



## FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm  
in Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre, Baneberry Drive, Featherstone

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

Also Present: District Councillor R Cope  
Sgt Kelly Wareing  
Two Members of the Public

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### 1) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that County Councillor B Williams had sent his apologies with comments as follows:-

Hello Robert,  
Good Questions.

I will be attending a meeting at the District Council on the Local Plan this Thursday that maybe your Chairman and Bob Cope will be attending also.

I have again stressed at County the type of frustrations you describe. These type of complaints are expressed at every Parish in Staffordshire.

Funding for all departments at the County are affected by the increasing 65% of the cake both Adult and Child Social Care demand.

The flooding of areas is not helping at the moment either as you may appreciate.

I will keep bringing up your requests to Highways when I meet with Kath Perry and Mark Keeling, though our next meeting is a few weeks off.

All County Councillors are hoping the next funding round will be better than the last.

Best wishes,  
Bernard

### 2) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

#### a) District Councillor R Cope

Prior to the meeting, R Cope sent an email regarding his attendance at a District Council Meeting as follows:-

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Parish Council Meeting on Thursday because the District Council have called for a meeting with the Black Country Authorities to discuss their unmet housing need and the duty to cooperate policy which will impact on housing allocation within South Staffs Greenbelt. The meeting takes place at 6.30pm at Codsall so please accept my apologies for absence from your meeting.

I have read your minutes and ask that you make a slight amendment to my District Councillor comments regarding the green bin charge. Would you please state that I did not vote to make a charge for the green bin.

- Important attends Codsall as reviewing houses to be built.

**b) District Councillor F Beardsmore**

- F Beardsmore confirmed he attended meeting at the District Council regarding the College site.

**3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Member of the Public said came to the meeting to discuss Policing in the Parish. F Beardsmore gave details of drug issue and car theft. Member of the Public said there appeared to be unabated crime. R Tucker said Parishioners have been concerned for at least two years. Member of the Public commented she had lived in Featherstone all her life but never seen crime levels as bad as at present.
- M Perks said the Notice of Meeting and Agenda should be displayed on Noticeboards. The Clerk to forward copies in the post to relevant Councillors.

**4) POLICE MATTERS**

The following comments/statements were made by Member of the Public, Councillors or Sgt Kelly Wareing (Staffordshire Police).

**K Wareing, Councillors, Member of Public**

- Last two months crime has got worse with Car Thefts, Drugs and Break-ins.
- Eight Burglaries in January 2020.
- Operation Jackal – Extra Patrols, Overtime approved plus additional cars in area.
- Headquarters have analysed crimes committed.
- Two individuals in custody.
- Gave details of attempted thefts.
- F Beardsmore gave details of person going around damaging vans. Also gave details of his son's car being stolen and then being found in a container by using the tracker device. Returned to location and container had gone.
- K Wareing said she was confident that Police have broken up or moved on the group targeting Featherstone.
- Reviewed crimes in the Parish.
- R Tucker commented that Police have suffered harsh cuts. The Parish Council have complained regarding lack of Police presence. Concerns of crime in the past whereas people are frightened in their own homes. Nobody sees a Police Officer.
- K Wareing said that 10-25 incidents occur each day and she has to apply priorities.
- J Brindle said that 101 not working. K Wareing replied aware of problem.
- M Perks gave details of parking on The Avenue blocking pathways.
- F Beardsmore said very disappointed with reduction in PCSO's because when incident occurs there is no follow-up with contact being made by PCSO's.
- Member of Public said when incident in Featherstone there is no follow-up. K Wareing to look at this aspect.
- J Brindle said need help from Police to report the condition of road surface on M54/A46 traffic island.
- K Wareing distributed her contact details.
- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, thanked Sgt Kelly Wareing for attending the Parish Council Meeting.

**5) APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from J Beardsmore, V Lockley and B Williams.

**6) MINUTES**

It was proposed (J Brindle), seconded (R Tucker) and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be agreed as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

- 2) District Councillor Report – Paragraph 2 (Green Bin Waste Collection) –  
Include: “R Cope did not vote to make a charge for the Green Bin”.

**Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as a true and correct record, subject to the above inclusion.**

**7) DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

**8) MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Flooding in area of Caravan Site off New Road (A460 end)**

- This matter is ongoing.

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

- Catherine Gutteridge or H Marshall to forward update.

**c) Meeting with Prison Governors**

- Featherstone - Meeting arranged with Deputy Governor – Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 3.00pm – R Tucker, J Brindle, G Reynolds to attend.
- Oakwood - Meeting arranged – Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020 or 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 3.00pm.
- Brinsford - Future meeting to be arranged.

**d) Brinsford Prison – Ground Maintenance**

R Tucker reported the following:-

- Good meeting with Joanne Oliver. Did Risk Assessment. Start work on the Lane. Complaints made by Prison Officer who lives in the Parish with regard to ROTL working locally. Governor has upheld complaint.
- Clerk to contact Oakwood regarding ROTL's.

**9) HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**a) Mark Keeling**

The Clerk gave details of an email dated the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 from M Keeling as follows:-

Thank you for your email.

Whilst I understand the frustration, I do believe that answers are provided when asked and hope we have been clear to explain the constraints of funding and resources. A number of conversations have taken place with regard to processes and policies of the County Council including meetings with Cabinet members for Highways and would hope we have provided insight to the considerable demand for service across the highway network.

All points raised directly from yourself and following Parish meetings have been recorded and directed to the right teams and correct processes or delivery mechanisms. This process has gone on to build programmes which has seen Featherstone receive surface treatments across the village, the implementation of new speed limits, weight restrictions, parking restrictions, calming measures, new signs, etc.

However, we are not able to deliver everything and I understand there are items raised at the Parish Council that may not be addressed for some time.

Please find below a brief response to the items raised:

Brookhouse Lane – Current surface condition is noted. Information has been fed back to our operational and scheme engineers numerous times. However, we have to manage the whole of the network and the extent of the programmed work is limited to the budget allocation and wider allocations from Central Government. I have explained this on previous occasions and whilst I value the local information this is balanced against the safety and structural condition of the surface which then competes with a number of similar roads and footways across Staffordshire. Although you mention Brookhouse Lane, it does not appear in any works schedules as advised in my email of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the road will be surfaced dressed in 2021 and will be kept safe through highway inspections until then.

M54/A460 – As advised at the meeting with Parish Councillors on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, a site meeting with operational colleagues has taken place. However, the difficulties here have been in relation to restrictive working governed by Highways England. As the work involves slip road lane closures off the M54 in both directions, our works have had to meet HE criteria and traffic conflicts within a 10 mile radius.

The overnight works have been arranged and will take place over five nights from the 24<sup>th</sup> February. The cost of the works will be in the region of 30k.

South Crescent Bollards – This is not deemed essential infrastructure and the task as advised is a low priority. I am happy to discuss the replacement with County Councillors at our next Divisional Programme meeting to determine if this matter should be referred as a Local Community Priority.

Finally a large part of my job is to provide community insight into central hub processes, work collaboratively with our partners and drive improvements across a full range of highway operations and programmes. Therefore, in answer to your question “what’s the point”, the information I gain from each of the 52 Parish Councils in my area does lead to communication across wider teams, it feeds into future programmes of work and highlights where things have not gone right, future learning and change. I do appreciate that the reporting of general defects and concerns continue to be directed through our website and MyStaffs App reporting mechanisms.

Kind regards.

Mark Keeling  
Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager  
Cannock, South Staffs, Stafford – Gnosall & Doxey

**b) Brindley Motors**

\_\_\_\_\_ The Clerk reported the Site Manager, Chris Adams, said he would notify Transport Companies by email that they should not travel through the Village (The Avenue – Brookhouse Lane).

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

F Beardsmore reported the following:-

- J Beardsmore still in hospital.
- Accountant to visit Centre tomorrow.
- Rebecca working at Centre on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**11) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY GOVERNORS’ REPORT**

- J Brindle reported a Finance Meeting had been held last Wednesday.
- R Cope commented that local schools are full (confirmed by Caroline Jobling). R Cope gave details of where children from additional 103 homes at Brinsford would be allocated spaces.

**12) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE FIRST RESPONDERS**

- The Clerk said he had not received a reply to enquiry.

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

- G Reynolds reported the Housing Association had cut the Hedges and Bushes at the Park.

**14) REPORT – BRINSFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

G Reynolds commented as follows:-

- Update regarding street lighting.
- No. 67 Bus goes up and down lane at Brinsford – Malayan Way/East Road down to Cat and Kitten Lane.
- Village Green – Deferred to next meeting.
- Clerk given copy of Brinsford Community Association Minutes of Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

**15) PLANNING**

**a) Planning Applications Received**

- i) 19/00919/FUL  
Detailed planning application for 103 dwellings, (100 per cent affordable housing) plus associated infrastructure, access and on-site formal and informal open space. New plan relates to proposed highway works, including footway link.  
Brinsford Lodge, East Road, Brinsford

R Cope commented as follows:-

- Pre-App increased 89 houses to 103 – Partnership with Midland Heart Housing Association.

- Similar application for Cheslyn Hay – 92 houses reduced to 60. Lower density Cheslyn Hay receiving Swings and Car Park, whereas we are asking for more.
- District Council Policy of 10% for Senior Citizens Bungalows.
- Homes appear to be poor design.
- SSDC need 600 affordable houses.
- Green Space Policy – High density gives No Green Space.
- The Clerk to circulate to Councillors the Report produced by Andy Johnson.
- F Beardsmore said there was a presentation regarding the 103 houses on Saturday and commented the Parish Council should arrange a Public Meeting. Also need clarification regarding maintenance of Leisure Facilities. Councillors considered dates for a Public Meeting.
- The Clerk confirmed observation comments date would be extended to the end of March 2020.

#### **16) CORRESPONDENCE**

- SPCA Bulletin.
- SSDC – The Place Narrative for South Staffordshire.
- SPCA – Planning Training.
- SSDC – Spatial Housing Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery.
- Parish Summary 2020.
- Gavin Williamson M.P. – Appointment of Assistant, Oliver Bryan.
- Helen Astley – Operation Bridge.
- Towergate Insurance – Employers Liability.
- SCC – Bus Service Changes.
- SSDC – Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth – Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

#### **17) PARISH MAINTENANCE**

- Old Lane from Doctors Surgery – Clerk to report condition to SCC Highways.
- CCTV Mast at Featherstone – Helen Marshall agreed to meet J Brindle at 2.00pm on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### **18) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

##### **Village Green**

- The Clerk to enquire with SCC Legal regarding term Legal Entity in relation to Brinsford Residents' Association.

##### **Parish Plaques**

- J Brindle enquired on behalf of Diamond Fire regarding use of Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council Motif. Deferred until March 2020 Meeting.

#### **19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The Meeting closed at 9.54pm.

F Beardsmore  
Chairman