



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Zoom Meeting of the Parish Council
held on 8th October 2020 at 7.00pm

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

Also Present: B Williams
K Wareham – Staffordshire Police
R Young – Clerk to the Council

1) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

B Williams mentioned the following:-

- Update regarding Covid-19 in Staffordshire.
- People Fund which requires matched funding.
- No further information regarding flooding.
- R Tucker thanked B Williams for work on the Cycleway on Brookhouse Lane.
- D Betts reported Contractors had left large heaps of woodchip after clearing the Lane from the Doctor's Surgery to Baneberry Drive. F Beardsmore commented a new Contractor had been used and the woodchip would be removed.

F Beardsmore mentioned the following:-

- Environmental Officers reviewed the Brook.
- Damaged Barrier on New Road/A460 junction escalated for repair.
- F Beardsmore asked B Williams to request the above Barrier Repair has its priority raised.

2) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

a) F Beardsmore

- Two major issues being considered/reviewed at present – M54 Link and Development of the College Site at Brinsford.

3) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- No matters raised.

4) POLICE MATTERS

Prior to K Wareham joining the meeting, the Clerk read out an email received from K Wareham as follows:-

Regarding issues raised:-

- Low Police visibility/profile in the Parish – I'd have to argue with this. You have two PCSO's Nicholls and Stevens in and around the area between 08.00-22.00 and three designated Police Officers, PC Webb, PC Patel and PC Hussain. You've also had up to four extra patrols from midnight until 03.00/04.00 to target car key burglaries and any other suspicious vehicles on the road for the last month and at the last Force tasking meeting I put a bid in for the Road Policing Unit to come to your area over night and complete this patrol strategy.
- Drop in at the Post Office not ideal as Parishioners do not like the lack of privacy – they can ask for a call/zoom/teams/Whatsapp if they would like privacy. What kind of things are being requested to speak about in private? The Parishioners can always email any of these officers and request a discussion over the phone in the comfort of their own homes.
- Giving only 24 hours' notice for a Drop in or Police Meeting is not enough – I'll ask Joey and Teresa to try and give you some more notice, although it has been a tough time during Covid.
K.Wareham joined the meeting.
The following matters were mentioned by K Wareham (Staffordshire Police) plus items raised by Councillors:-
 - Crime incidents down by 22%.
 - Covid-19 – Attended 20-30 parties/gatherings each day at the peak.
 - K Wareham gave and received Crime Statistics for the Parish.
 - Police Staff Changes – Two new PCSO's and gave details of staffing levels.
 - K Wareham said need Parishioners to report all incidents.
 - J Brindle gave details of a regular drugs delivery drop off which had been occurring for some time. F Beardsmore also gave additional details, including day of the week and time. K Wareham agreed to target this matter.
 - F Beardsmore thanked K Wareham for attending.

5) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from V Lockley,G.Reynolds and R Cope.

6) **MINUTES**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th September 2020 be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

- 18d) Delete wording. on this section.
Include: "F Beardsmore reported M Deegan making enquiries regarding funding opportunities".

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th September 2020, subject to the above amendment.

7) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- Councillor 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)**

- The Clerk reported a retrospective planning application had been submitted. The Clerk to submit to South Staffordshire Council planning objections raised.

b) **Meeting with Prison Governors**

- The Clerk was requested to postpone the visit arranged with Oakwood Prison for the 13th October 2020.
- The Clerk to enquire with each Prison regarding a future visit by Councillors.

9) **HIGHWAYS**

a) **C Larvin**

C Larvin confirmed the following:-

➤ **Barriers New Road/A460**

Escalated the barriers to the highest level I can escalate. Received reply saying a Works Order would be issued and that Engineers will inspect the work needed.

➤ **Lineage at Prison Entrance where meets New Road**

Agreed to send a letter to the Prison to highlight it is their responsibility to renew the lineage but SCC Highways would not have any enforcement powers. The Clerk to also contact the Prison again regarding renewal of the white where entrance meets New Road.

C Larvin offered to request for the installation of "Give Way" on the road surface where it meets New Road junction.

➤ **Brookhouse Lane Hedge**

Hedge cut back and can now use the full width of the footway/cycleway.

➤ **The Avenue**

To extend the lining would be an alteration to the existing traffic regulator order, which would have to go through the Local Member to be considered on their Divisional Highway programme. However, looking on Google, it seems the lining promptly ends with no definitive end line, whereas previously it was up to just before the speed hump. I will request our Traffic Management Officer to check that lining is per the traffic regulation order.

b) **Village Drains**

Councillors reported the following drains/gulleys on the Highway needing attention:-

- The Avenue to Brookhouse Lane – One side of road drains not cleared, onto Malayan Way drain full of silt. Also, drain opposite Cost Cutter on The Avenue needs clearing.

10) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

F Beardsmore reported the following:-

- Had meeting with Mike Deegan regarding grants for replacement heating system in the Centre, plus option to produce Business Plan.
- Update regarding Groups using the Centre.
- Letter of thanks to be sent to Rebecca for work undertaken at the Centre.

11) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE ACADEMY REPORT

- J Brindle reported a Zoom meeting had been held last week which was successful. Full meeting to be held in the near future.

12) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE FIRST RESPONDERS

- Attended one incident during last month.

13) REPORT – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

- Clerk to arrange for the Chairman to meet a representative from Midland Heart (South View Close).

14) REPORT – BRINSFORD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

- No matters reported.

15) PLANNING

a) Planning Applications Received

- 20/00784/FUL
Garage Conversion and Ground Floor Front Extension.
1 Harebell Close, Featherstone
- 20/00264/FUL
Static Caravan situated on Grass Paddock area for use as full-time accommodation. Erection of Pigeon loft and sheds. (Retrospective).
Featherstone Farm Hotel, New Road, Featherstone

b) Other Planning Matters

- M54 Link

F Beardsmore gave an update mentioning the following:-

- Since last Parish Council Meeting, had Zoom Meeting with R Cope and Pam Dawes.

- Dark Lane – Agreement would include a provision shrubs and drains in road.
- Weight limit.
- Shielding of noise.
- Closing off A460 – Reviewed problem including HGV's and parking.
- Cycle path.
- Four years before start.
- ii) Brinsford College Site
- R Cope and F Beardsmore have meeting tomorrow with developer.
- Enquired if District Council would take over Sports Field. Reply was No.
- Cost implication for Grass Cutting.
- R Tucker commented since original application circumstances have changed considerably. Demand may not be for football pitch.
- Football Club would need to pay to use pitch.
- D Betts said other sports could use facility. Also commented Parishioners voted for a Sports Facility.
- R Tucker again commented that since the Public Meeting circumstances have changed.
- T Smitheman said was in favour of Sports Ground, however, now I am against taking ownership of land that will create a cost. Also said it will be years before funds are available.
- Proposal:

Are we going to take ownership of the land, changing room, football pitch and Allotments?	
For	Against
M Perks	R Tucker
J Brindle	T Smitheman
D Betts	J Beardsmore

Casing vote by F Beardsmore against ownership. F Beardsmore said at the meeting tomorrow he will say the Parish Council do not wish to take up ownership of the land.

F Beardsmore proposed a Management Committee be set up by the District Council. It was seconded and agreed to have such a Management Committee.

All in favour (F Beardsmore, D Betts, J Brindle, J Beardsmore, T Smitheman).

Against (R Tucker).

16) CORRESPONDENCE

- SSDC – Changes to current Planning System.
- R Cope – Tenants GNA Agreement.
- R Cope – Section 215 Tidy Up near Brinsford Prison.
- C Parker – Issues at Brinsford Park.
- SCC – Carol May – Additional Investment in Community Highway Issues.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- SCC – Covid-19 Mobile Testing Unit arrives in South Staffordshire.
- SSDC – Disclosable and Pecuniary Interest Forms.
- SSDC – Covid-19 Update for South Staffordshire.

17) PARISH MAINTENANCE

a) Replacement Fingerpost

- The Clerk to order a replacement Fingerpost.

b) South Staffordshire Council – Ground Maintenance

- The Clerk to request a breakdown of invoice for £532.49.

c) Grit Bins – Supply of Grit

- The Clerk to enquire with SCC Highways regarding Grit for the following Grit Bins:-

- South View.
- Opposite School Gates.
- Community Centre.

d) Parking in Vicinity of Shops

- F Beardsmore, R Tucker and M Perks to meet by the Shop area on The Avenue regarding parking and to ask Parishioners their views. F Beardsmore to raise issues concerning Commercial Waste being put into Domestic Waste Containers.

e) Bromford Flats to Rear of South Crescent

- The Clerk to notify the Housing Association again that a Settee and Bed Frame left in Greenaway Court.

18) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Village Green

- M Murphy at SCC Legal confirmed no reply had been received from the Ministry of Justice.

b) Parish Plaque

- This matter was ongoing.

c) Youth Facility

- Ongoing.

d) Parish Council Vacancy

- The Clerk to check with SSDC the procedure for advertising a vacancy on the Parish Council.

e) **Featherstone Play Area**

- Abeyance.

19) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday, 12th November 2020.

The Meeting closed at 10.01pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman