands descending on the area for recreation and other purposes. He said residents could only hope when the Covid-19 regulations were lifted that the problems caused by visitors who litter, park inconsiderately, don’t practice social distancing, engage in car crime, damage property, trespass and drive dangerously, will decline. He said he had received so many phone calls from residents about these issues.

The Chairman raised the topic of the planning system which he said was difficult to monitor with officers working from home or unable to work due to Covid-19. He said we are becoming more remote from the planning process at a time when the government was urging more development in many sensitive and unsuitable areas.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Planning Committee Chairman for their work over the previous year. He also thanked the Vice Chairman, Councillor Turville for standing in for him when it was needed.

He said he hoped the good working relationship with the local Police Officer would continue although there was a growing list of reported crime in the area, at present.

The Chairman thanked all the remaining Parish Councillors for their input and support during these trying times, and expressed hope that we would soon reach the end of the pandemic and that everyone could get back to living their normal lives.

Chairman’s Initials.....

He asked Councillors to think about anyone they wished to nominate for an award and to collectively talk about the proposals prior to putting the nominations forward.

**6. OTHER REPORTS**

There were no additional reports.

**7. OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman thanked everyone present for attending the meeting before declaring the meeting closed.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr P. Adams

Date.....

DRAFT

Chairman's Initials.....