

BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 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
Mrs S. Pearson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies from Parish Councillors.

Apologies were received from County Councillors P. Hewitt & Dr J. McMahon.

2. POLICE REPORTS

PCSO Dale's apologies were noted as she commences a period of leave.

No Police report was available but Police have been round and about the area.

The Council noted that three PCSO's are currently covering the Rugeley area. These are PCSO C. Carrington, PCSO S. Nicholls and PCSO H. Lloyd. The Police Constable for the area is PC D. Wilkes.

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>
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No interests declared

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 14 September 2021 were noted.

6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman's Initials

27/2021-22

The Council noted that the Environmental Advice Manager had confirmed (in an email dated 25 October 2021) that her colleagues had not been consulted on proposals to use a field (at the corner of Penkridge Bank Road and Stafford Brook Road) as a 1500 vehicle car park to support Forestry England's Forest Concert events. The Team is however involved in discussions in relation to the Commonwealth Games via the Organising Committee and are providing input as required.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No report was given under this section of the agenda.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Items of Post

£20 Levelling Up Fund money for Cannock Chase Council

An email (dated 29 October 2021) from Cannock Chase Council confirmed its success after being awarded a sum of £20m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which is a huge boost to the Council's plans to rejuvenate Cannock town centre. Cannock is one of 107 successful bids from across the UK to share in £1.7bn of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The District Council is encouraging people to view its online consultation and virtual exhibition 'A Brighter Future for Cannock Town Centre – Welcome to our Virtual Exhibition' to share information, leave feedback and indicate support for the visuals produced.

Resolved: To note Cannock Chase Council's achievement in receiving £20m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

Letter from Lieutenancy Office – Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend from 2 to 5 June 2022

A letter (dated 21 October 2021) from Miles Brough DL advised the parish council that he had been asked to assist the Lord-Lieutenant in preparing for the celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

Two of the special initiatives that will form part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend are:

- The **Platinum Jubilee Beacons** lighting on Thursday 2 June which will be lit throughout the Country and Commonwealth. The Lord-Lieutenant is encouraging Staffordshire communities to come together to light at least 70 beacons on 2 June at 21.15 representing one for each of the 70 year's reign of our Queen.
- The **Big Jubilee Lunch** on Sunday 5 June 2022 involves communities to share fun, food and friendship by organising their own street parties, bringing the celebrations to the heart of every community. The Big Lunch Guide provides tips for organising and hosting an event.

The events are promoted to all parish and town councils who might wish to engage in celebrations with their communities.

Resolved: To note the information provided by the Deputy Lieutenant.

Proposed Police and Crime Plan, and Fire & Rescue Plan 2021-2024

The Staffordshire Commissioner, Ben Adams, was asking people across Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to have their say on the full draft Police and crime Plan, and Fire and Rescue PLAN 2021-2024.

Chairman's Initials

28/2021-22

Resolved: That the Parish Council note the consultation (which had already closed).

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual Report, AGM papers and subscription invitation (£20 annual)

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association have invited the parish council (in an email dated 1 October 2021) to take up membership at a cost of £20. Details of the Annual General Meeting on 20 October 2021 and minutes of the meeting in October 2020 had also been enclosed with the mailing.

Resolved: That the Council notes the information from Staffordshire Playing Fields Association but will not take up membership at the present time.

b. Consultations

South Staffordshire Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation

The Council considered an email from South Staffordshire Council (dated 21 October 2021) inviting comment on the South Staffordshire Local Plan Review – Preferred Options Consultation. A link to the Consultation had been provided with the agenda for the meeting.

The Council concluded that there was nothing in the content of the Plan that infringed or had an impact on the Brindley Heath Parish.

Resolved: To note the content of the Local Plan Review and to invite Parish Councillors to individually respond to the consultation if they so wish to do so.

9. ROAD SAFETY

The Council noted that enquiries were continuing to be made to the Safer Roads Partnership and Highways Department to secure a visit from the mobile speed van.

PCSO Liz Dale had also offered to feed the parish Council's concerns (in respect of speeding motorists) to local officers in preparation for a Speeding Operation to take place.

The roads in Brindley Heath that are causing concern are:

- Brindley Heath Road (where 60mph speed limit changes to 30mph – near to Bracken Close)
- Stafford Brook Road (between Penkrige Bank Road after the bend and Rugeley Quarry)
- Rugeley Road (just before the houses on Hednesford side)
- Shooting Butts Road (from 60mph to 40mph at junction with Etchinghill Road 40mph and Chaseley Road 30mph)
- Chaseley Road from Stafford Brook Road (at 60mph to 30mph speed limit change)
- Slitting Mill Road (from Forge Row to Sheep Wash – straight road – speeding both ways)
- Bower Lane (30mph section)
- Penkrige Bank Road (particularly straight section near Stafford Brook Road)

The Council also noted that the Strategic Community infrastructure Manager at the County had confirmed (in an email dated 30 November 2021) that counting equipment would be installed in Brindley Heath Road and Stafford Brook Road next week (week commencing 6 December 2021) in order to obtain speed and volume data. Surveys are generally not undertaken during the school holidays and start again in September onwards. He apologised that the item had taken so long but had been waiting for updates from the

relevant teams who were working through a backlog of requests, with software issues adding complexities to the task. He said that he would forward the data as soon as possible.

The Technical Support Officer at Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership also confirmed (on 30 November 2021) that a request for speed data in two locations, Brindley Heath Road and Stafford Brook Road had been processed.

Councillor Sutherland advised the Council that he had met up with a senior police officer and discussed the possibility of achieving sensible speed limits in areas such as Chaseley Road (where the speed limit goes from 60mph to 30mph) and Shooting Butts Road (where the speed limit is 60 mph). The police officer was aware of speeding issues on Penkrige Bank Road and was producing a paper on issues in Chase Road. There are a lot more hikers/walkers and walking on 60mph speed limit roads with no footpaths is hazardous and risky. Roads are not wide enough to safely serve increasing traffic volumes and people on foot.

Councillor Sutherland is keen to work with the officer to reduce some of the speed limits on local roads and is arranging another meeting in the new year.

Keeping to national speed limits is not the answer. Statistics would be more powerful and support lower speed limits if they included all accidents and not just accidents involving casualties taken to hospital.

Councillor Pearson advised the Council that he had spoken to senior police officers over the years, and they have commented that a lower mandatory rather than advisory speed limit on Cannock Chase would be difficult to police.

It was acknowledged that most people abide the advisory speed limit, but some do not and persist in taking unnecessary risks.

The Council expressed the view that the Cannock Chase AONB Unit should take the matter of speeding forward as part of its remit.

Councillor Cotton informed the Council that he receives a newsletter from Cannock Chase AONB which included details in the last edition of a Cannock Chase AONB Partnership Committee meeting on Monday 6 December 2021 at Rising Brook Community Church in Stafford. Questions are invited if submitted by 29 November.

10. PARISH ISSUES – CHASE SIDE

The Chairman advised the Council that last week, four accidents had occurred on the Hednesford Road and Penkrige Bank caused by speeding. Two were deer accidents and two were collisions.

11. PARISH WARD ISSUES – BRINDLEY VILLAGE

The 'Brindley Heath' sign has now been reinstated on the Rugeley Road.

12. CANNOCK CHASE FOREST

- a. Ironman Competition

An email from the Chief Executive Officer of Ironman confirmed (in an email dated 21 September 2021) that he and his Ironman team would be keen to meet with the Parish to discuss concerns raised with the County Council.

The Parish Council agreed that the Ironman team be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the difficulties the Ironman competition is causing some residents on event day and whether consideration could be given to varying the route in the future.

b. Commonwealth Games

The notes of a meeting on 10 November 2021 attended by the Clerk with the Leisure Services Lead at Cannock Chase Council, Marketing and Campaigns Officer and other parish clerks, were distributed at the meeting (30 November 2021).

Cannock Chase Council has been working for a number of months on a set of proposals to celebrate the Commonwealth Games coming to Cannock, as well as developing a legacy for the community and generating positive outcomes for local clubs and sporting/community facilities to develop. The Games runs from 27 July to 8 August 2022.

Cannock District will be hosting the mountain biking event on 3 August 2022 at Birches Valley Forest Centre. It is also hoping the Queen's Baton Relay would be coming through the district.

The District Council is proposing to hold a Chase Community Games (similar to the Games held for the London Olympics) and develop further proposals for a district wide programme that will bring opportunities for people to engage in both physical activities and arts and culture.

The Council is proposing to:

- engage with schools and colleges, inviting them to take part in a walking route from Marquis Drive to Birches Valley. They will link in with health improvement programme 'Cannock Chase Can' and arrange virtual challenges with secondary schools.
- Develop Pocket Forest Schemes
- Organise in consultation with the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee a number of roadshows where there will be a Commonwealth Games presence set up in a town or community location to promote the event. This will involve transit vans with tables, pop-up tents and marquees.
- Offer Live Sites – large digital screens broadcasting the Games events which could link to other community events and activities. Cannock Chase Council is unlikely to be able to fund these live sites and seeks to engage with parish councils interested in organising these kinds of events. The cost will be a minimum of £4,000 a day with a larger screen costing £6,000 minimum.
- Encourage street dressing with bunting. There is a charge for official Commonwealth Games merchandise.
- Work with 'Together Active' to link with sporting clubs.
- Develop Legacy initiatives – For example, virtual stories of the Commonwealth Games. Build on the trails and pedal play trail.
- Set up a District Wide Event Forum – capturing all events happening across the district. Town and parish councils could feed into this.
- Work with Forestry England and the Comms team to coordinate marketing and communications. There will be regular updates in Chase Matters.

The District Council said that it would like to note the interest of parish and town councils and asked that each one give consideration to how they could be involved.

The Council noted that planning permission for planning application CH/21/0402 had not yet been awarded and it was hoped answers would be provided in response to the questions that had been asked.

It also acknowledged that thousands of people will be descending on the route during the run up to the event (biking is a very popular sport) and not just on the event day itself.

The Council expressed concerns about how Cannock Chase will be protected from the damage caused by high usage in the future.

Resolved: To note that Cannock Chase Council would like to work with parish councils on the organisation of community events and activities in celebration of the Commonwealth Games.

c. Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee Membership

The Chairman advised the Council that he intended proposing a letter be sent in response to the AONB Development Officer's email (dated 27 July 2021) but instead had spent time talking to parish councillors around the Chase. He concluded from feedback that local councils considered it a futile task requesting that the Joint Committee's structure be changed, and that further consideration was needed for an appropriate response.

The Council reiterated its view that the organisations and societies represented on the Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee should not be taking precedence over Brindley Heath Parish Council and the people it represents who live in the AONB.

Resolved: That the Council considers its response to the AONB Development Officer.

13. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS

The Council noted upcoming (external) meetings and nominated members (where appropriate) to represent the Parish Council:

- Standards Committee Meeting on Monday 18 October 2021. This meeting was cancelled. Future meetings will be starting at 6pm rather than 4pm – noted by Councillor R. Turville.
- SPCA Annual General Meeting on 6 December 2021 (virtual meeting).

The Annual Report had been attached to the electronic version of the agenda.

- Group Meeting for district town centres and greenspaces – to look at how councils can work together to plan events, share ideas and look at the opportunities that Birmingham 2022 will bring. Wednesday 8 December from 10:00am to 11:30am at Chase Leisure Centre. (Confirm attendance by 1 December)
- Clerks Meeting with Chief Executive on 9 December 2021 (via Teams).
- Chairman's invitation to Cannock Chase Council's Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 16 December at St Luke's Church, Cannock – Chairman and Vice Chairman were not able to attend the occasion.

14. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

To share information on any meetings attended

- Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association Webinar on 27 September 2021.

The Clerk attended this meeting.

- Staffordshire County Councillors Briefing on the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme on 29 September 2021.

No report was available.

- Commonwealth Games meeting on 10 November 2021.

information on this meeting had been shared earlier in the agenda.

- Economic Prosperity Strategy Review Workshop on 23 November 2021.

Councillor Sutherland reported that officers, members and parishes had been invited to attend the workshop. Attendees were split into small groups and given the opportunity to express their views which were recorded. South Staffs have to be consulted on the Plan as they have the right to challenge. There are a number of homes which Birmingham conurbation can't cope with so have to make sure they are well prepared. A few workshops have been held for members of the working party which contains cross party membership. The last review took place in 2017 and at that time Councillor Sutherland was inundated with phone calls from people concerned that fields surrounding their homes would be built on. This wasn't the case as Green Belt was considered suitable only for agricultural use with house building a last resort. The strategy is separate to planning approval. The strategy will define land uses – such as employment, housing etc and once approved is locked in for five years.

15. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No Councillor reports were given.

16. 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 30 November 2021). The budget statement showed the current financial position of the Council with reserves totalling £18,230.65.

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Licence Agreement for Siting of Notice Board Project

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the Principal Estates Surveyor at Cannock Chase Council had provided a draft Licence, prepared by a solicitor (and distributed with the agenda for the meeting) and requested feedback on whether any changes needed to be made.

If acceptable, the Parish Council is required to fill in the missing text and arrange for two original copies of the Licence to be signed and returned.

Chairman's Initials

33/2021-22

The Clerk advised that additional quotations for a notice board were in the process of being obtained but it was proving difficult to obtain a quotation for a bespoke notice board that was reasonable in price from a local company. Two quotations had already been received from non-local notice board companies.

Cannock Chase Council has suggested using metal posts which would be more robust than hardwood posts.

Resolved: The Parish Council agreed that the terms of the licence agreement for the siting of the notice board were acceptable.

c) Budget for the year 2022-23

A proposed standstill budget for the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Consideration was given to potential projects for the year, the sums the parish council would need to spend and how it would need to fund the spending (whether from precept, reserves or other sources of income such as grant aid). The Council considered the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in 2022.

Resolved: To approve the draft budgetary figures for the year 2022-23, accommodating any differences between income and expenditure from reserves.

d) Precept for the year 2022-23

The Council noted that Cannock Chase Council had undertaken a calculation of Brindley Heath Parish Council's Tax Base for 2022-23 and would be recommending that it is set at 251.86.

It was noted that if the precept remained at £4,000 for the new year, a Tax Base of 251.86 would generate an annual charge of £15.88 for Band D householders, representing a 1.3% decrease in parish tax.

The Council agreed that it should balance future costs against the financial challenges caused by the pandemic, preferring to maintain the parish element of Council Tax at the same value.

Resolved: To set the precept at £4,055 for the financial year 2022-23 (subject to the District Council's approval of the recommended figures) generating a householder charge of £16.10 for a Band D property, representing a parish tax increase/decrease of 0%.

e) Appointment of Internal Auditor

The parish Council noted with disappointment an email received from Ray Smythe, internal auditor, confirming that he would be unable to audit the parish council's accounts for the year 2021-22.

Resolved: That an experienced local Parish Clerk be asked to audit the accounts for the year 2021-22.

f) To authorise cheques for payment

100192	Church of the Holy Spirit	£25.00	Use of room on 30 November 2021
100193	Squarespace Website Tool	£167.76	Website template

100194	Trudy Williams	£661.05	Gross salary July, August, September 2021
100195	White House	£30.00	Electricity supply for pilot to defibrillator

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed.

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

None

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mount Road, Rugeley.

Other dates for meetings were suggested but need to be confirmed (5 April, 7 June, 8 August, 11 October, 6 December 2022).

The Chairman thanked everyone present for their attendance.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....