



## FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: F Beardsmore, M Perks, V Lockley, T Smitheman, G Reynolds, R Tucker  
and J Brindle

Also Present: B Williams  
R Cope  
R Young – Clerk to the Council

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### 1) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

B Williams mentioned the following:-

- Update regarding Covid-19 in Staffordshire.
- New Cabinet including appointment of Allan White as Leader of the County Council.
- Flu Inoculation.
- Damager barrier on Traffic Lights (New Road – A460). Inspector ruled Non-Urgent. V Lockley said this decision was incorrect as the safety of school children was paramount. The Clerk asked if there was an appeal procedure regarding any Highway Inspector's decision. B Williams agreed to ask if this repair could be brought forward. F Beardsmore asked if a site meeting could be arranged. R Tucker commented that with school children being back at school, this matter was now urgent.
- Updates from Cheryl Larvin:-

Brookhouse Lane trimming – this will be undertaken with a flail mower and tree surgeons. I met with our pre-site technician today to go through the extent of the works. I am unsure of a timeframe, I will hopefully know this in the coming weeks. Whilst we were on site, we cut back a couple of the lowest overhanging branches at the junction of Cat & Kitten Lane.

Brookhouse Lane potholes – I will chase these works with the scheduler. I can see there are pothole works to be scheduled on our system. Just to note, I am also aware that this lane has been put forward for surface dressing works in 2021, prior to these works they will be carrying out remedial works to prepare the site.

Old Lane from Doctors to Baneberry Drive – the tree works are commencing on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September. They will start at the entrance to the doctors and work their way down the lane. I would expect they will be outside of the doctors for at least the morning. We will know more once they start works to how quickly this can be completed, but they have been instructed to spend the whole day along this section.

Barriers at junction of A460 – I can see they are arranging the traffic management to carry out these works. I will ask if they have a proposed date of works.

South Crescent bollard – I will speak with the scheduler regards this.

Drain cleansing - the next cyclical drain cleansing works around Featherstone is due beginning of 2021 (with exception for the A460 Cannock Road which is cleansed on an annual basis, usually May time).

- B Williams reported he had requested a Cycleway from M54 Junction 1 down to Wedges Mill plus gave outline of speed limit request on M5 (J1) to M6 (J11).
- F Beardsmore said he would contact Cheryl Larvin (SCC Highways) tomorrow regarding outstanding Highway matters.

## 2) **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

### a) **District Councillor F Beardsmore**

District Council matters to be covered in Planning section.

### b) **District Councillor R Cope**

#### M54 Link Road to M6

- Statement of Common Ground – Need to look at Amendment.
- Closing Date for comment 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
- Meeting to be arranged – R Cope, F Beardsmore and P Davies.

## 3) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- No matters raised.

## 4) **POLICE MATTERS**

- T Smitheman reported only 24 hours' notice given for recent Police Surgery. M Perks said Surgery should be in the evening as many at work during the day. R Tucker commented need wider promotion within the Parish.
- F Beardsmore gave details of a fire in the bushes near to the Community Centre.
- The Clerk to arrange a virtual meeting with Kelly Wareing.

## 5) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from D Betts and J Beardsmore.

## 6) **MINUTES**

It was proposed (R Tucker), seconded (M Perks) and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be approved as a true and correct record.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 as a true and correct record.**

**7) DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- Councillors T Smitheman, F Beardsmore, J Brindle and R Tucker declared an interest in relation to all matters concerning Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.

**8) MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Static Caravan at Indian Restaurant (Kings Repose)**

- District Councillors F Beardsmore and R Cope to obtain update.

**b) Meeting with Prison Governors**

- Oakwood - Visit arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10.00am  
The Clerk to check if still going ahead.
- Featherstone - Leave another 6-8 weeks.
- Brinsford - Leave another 6-8 weeks.

**c) Prisons – Ground Maintenance in Parish**

- Oakwood - Not at present.

**d) Attendance at Parish Council Meetings**

The Clerk reported he had received an email from Rachel Barnett as follows:-

Further to our telephone conversation earlier this week, I am writing to you in connection with my role within the Parish Council.

After serious reflection on the demands that my full-time role as UK Human Resources Director is taking, it is with a heavy heart that I am today tendering my resignation from the Council.

I do not feel it is possible for me to continue my duties and dedicate the time that it deserves. This, combined with the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the additional demands this is placing on me professionally with my full-time role, makes the commitments required to fulfil my role on the Parish Council untenable at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for affording me the opportunity, albeit for a short time, to be part of the Council, and I would like to wish you all the very best for the future.

**9) HIGHWAYS**

- The Clerk to enquire again with SCC Highways regarding the extension of yellow lines at the top of The Avenue (The Avenue/A460).
- Renewal of white lines where prison road meets New Road – Amey to enquire with the Ministry of Justice.
- R Cope gave details of an incident when a Parishioner was nearly knocked off her bicycle. K Perry and M Keeling reviewing location.

## 10) **REPORT – FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

F Beardsmore reported the following:-

- All Clubs starting back this week with reduced numbers – Bookings only – No general access.
- Aware of Work Club guidelines.
- Received keys for Waste Bins.
- J Brindle asked if consideration is being given to decorate the Centre. F Beardsmore said quotes being obtained. Also asked if any local Contractors are known – to forward details.
- Toilets open for use.
- House adjacent to Centre Grounds
  - Tree roots coming up in garden.
  - F Beardsmore and R Tucker visited property.
  - Roots within 1 metre of house.
  - Need quotes for removal of tree.
  - Will make insurance claim.
- Part-Time Maintenance Person
  - Vacancy advertised.
  - F Beardsmore and R Tucker interviewed four applicants. Selected D Webb.
  - It was proposed (R Tucker), seconded (M Perks) and agreed to employ D Webb as Parish Maintenance Person.

**Resolved: To employ D Webb as Parish Maintenance Person.**

- One Year Contract to apply with three month trial period to be completed.
- Job Description and Work Schedule to be produced.
- It was proposed (R Tucker), seconded (T Smitheman) to pay the Parish Maintenance Person £10.00 per hour.

**Resolved: To pay the Parish Maintenance Person £10.00 per hour.**

- F Beardsmore gave details of his meeting with Mike Deegan regarding grants for the Community Centre.

## 11) **REPORT – FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY GOVERNORS' REPORT**

J Brindle reported matters on hold at present.

## 12) **REPORT – FEATHERSTONE FIRST RESPONDERS**

- Responses during August 2020 - 7

## 13) **REPORT – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

- South View close – Need meeting with Midland Heart to discuss people being allocated homes. R Cope to provide contact details.

## 14) **REPORT – BRINSFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

G Reynolds mentioned the following:-

- Noticed six bundles of rubbish – F Beardsmore to take up with SSDC.
- Fly Tipping generally a problem.
- Complaints received regarding the Litter Picker in Brinsford – Litter Bin on East Road/New Road – contents on grass. Litter Picker would not pick up as said it was fly tipping. G Reynolds to speak to Litter Picker.
- No meetings due to COVID-19.

## 15) **PLANNING**

### a) **Brinsford College Site**

- F Beardsmore confirmed meeting with Developer – R Cope also attended.
- Housing numbers reduced to 79 – 30% affordable.
- Questions raised:-
  - Size of Gardens.
  - Football Pitch – Park – Allotments.
  - Ownership of Land – should be given to the District Council who would take on ground maintenance.
- Construction Traffic to come from A449 and not along The Avenue or New Road.
- Safeguarding Lane will give 30 homes – still with David Wilson Homes.
- J Brindle enquired regarding Changing Rooms – does it include Home/Away/Referee plus shower facilities. Concerned regarding ownership of changing rooms and land. F Beardsmore to discuss with District Council.
- R Tucker commented would the District Council maintain and manage anything the Parish Council own.
- Reviewed location of pavement at bottom of Brookhouse Lane.
- Concerns raised regarding retention of Hedgerow for wildlife.
- V Lockley asked if Dog Walks would be planned and would Scouts be able to use the Changing Rooms.
- R Cope mentioned the following:-
  - New Government Planning Rules.
  - Local Plan could be abandoned.
  - Protected Lane, Brownfield Sites and Renewal Land – Will report back at next meeting.

### b) **Telecom Mast**

- Originally located by the school, then moved adjacent to the Chapel. Councillors reviewed aspects of Technology and whether operators could share masts. Mast proposed by the Chapel will be 20 metres high. M Perks said installation will reduce width of pavement.

**c) Flooding Issues**

- R Cope gave a detailed update regarding flooding in Wilmott Close – Two badly affected properties plus problem at Brookhouse Close – pond not free flowing. Survey needed at Brookhouse Close and gullies needed on Wilmott Close.

**d) Work Clubs**

- Webinar starting tomorrow at 10.30am – Share Computer.

**e) Wilmott Close – Mud on Road**

- F Beardsmore contacted Cheryl Larvin, SCC (Highways) regarding problem and will inspect condition.

**16) CORRESPONDENCE**

- Mike Deegan – Community Centre.
- Jon Harvey – Draft Parish Council SOCG.
- Helen Askey SSTAFFS – Work Club Facebook.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- Lorraine Fowkes – Government Guidance on Council Buildings.
- SPCA – Bulletin.

**17) PARISH MAINTENANCE**

- Bromford Flats to rear of South Crescent – Settee left plus Bed Frame in Greenaway Court.
- J Brindle asked why Parish Council Meetings could not be held face to face. The Clerk replied the official advice from NALC/SPCA was that virtual meetings should be held. F Beardsmore said this advice will be monitored.

**18) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**a) Village Green**

- The Clerk reported that Michael Murphy at SCC Legal had written to the Ministry of Justice regarding the Village Green.

**b) Parish Plaque**

- F Beardsmore confirmed that plaques are available for presentations.

**c) Scout / Youth Facility**

- J Brindle said with expansion of homes in the area (2025-2027). M Perks said he could advise regarding Scout / Guide possible usage. Council must identify there is a need for additional facilities and possible sources of funding.

**d) Featherstone Play Area**

T Smitheman commented as follows:-

- Featherstone Park – Skateboard will not be a priority.
- Play Area – Mike Deegan making enquiries regarding funding opportunities.

**19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.