



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council
held on 12th November 2020 at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- No matters reported.

2) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

District Councillor F Beardsmore mentioned the following:-

- Update regarding Covid-19.
- Parishioners very concerned.
- Prison cases of Covid-19.
- R Tucker commented the prison cases of Covid-19 could impact on the Tier allocation.
- Letter to G Williamson M.P. regarding concern of prison cases included when Tier grade decided.

3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- No matters raised.

4) POLICE MATTERS

The following policing issues were reviewed:-

- Two weeks ago a lot of police in Parish driving around in cars – none on foot.
- F Beardsmore reported a serious incident in South Crescent – House broken into – one person arrested.
- M Perks commented there were a lot of cars by the traffic island – Occurs every Sunday.
- M Perks gave details of Parishioner walking who was approached by four youths who demanded his takeaway or they would stab him. Incident reported to the police.
- Reviewed incidents in Parish of Youths and Girls being disruptive.
- J Brindle gave details of shotgun incident.

- The Clerk to ask Kelly Wareham if the Parish Council could have incident reports again, greater Police presence and more than 24 hours' notice of Drop-Ins plus when is next Drop-In.

5) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from G Reynolds.

6) **MINUTES**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th October 2020 be approved as a true and correct record, subject to three amendments:-

- 15b ii)
 - Include: R Tucker commented the proposed football pitch was sited incorrectly.
 - Amend: R Tucker commented since the original application, circumstances regarding all Sports have changed due to Covid-19.
 - Include: Also the Public Meeting vote was pre-Covid-19.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th October 2020, subject to the three amendments.

The Parish Council Meeting was suspended to allow M Deegan to give details of how he could help to obtain Grants.

M Deegan

The following was mentioned:-

- Review what is available, what is needed and the possibility of obtaining the most appropriate grant.
- Multiple grant applications may be an option.
- Draft Contract for work.
- Has made approximately sixty grant applications.
- More viable if apply through the Community Centre as difficult for Parish Council to get grants.
- Stage 1 would cost £500.00, involve three days work and delivered within one week.
- J Brindle asked if M Deegan was aware of CISWO option.
- M Perks asked if M Deegan could apply for a Scout Group.
- M Deegan said he had worked with Staffordshire Wildlife for 20 years and has been involved with the Scouts.
- F Beardsmore thanked M Deegan for giving a presentation to Councillors. M Deegan left the Zoon discussion.

The Parish Council Meeting resumed.

7) **M DEEGAN**

It was proposed (R Tucker), seconded (M Perks) to request M Deegan to undertake the First Stage in sourcing a Grant at a cost of £500.00.

Resolved: To request M Deegan to progress the First Stage in sourcing a Grant at a cost of £500.00.

- V Lockley enquired if the Grant Funding would be for the Community Centre. Initial Grant for Heating System in Community Centre.

8) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

9) **MATTERS ARISING**

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

- No decision made to date regarding this retrospective planning application.

b) **Meeting with Prison Governors**

- The Clerk reported that he had contacted Oakwood and Featherstone Prisons who had asked that any meeting be postponed until January-February 2021 due to the Covid-19 situation.

10) **HIGHWAYS**

a) **Barrier New Road / A460**

C Larvin (SCC Highways) had confirmed she was trying to get confirmation of when this repair/replacement will be undertaken. The Clerk to contact Gavin Williamson M.P. regarding this matter.

b) **Grit Bins and Liquid Salt**

i) Grit Supply

C Larvin confirmed she can arrange supply, either an amount tipped or a few sand bags filled with grit. The Clerk to enquire regarding the number of bags. All deliveries to J Brindle.

ii) Liquid Salt

C Larvin to check regarding stock of Liquid Salt and availability of containers. All deliveries to J Brindle.

c) **Lineage at Prison Entrance where it meets New Road**

The Clerk reported he had gone back to Featherstone Prison and requested the MOJ check their records. Chris Wood, Assistant Governor, to reply.

d) **Brookhouse Lane Hedge**

V Lockley reported the Hedge/Trees had been cut back but cannot use due to path being covered in moss. Clerk to notify SCC Highways.

e) **The Avenue - Lineage**

The Clerk reported that C Larvin (SCC Highways) had replied as follows:-

The lines on The Avenue will be repainted to the length of the TRO which I understand is a bit further than they are now but not quite to the speed hump.

I have chased the barriers, they have called me today and they are just trying to sort a permit to work out (we have to permit all highway works now, dependent on traffic management needed; it can usually be between six and twelve weeks). I am pushing for these to be done as soon as possible.

I am hoping to have a date of works in the coming days. As soon as I have confirmation I will let you know.

f) Village Drains

The Clerk reported he had notified SCC Highways regarding the drains needing attention at The Avenue to Brookhouse Lane and opposite Cost Cutter on The Avenue.

11) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The following matters were mentioned:-

- J Brindle asked if any decorating undertaken. J Beardsmore said the floor needs to be varnished first before decorating. Two quotes obtained.
- F Beardsmore gave details of the Government Grant received.
- J Beardsmore reported everything closed again.
- Community Centre Zoom Meeting needed.

12) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY GOVERNOR'S REPORT

- J Brindle said no matters to report.

13) REPORT – FIRST RESPONDERS

- Attended five incidents during last month.
- M Perks commented First Responders have a new vehicle.
- The Clerk to enquire as to their operational area.
- T Smitheman asked where the vehicle is kept. V Lockley reported and gave details of parking location.
- R Tucker asked if First Responders go into Prisons. F Beardsmore said this was not allowed.

14) REPORT – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

F Beardsmore reported on his meeting with Midlands Heart commenting as follows:-

- Age of residents coming down.
- Local Management aware of problems.
- PCSO aware of issues.

15) REPORT – BRINSFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

- No matters reported.

16) PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

- i) 20/00386/FUL

Planning Application for remediation of the site to be considered in conjunction with current planning application for the residential redevelopment of the site.

Reference: 19/00919/FUL

Brinsford Lodge, East Road, Brinsford

- ii) 19/00919/FUL
Eighty-one dwellings (70% market dwellings and 30% affordable housing) with a football pitch, changing rooms, formal and informal open space.

The applicant has submitted the following revised/additional plans for consideration:-

1. An updated planning layout which increases the number of units from 79 to 81. The applicant indicated that this now includes the prescribed market and affordable housing mix sought by the Council. The exact mix is set out on the submitted plans.

The amended layout also incorporates a direct link to the POS. This is a direct route for pedestrians and cyclists from the public highway through the site to the open space that will be provided along an adopted highway.

2. Materials plan.
3. Boundary Treatment Plan.
4. Street Scenes showing various key elevations through the site and the site frontage.

b) Other Planning Matters

i) Brinsford Lodge Site

F Beardsmore reported the following:-

- Decision of Parish Council at last meeting took to meeting at SSSC next day.
- Looking at five year Maintenance Agreement.
- Sport England do not like brick built building, prefer more of a portable type build.
- Planning application now for a build of 81 houses.
- J Brindle commented as follows regarding changing building needs:-
 - Home and Away changing rooms.
 - Referees Room.
 - Hot and Cold Water.
 - Showers.
 - Toilet.
- F Beardsmore commented details need to be in writing from the District Council.
- Agreements to be on 99 year lease basis.

ii) M54 Link

F Beardsmore reported the following had been discussed:-

- Another Zoom Meeting.
- Weight Limit Options, including limit of vehicles going to prison.
- J Brindle said it was agreed to carry out work on the Mile Wall and that any taken down will be re-used.

17) CORRESPONDENCE

- SSDC Bulletin.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- SSDC – Consultee Access.
- Kath Perry – Covid Testing.
- M54-M6 Link Road – Statement of Common Ground.
- Featherstone Work Club – Temporary Closure due to Covid-19.
- Locality 3 Forum.
- Warning of Risk of High Alert for Staffordshire.
- Community Testing in South Staffordshire.

18) PARISH MAINTENANCE

a) Replacement Fingerpost

- The Clerk reported he had been in contact with Paul Rochfort at SCC regarding provision of Fingerpost. The Clerk to review the grant procedure.

b) South Staffordshire Council – Ground Maintenance

- The Clerk reported he had not received a reply regarding request for a breakdown of invoice for £532.49.

c) Parking in Vicinity of Shops

- F Beardsmore to arrange a Site Meeting.

d) Bromford Flats to Rear of South Crescent

- The Clerk to notify the Housing Association that a Settee and Bed Frame are still deposited at Greenaway Court.

19) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Village Green

- The Ministry of Justice reply as follows:-

Thank you for your letter to Sonya Weise on behalf of Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council regarding a parcel of land adjacent to HMP Featherstone being transferred to the Parish Council for use as a village green. This has been passed to Estates Directorate for reply.

Having checked with colleagues who have responsibility for issues of this kind, I am sorry to inform you that the land the Parish Council was previously interested in is no longer considered as being operationally surplus. We are, therefore, not able to assist with your client's request on this occasion.

We appreciate this is not the reply you would have hoped to receive and thank you for your interest in this matter.

- D Betts commented the MOJ obviously have plans for the land. J Brindle said who would have made the decision and reasons and if we wanted to purchase the land, what would be the cost?
- It was proposed, seconded and agreed the Clerk should enquire with MOJ as to the reasons for this decision and if it was sold, how much would it cost.

Resolved: The Clerk to enquire with the MOJ regarding reasons for the decision and if sold the purchase price.

b) Parish Plaque

- This matter was ongoing.

c) Youth Facility

- Ongoing.

d) Parish Vacancy

- The Clerk reported he had checked with SSDC that the Notice of the Vacancy was acceptable. They confirmed they could not find a legal reason that it was not.
- SSDC also confirmed that the Parish Council could co-opt the Parish Councillor vacancy outstanding since the May 2019 vacancy.
- Featherstone – 9 Councillors Brinsford – 2 Councillors

e) Featherstone Play Area

- Abeyance.

19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, 10th December 2020.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman