

BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021 AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, MOUNT ROAD, RUGELEY

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Resolved: That apologies are received and reasons for absence accepted under S.85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, from Councillor Mrs S. Pearson.

2. POLICE REPORTS

PCSO Dale's apologies were noted as she had been unable to attend the meeting.

The Council noted the Police Report (forwarded by email) and expressed appreciation for the policing work that PCSO Dale undertakes in the community. The Council stated its preference for a physical police presence where possible and expressed concerns about obtaining cover for PCSO Dale when she temporarily leaves her role later in the year.

The information provided by PCSO Dale (by email) about the control of dogs in public places and the opportunity to seek advice from Staffordshire Police's Dog Support Unit, was noted.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No Interests were declared.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
---------------	-----------------	-------------

No interests declared

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 25 May 2021 be approved as a correct record.

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 May 2021 were noted.

6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman's Initials

9/2021-22

There were no reports from the previous minutes.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked that a note be sent to Stafford Borough Council's Licensing Department about noise volumes generated at Oakedge Park, Wolseley Bridge, on the evening so 16, 17 and 18 July when outdoor concerts were held. He had spoken to an officer during the week before the concerts to ask for noise volumes be monitored but had been advised this was not possible because of limited resources.

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that he had received a large number of enquiries from local residents who were unhappy about the inconvenience the Ironman competition was causing them on competition day.

The Chairman asked that the accounts for this year's competition be requested from the County Council to see how much the event costs and whether it benefits Staffordshire financially. It was also suggested that Staffordshire County Council be asked whether alternative routes could be considered to prevent the same communities from having to endure the negative effects of the competition, year after year.

Councillor Sutherland suggested that Councillor Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture, be approached about the item.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Items of Post

Thank You from Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Charles Hawley

An email (dated 3 June 2021) from the Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire, thanking the Council for offering a warm welcome when he joined members at the last meeting, was noted.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – Thursday 2 June 2022

Information about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the lighting of the beacons on 2 June 2022 was noted.

The holding of a Beacon Lighting event in Brindley Heath was not thought to be viable due to the difficulty in finding a suitable location to hold an event.

Loneliness and social isolation – extending the campaign with parish councils

An email from the Commissioning Manager, Public Health and Prevention at Staffordshire County Council, about the 'Let's Beat Loneliness Together' campaign was noted. Although the online campaign had finished, the County Council would like to continue working with parish councils to take the idea forward at a local level and asked that interested councils get in touch.

Support Staffordshire – Funding from Staffordshire County Councillors

An email from the Senior Locality Officer provided information on funding opportunities including a sum of £2,500 available from Staffordshire County Councillors for distribution amongst VCSE groups. There is also a separate fund through Support Staffordshire which offers up to £200 for opening up costs.

Councillor Sutherland advised the Council that there were a number of things he needed to look into in respect of this funding in order to maximise its value.

Key appointments made at Cannock Chase Council

Chairman's Initials

10/2021-22

The key new appointments at Cannock Chase Council were noted. This included the news that Tim Clegg, had been appointed the joint Chief Executive of both Cannock and Stafford Borough Councils from 1 June 2021.

b) Consultations

Parliamentary Boundary Review

The Committee considered a Boundary Commission for England review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

The following documents had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda for the meeting:

- Guide to the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies
- Map of the proposed Cannock Chase County Constituency

The Chairman invited the Council to comment on the public consultation and Members expressed the collective view that it was in favour of the proposals set out. As the Constituency would remain unchanged it was suggested that the parish council respond stating that it was in support of the no change position.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk informs the Boundary Commission for England that Brindley Heath Parish Council is in support of the proposals set out in the review for the Cannock Chase County Constituency.

9. ROAD SAFETY

An email from the Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager (dated 14 July 2021) confirmed that a request had been made to Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership for visits by the mobile safety camera to various roads in Brindley Heath.

Councillor Cotton expressed concern about the high speeds he had witnessed while painting the telephone box in Stafford Brook Road.

The Chairman suggested that the stop lines be repainted across the entrance to Rugeley Quarry and that consideration be given to other road markings in the vicinity.

Councillor Sutherland informed the Council that 30mph road signs will be painted on the road at the junction of Chaseley Road with shooting Butts Road. He was also looking to install traffic calming measures on Bower Lane.

Councillor Sutherland advised the Council that a traffic monitoring exercise (cable across the road) had been undertaken on Penkridge Bank Road (towards the end of 2020) and he had been shocked at the results (in the form of electronic data) which had recorded speeds that were lower than the expected 60 and 70mph. The exercise had also captured additional data on times, volumes and types of traffic using the road (car, lorry or motorbike).

PARISH ISSUES – CHASE SIDE

Advice supplied by the Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager (email dated 14 July 2021) on the installation of horse signs was noted.

10. PARISH WARD ISSUES – BRINDLEY VILLAGE

No issues were discussed.

11. CANNOCK CHASE FOREST

a) Fire Safety in Cannock Chase AONB

The Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service had issued a ‘Community Safety Flash’ publication stating there was a complete ban on the use of BBQ/naked flames on Cannock Chase AONB. After making an enquiry it was confirmed that the ban related to Forestry Commission land only.

b) Cannock Chase Car Park Review – Questions for Environmental Advice Manager

Members considered the format the meeting with the Environmental Advice Manager should take when the County Council officer joins members at the parish meeting on 14 September 2021.

The Council concluded that it would like to receive an overview of where the Car Park review was at presently and to establish a dialogue and to seek reassurances that the Council will be informed about progress of the project before decisions are made.

A five-or ten-minute questions and answers session was also suggested.

c) Cannock Chase AONB – Membership of the Joint Committee

The Council considered its approach to Cannock Chase AONB to request that a Parish Councillor from Brindley Heath Parish Council be admitted as a member of the Joint Committee. The need to have a Parish Council representative on the Committee was based on the fact that the Cannock Chase AONB incorporates Brindley Heath geographically.

It was agreed that a request be made for a Parish Council representative to be appointed as a member of the Joint Committee and that the Council expresses its view that the AONB Unit’s engagement with parish councils had been poor since the Governance Review in 2016.

A draft letter to the Cannock Chase AONB Unit was circulated to Members, and it was agreed that its content covered the points the Council wanted to make.

d) Funding Commitment for Commonwealth Games

The Council noted the plans of Cabinet members at Cannock Chase Council who will be allocating funding towards the Commonwealth Games’ Mountain biking event taking place at Cannock Chase Forest next summer.

This follows the allocation of £50,000 last year towards the new blue graded mountain bike trail currently under construction by Forestry England at Birches Valley which will form part of the Games’ course.

The bulk of the funding, £40,000 will be allocated to the interpretation and waymarking for the Cannock Chase Heritage Trail, around £8,000 will go on creating local volunteering opportunities and £2,000 will be allocated towards hosting roadshows in the district.

A link to a Cabinet report provided an update on the developments in staging a successful Games event including transport and traffic management and a Bike and Play Project managed by Forestry England.

Councillor Sutherland provided additional details about the allocation of funding and advised that he had the contact details for an officer of Cannock Chase Council who would provide further information. He

believed that trains were not supporting extra carriages and the most direct routes to the site/venue would not be advertised.

12. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS

The dates of the Cannock Chase Council Standards Committee meetings were noted.

Councillor Turville advised the Council that he had attended the Standards Committee meeting held on Monday 12 July 2021. The topic under discussion had been consideration and adoption of the Local Government Association’s recommendation. He said that parish councils can make exemptions or inclusions to the Plan but must submit their proposals to the Council.

Councillor Turville advised the Council that he had asked the meeting about issues relating to Facebook which led to a heated discussion. He said that certain political parties had been subject to an unpleasant campaign which the District Council had wanted to stamp out, particularly in relation to personal attacks involving family.

Councillor Turville expressed his view that local candidates should not be prevented from opposing the opposition completely as there was a place for barter as long as it wasn’t taken too far. He said that a cross party working group has been formed to look into the issues raised and members were asked if they wanted to attend meetings. As only the District Councillors would have a vote in relation to these meetings (with Parish Councillors attending as observers), Councillor Turville did not put his name forward.

Councillor Pearson advised the Council that there had been no face-to-face Standards Committee meetings for four or five years and he didn’t understand why the District Council were looking at the format.

The Council discussed the issue of parish councillors not having a vote on the Standards Committees (which they used to have) and concluded that if parishes are governed and bound under the same constitution as District Councillors, they should also be afforded a vote. District councillors can remove parish councillors, but parish councillors are not able to monitor the conduct of District Councillors.

13. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

The Chairman asked the Council whether members knew of anyone who would be willing to take on the Clerk’s role at Etching Hill and the Allotments as the existing Clerk was keen to retire.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is going to take over the running of Etching Hill as the organisation will be able to attract funding more easily.

14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Cotton informed members that the bus shelter in Stafford Brook Road had been established as an asset of Cannock Chase Council and a meeting had been arranged with the Principal Waste & Engineering Services Officer (today) for a survey of the roof which was in need of repair.

The officer said he would look at the finances with a view to considering whether he could authorise a repair of the roof (estimated to cost £200 - £300) and provide the materials for the bus shelter to be stained by Councillor Cotton who was willing to donate his labour.

Councillor Cotton said that he had completed the repaint of the post box and while doing this residents had made comments about him also painting the bus shelter.

Councillor Cotton took the opportunity to ask whether the concrete bin could be replaced (which having now seen the new design elsewhere, might be a little on the large side).

Councillor Cotton has made enquiries about painting the flaking post box and is planning to undertake the work.

15. 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 20 July 2021). The budget statement showed the current financial position of the Council with reserves totalling £17,058.90.

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Community Infrastructure Levy

An email dated 10 June from the Planning Obligations (CIL/S106) Officer (dated 10 June 2021) was noted.

As the parish council has been in receipt of CIL neighbourhood funds the District Council wish to know details of the planned expenditure of the fund to assist with its own decision-making processes.

Resolved: That the Council informs the District Council of the expenditure on a community notice board.

c) Notice Board Project

The Council noted that the Principal Landscape & Countryside Officer, having discussed the matter with the Parks and Open Space Manager, has no concerns about the proposed siting of the parish notice board.

He said that a formal agreement via the Councils Property Services Department would be necessary, and the parish council would be responsible the notice boards upkeep. The only stipulation was to set the posts in a concrete strip (400mm wide approx.) that surrounds and connects both posts of the notice board to reduce the need to strim round and damage to the posts from lawnmowers. The parish council was advised to locate the notice board adjacent to the existing paved surface of the car park to avoid narrow areas of grass from being left and in giving a hard area to stand on while reading or replacing information in the notice board.

The Parish Council expressed concern about the high price of the quotations received and it was suggested that more prices be obtained, or a local company approached for a quotation.

Resolved: That the Council seek to obtain additional quotations for a notice board whilst awaiting advice on a formal agreement from the District Council's Property Services Department.

d) Councillors use of private email addresses

The Council noted information provided by Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association which recommended use of dedicated parish council email addresses for council business as an alternative to use of their personal email addresses. Although this was not an absolute requirement there were issues surrounding the use of private email addresses. These relate to data protection, freedom of information and privacy.

Resolved: That enquiries are made to Staffordshire County Council about the possibility of Councillors being given individual email addresses.

e) To authorise cheques for payment

Chairman's Initials

100187	Church of the Holy Spirit	£20.00	Use of room on 20 July 2021
100188	Support Staffordshire	£25.00	Annual Subscription
100189	Trudy Williams	£661.05	Gross salary April, May and June (first quarter)

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed.

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

None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mount Road, Rugeley.

The Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....