

# **BRINDLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2020  
AT THE WHITE HOUSE MARQUIS DRIVE, RUGELEY  
7.30PM**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Liz Dale (for Police Reports (item 10))  
PCSO Sean Nicholls (for Police Reports (item10))  
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 Councillors: R. Turville (health related) and Mrs M. A. Turville (health related).

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

**2. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

The Chairman advised the Parish Council that Councillor Miss J. Wilkins had submitted her resignation as parish councillor.

The Clerk confirmed that notification would be given to Cannock Chase Council and the appropriate public notice displayed on the Parish Council's website and notice board.

If (after the necessary time period) no election is requested by ten or more electors, the Casual Parish Councillor vacancy will be displayed on the Council's website inviting members of the public to apply. Applications would be considered at the next parish meeting.

**3. POLICE REPORTS**

The Chairman postponed the Police Reports item until later in the meeting when PCSO Dale and PCSO Nicholls had arrived.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present

**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	Member of Cannock Chase Council's Planning Control Committee	Personal

Chairman's Initials .....

33/2019-20

**6. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2019 were approved as a correct record.

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 26 November 2019 were noted.

**7. PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The Council noted the following progress reports:

- No new information has been received on the pending boundary review.
- A feature has been put on the website about the new defibrillator in Stafford Brook Road.
- Accessibility requirements will take a while to review and will initially involve dealing with pdf documents.
- Enquiries have been made about the possibility of the Parish Council opening a deposit account with Cannock Chase Council.

**8. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman asked whether the Vice Chairman, Councillor R. Turville, would like to accept the invitation received from the Chairman of Cannock Chase Council, Councillor Mrs Z. Stretton, to her Black Country night on Friday 28 February 2020. It was confirmed that the invitation had been distributed to Councillor Turville and all Councillors.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

a. Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence

All correspondence was noted from the Clerks Report.

It was pointed out that no Cannock Chase AONB Parish Council meetings have been held for some time.

The Clerk was asked to find details of Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee meetings held and the participants of those meetings.

b. Items of Interest/Requiring a Response

The following items of incoming post were considered:

**Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards** – An email (dated 13 January 2020) with details of the opening of the Support Staffordshire Volunteer Star Awards 2020 and requests for nominations for ten award categories. The closing date is Friday 3 April 2020.

The Parish Council noted the information.

**Woodland Trust Best Practice** – An email from the Planning Policy Manager at Cannock Chase Council (dated 26 November 2019) with details of The Woodland Trust best practice advice and guidance on tree planting.

The Parish Council noted the information.

Chairman’s Initials .....

**Cannock Chase Council’s Book of Condolence** – The PA to the Managing Director confirmed (in an email dated 20 December 2019) that the District Council will have one official book of condolence for the district, to be located in Cannock (ideally St Luke’s Church) or the District Council offices, should the need arise.

A protocol for when a senior member of the Royal Family passes, will be shared with town and parish council’s in due course.

The Parish Council noted the information.

**SPCA Weekly Bulletins:**

- **Campaign to Protect Rural England** (Bulletin on 12 December 2019) – The Staffordshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), is inviting town and parish councils to join its efforts to protect the countryside, towns and villages of Staffordshire.

The Parish Council noted the information.

c. Consultations

- **The West & Shires Permit Scheme Consultation**

An email from the Traffic Manager, Highways & Built County, Staffordshire County Council provides notice of a new scheme Staffordshire County Council will be introducing to assist with the management of street and road work activities on the public highway in Staffordshire. The County is proposing to exercise powers to introduce a system of permits to street works and road works under the West and Shires Permit Scheme. This will require permits to be obtained for most road and street works whether they are undertaken by or on behalf of utility companies or the highway authority.

Resolved: That the Parish Council offers its full support to the introduction of a permit scheme, believing that such a scheme would result in welcome improvements to the management of works undertaken by highway authorities and utility companies on the public highway. The Council hopes the scheme is introduced as soon as possible and without delay.

- **Staffordshire Community and Voluntary controlled School Admission Arrangements 2021-22 Consultation**

An email from the Principal School Admissions Officer (dated 9 December 2019) provides details of its proposed school admission arrangements relating to all community and voluntary controlled schools located in Staffordshire for the 2021-22 academic year.

Resolved: That the details of the consultation are noted, and that Councillors respond individually.

**10. POLICE REPORTS**

PCSO Dale and PCSO Nicholls provided an update on the nature of work dealt with (in the parish and surrounding area) during January 2020. There have been five transport jobs (cows in the road x 2 and a tree branch at Slitting Mill Road and Penkrige Bank Road), 4 road traffic collisions which were mainly deer (Stafford Brook Road and Penkrige Bank Road), 2 suspicious calls in Stafford Book Road – including a report of a man behaving suspiciously, one domestic incident (Slitting Mill Road), 4 Neighbour related issues, 5 anti-social behaviour incidents, an abandoned vehicle, one vehicle crime and one family domestic incident.

Chairman’s Initials .....

PCSO Dale said she had been doing work in the schools with the junior Cadets and child sexual exploitation talks to years 5 and 6 at Etching Hill Primary School. A recent 'Time for Tea' community event in Rugeley with District Councillor Olivia Lyons had been very successful.

They said that good results had been obtained from reporting crime through social media rather than the police non-emergency 101 number. It was suggested that people have lost confidence in this service which is too slow.

Questions were raised about the provision that is made within the Staffordshire Police to promote PCSO's to Police Officer positions to enable the service to benefit from the skills and experience already gained. It was confirmed that there is no fast track system to enable this transition. There are also some issues around the alignment of salary grades as the starting salary for a police officer is lower than the top of the PCSO scale.

The valuable work of the Special Constable in Rugeley was commended and the challenges relating to the resources available for neighbourhood policing teams explained.

Upon completion of their reports, PCSO Dale and PCSO Nicholls were thanked for their time – and for doing an excellent job day to day in the community - before they left the meeting.

**11. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR**

Councillor Cotton advised Members that the defibrillator was operational. He said that he had replaced one broken pane of glass and would be checking the light. He plans to paint the telephone box externally, in the spring.

**12. PARISH WARD ISSUES**

a. Chase Side

A question was raised about who owns the bus shelter in Stafford Brook Road. Councillor Sutherland offered to make an enquiry.

b. Brindley Village

Councillor Pearson informed the Council that a significant quantity of debris had been deposited/dumped in the access road to the old quarry site on the Rugeley Road and Cannock Chase Council were looking into the issue. The district and county may jointly arrange to remove the debris which includes asbestos, tyres, mattresses, general rubbish, plastic etc. Cannock Chase Council is thought to be aware of the identity of the perpetrator.

The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about the action that Cannock Chase Council has taken against the persons responsible.

c. Cannock Chase Forest

No additional items were raised.

**13. INVITATION TO MEETINGS/EVENTS**

To note forthcoming (external) meetings and nominate members to represent the Parish Council (where appropriate):

SPCA Local Councillor Training Course on 26 February 2020 – Councillor Sutherland volunteered to attend the training session.

A request was made for an updated copy of the 'Good Councillor Guide' to be ordered for each Councillor.

**14. REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED**

No reports

**15. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

No reports

**16. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) Financial Position of the Council

A breakdown of income and expenditure for the financial year to date was provided (Clerks Report dated 28 January 2020). The budget statement shows the current financial position of the Council with reserves totalling £16,052.93.

Resolved: To note the financial position of the Council.

b) To authorise cheques for payment

100166	The White House	£30.00 + £20.00	Use of room on 28 January 2020 and reimbursement for electricity supply to defibrillator Jan to Dec 2020
100167	Trudy Williams	£643.50	Gross Salary October, November, December 2019 (third quarter)

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed.

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

Community Infrastructure Levy – parish notice board (requested by Councillor Pearson)

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday 24 March 2020. Venue to be confirmed.

The following future meeting dates were set: 26 May (Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting), 21 July, 29 September and 8 December 2020 at 7.30pm. Venues to be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed.....

Chairman, Mr. P. Adams

Date.....

Chairman's Initials .....