

# **BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 AUGUST 2013 AT THE WHITE HOUSE, MARQUIS DRIVE, BRINDLEY HEATH 7.30PM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Marie Storey (Member of the Public)  
Mrs T. Williams (Clerk)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

None

### **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman welcomed Marie Storey to the meeting and invited her to speak to the Council.

Marie shared her concerns about her neighbours' development plans which involve demolishing a cottage and constructing a large property in a new (more central) position on the site.

Her main concerns are:

- Loss of privacy and overlooking from a number of side windows in both the new property when built and the existing garage/games room (which will be opened up after demolition of the original cottage)
- Effects on the beauty and openness of the area
- Size and scale of the new property incorporating the floor area/footprint of a non-habitable building (which is an addition to the site and not an original structure).
- Inconsistency with District Council planning decisions/advice – Marie had been advised (only last year) that planning permission for a double garage would be refused (and as a result she decided not to apply formally for permission).
- That a precedent would be set for future development and for longer term development of land adjoining the site.
- Inconvenience during the time period of the build

Marie advised that the case would be heard by the District Council's Planning Committee in October 2013 and that a District Councillor had offered to speak at the meeting on behalf of local residents.

Marie was thanked for her attendance and given assurances that the Council would give its full support to local residents on this issue. She then departed the meeting after the Public Participation item had been completed.

### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 were approved as a true record.

### **4. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM LAST MINUTES**

- a) It was confirmed that a letter had been forwarded to Stafford Borough Council with comments on the planning application: 13/18496/FUL Single wind turbine up to 74 metres in height with ancillary development at land south of Far Coley Farm, Coley Lane, Little Hayward.
- b) A notice encouraging people to use their local bus services had been produced and it was suggested that copies be distributed to: Rugeley Town Council, Brereton & Ravenhill Parish Council, Colton Parish Council and Longdon Parish Council for display on noticeboards surrounding the routes.
- c) It was confirmed that a copy of the reference book 'Local Council Administration' by Charles Arnold Baker had been purchased.
- d) It was reported that the verge repair in Stafford Brook Road (near the bridge over Little Stafford brook) had been completed with structural support installed at the back.

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No report/announcements

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence

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

- b) Items of Interest/Requiring a Response

The following items of incoming post were considered:

- Community Payback Scheme – email from Tony McGovern, Corporate Director at Cannock Chase Council (dated 25 July 2013). Discussions between Cannock Chase Council and Staffordshire Probation Service have been held to explore the possibility of establishing a Community Payback Team to undertake environmental improvements and clean ups as part of their community service obligations. Parish Councils are invited to make suggestions on how the teams might be used in their areas.

**Resolved:** No specific suggestions for jobs were put forward within Brindley Heath Parish.

- Watchman, the traditional mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment – a letter received from Councillor Robert Pritchard, Deputy Leader of Tamworth Borough Council (dated 29 July 2013) advises that Tamworth Borough Council has voted to admit the position of Watchman (a Staffordshire Bull Terrier), his handler and their successor to hold Freedom of the Borough of Tamworth. This is part of a county wide drive by veterans to protect the Staffordshire mascot for future generations.

LCpl Watchman V is the former regimental mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment. He no longer has an official position but still carries out numerous duties across Staffordshire and the UK to promote the actions of soldiers in the Mercian Regiment. The traditional mascot was unfortunately ended when the Staffordshire Regiment was merged with other regiments in 2007 leading to the formation of the Mercian Regiment. LCpl Derby (a ram - who was the mascot of the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters) was adopted and the Staffordshire Symbol was lost from the new local regiment.

**Resolved:** To make the necessary arrangements to admit the position of Watchman, the former regimental mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment; his handler and their successors to hold Freedom of the Parish of Brindley Heath.

- Community Council of Staffordshire's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition – letter from Chris Welsh, Chief Executive (via an SPCA email on 2 August 2013).

**Resolved:** To note the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Council of Staffordshire and of the Competition to mark and celebrate the event.

- NHS 111 update – NHS Direct is withdrawing as provider of the NHS 111 service and Staffordshire Doctors Urgent Care (SDUC) have been appointed to devise plans for implementation of a new 111 service locally.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

- Nominations to SPCA Executive Committee – Nominations are invited to fill one vacancy to represent the Cannock Chase area on the Executive of Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association. The closing date is 4 October 2013.

**Resolved:** No volunteers or nominations were made from Brindley Heath Members.

- Extracts from SPCA Weekly Bulletins with information on county wide community activity (included: Queens Award for Voluntary Service 2014, CPRE's 'Save our Countryside Charter', Neighbourhood Planning & Localism, Free Trees for UK's Community and Youth Groups).

**Resolved:** The information in the bulletins was noted.

c) Consultations

- Matthew Ellis Consultation: Safer Fairer United Communities Strategy – A consultation on this strategy runs until 31 December 2013. An email (dated 26 July 2013) was forwarded to all Parish Councils by Matthew Ellis, Police and Crime Commissioner, with a link to the Strategy.

Clor Pearson reported on Hednesford Town Council's meeting with Matthew Ellis.

**Resolved:** No collective comments were made on the content of the Strategy but members of the Council could submit comments individually as they wish.

- Consultation on the Trust Special Administrators' (TSA) draft recommendations on the future of services for local people using Stafford and Cannock Hospitals.

The TSA proposals were discussed, including the turnout of attendees and views expressed at the public meetings already held (Staffordshire County Showground, Stafford on 7 August 2013 and Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock on 8 August 2013).

The consultation period runs from 6 August 2013 until 1 October 2013. Two boxes of consultations documents were taken away for distribution to members of the local community.

Concerns were raised about poor reporting by the Express & Star and that the newspaper appeared to be looking for good headlines rather than echoing the feelings of the community.

**Resolved:** To continue to consider the implications of the TSA proposals over the coming weeks, to note any concerns from members of the community, and to finalise any collective response at the next meeting if considered necessary. (Members of the Council and members of the public can participate in the consultation individually).

## 7. PLANNING

### a) Planning Comments Referred to the District Council

**CH/13/0168 Penkridge Bank Cottage, Penkridge Bank Road, Rugeley – Residential development: demolition of existing house and swimming pool and erection of a 5 bedroom detached house**

A letter stating a number of objections and observations was forwarded to the District Council on 15 July 2013.

It was noted that Cllr Pearson would be offering his support to local residents at the District's Planning Control Committee meeting when the case is heard.

**Resolved:** To confirm the observations made by the Parish Council's Planning Committee in its letter dated 15 July 2013.

### b) New Planning Applications Received

**CH/13/0231 Birchwood, Kingsley Wood Road, Rugeley – first floor extension**

The plans were viewed and no concerns about the application were raised.

**Resolved:** To make no objections to the proposal for a first floor extension at Birchwood.

### c) Planning Decisions Made by Cannock Chase Council

**CH/13/0190 Go Ape, Birches Valley, Rugeley – extension to existing high ropes course**

Planning approval was awarded on 6 August 2013.

**CH/12/0295 4 Chase View, Walkers Rise, Hednesford – change of use from business premises (B1) to part B1 & part retail (A1)**

Planning approval was awarded on 12 August 2013.

The Parish Council expressed its disappointment with this decision.

**Resolved:** To note the planning decisions made by Cannock Chase Council.

### d) Letter from Planning Inspectorate

The content of a letter (dated 22 July 2013) from the Planning Inspectorate in response to comments made about the appeal decision process at Birchwood was noted. The response was as expected, but the Parish Council's comments are now on record.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

## 8. PARISH ISSUES

### a) Kingsley Wood Road

Motorbike scrambling – this activity is continuing to be monitored. Attempts are being made to trace the bikers.

**Resolved:** To note the updates on nuisance issues.

### b) RSPB Reserve at Cemex

Chairman's Initials .....

Shaun Denny, Development Planner at Cemex has supplied two reports containing detailed information on the proposals for a RSPB Reserve on land surrounding Cemex Quarry. It was noted that the area would be fenced off and it is hoped that the fencing when installed will prevent motorbike scrambling activity in the future.

**Resolved:** To note the information.

c) Disused Quarry Entrance on A460 Rugeley Road

- Work hasn't yet started on moving the earth bund towards the road. Cllor Pearson advised that the disused entrance nuisance issue had been taken on by a County Councillor.
- Amy Ward (Senior Regulation Officer) has advised that her investigative work into the reason the site was not restored after closure of the quarry had not progressed but gave assurances that she would do her best to move her enquiries forward.

**Resolved:** To note the information and await responses to the outstanding planning enquiry.

d) Highway Concerns

No updates were given on consultations with the local County Councillor on the County decision to decline installation of 'no overtaking' road markings along Penkridge Bank Road near the junction with Stafford Brook Road. However, Cllor Adams advised that he may write to his local Member of Parliament.

The Neighbourhood Highway Team will be working in the Brindley Heath and Etching Hill areas from 16 August 2013 for 13 working days and Cheryl Makeham (Community Highways Liaison Officer) has invited Parish Councils to put work suggestions forward. The following items were suggested:

- Cut back overhanging trees, bushes and vegetation on the verges of Kingsley Wood Road (surfaced end) and Stafford Brook Road (particularly by the bridge over Little Stafford Brook)
- Sweeping of road surfaces in Stafford Brook Road and Kingsley Wood Road (covered with stones and sediment from previous heavy rain)
- Drain cleaning in Stafford Brook Road, Bower Lane and Kingsley Wood Road
- Strim and verge tidy at the track end of Kingsley Wood Road on the left about 200 yards past Noddy Holders former home

**Resolved:** That the suggested jobs are referred to Cheryl Makeham (although not all may be suitable for the Community Highways Team).

e) Cannock Chase and AONB

- The Forest Concerts held on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 June 2013 did not cause any disturbance to local residents. The weather was wet and the wind was blowing from the north so very little noise was audible.
- The content of a letter dated 31 July 2013 from Andrew Coggins (Recreation Manager, Cannock Chase Forest), in response to the Council's concerns about the potential for the forest Segway to cause environmental damage was noted.
- Cllor Ballett and Cllor Bishop attended the site visit to view the Connecting Cannock Chase – Lowland Heath project with the Bernadette Noake (Biodiversity Coordinator, Wildlife Trusts Staffordshire) and information was shared on the visit.

**Resolved:** To note all information and updates.

**9. INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS/EVENTS**

Hednesford Community Forum on 9 September 2013 and Rugeley and Brereton Community Forum on 10 September 2013.

**10. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

It was noted that a decision has been taken to close Etching Hill car park during evenings.

**11. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

None

**12. FINANCE**

a) Financial Position of the Council

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year to date was provided in the Clerks Report.

The HSBC account balance at 2 August 2013 is £4240.05.

**Resolved:** To note the financial position of the Council.

b) Update on Audit

No information has been received back from Grant Thornton yet on the outcome of the annual audit for 2012-13.

c) Renewal of Parish Council Insurance

A three year parish council insurance agreement has been taken out with Came & Company and is now up and running.

d) National Salary Awards 2013-14

The National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services has reached agreement on Clerks pay scales for 2013-14. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have jointly recommended that salary scales are adjusted with a 1% cost of living rise and applied by local councils from 1 April 2013.

The rate per hour for Spinal Column Point 17 would increase from £8.747 to £8.835 (representing an annual increase of £20.59 per annum).

**Resolved:** To adopt the new pay scales and apply backdating to April 2013.

It was also requested that the item be brought forward to another agenda.

e) Cheques for Payment

100033	The White House	£25.00	Room hire for meeting on 13 August 2013
100034	Trudy Williams	£365.59	Salary June & July 2013 (£170.57 x 2 plus £6.85 backdate to 1 April 2013), Postage £17.60

**Resolved:** To authorise payment of the cheque listed.

**13. ANY OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Schedule of future meeting dates. \*please bring diaries\*.

**14. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 24 September 2013 at The White House, Marquis Drive, Brindley Heath. The start time will be 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....

Chairman's Initials .....