



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held at 6.45pm on Thursday, 8th December 2022
in Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre

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

Also Present: B Williams
R Cope
Four Members of the Public
R Young, Clerk to the Council

1) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

B Williams reported the following:

- No update from M Keeling.
- Brinsford Lodge Hedge – No information – Will put to M Keeling.
- No further information regarding Featherstone Lane.
- R Tucker commented there was no urgency on the above matters.
- No information available concerning HGV's delivering to Brinsford Lodge Site complying with designated route.

R Cope commented as follows:-

- Application needed to maintain Traffic Plan.
- Dedicated Travel Plan.
- No teeth at present.
- No Enforcement.

Also commented that Sub-Contract Delivery Drivers do not care.

F Beardsmore said the whole village has been let down and not one Officer at SSDC has listened and looked at the problem.

R Tucker commented as follows:-

- No support from SCC or SSDC and Meetings with the developer made no difference.
- D Betts reported Old Lane no worse but still horrible mess – Nothing gets done – Told no funds available.
- B Williams said Winter work by SCC Highways is underway.

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- M Perks said the Community were not getting any support.
- J Brindle reported to B Williams that water was standing on the A460 opposite the Red, White and Blue.

2) **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

R Cope reported the following:-

- Local Plan – Concerns being discussed.
- Gave detailed review of Housing needs.
- SSDC need to find 5500 homes.
- Update regarding the new routes coming from the A449.
- Confirmed policy to develop Brown Belt, although some of Green Belt has been released.
- Proposal to provide “Chill Clubs”.

3) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- The Clerk confirmed that Veolia had not approved the Parish Council's grant application.
- Agreed other options to be considered.
- Members of the Public requested a further meeting of the Play Group.
- F Beardsmore mentioned the funding shortfall.
- J Brindle commented would the District Council provide 0% interest funding.
- Member of the Public asked if Brinsford Park had been tidied up. Bench also broken. Inside Park area – Parish Council responsible only.
- Condition of Red, White and Blue Public House reviewed. Agreed Brewery to be contacted regarding condition of building and surrounds.

4) **POLICE MATTERS**

- The Clerk to request that a Police Report be sent to the meeting when no Police Officers attending. M Perks said appeared to be some improved Police visibility.

5) **APOLOGIES**

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

6) **MINUTES**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November 2022 be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

Delete 3) Police Matters – “All to be given protection orders”.
Include: “All to be given Community Protection Warnings”.

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alleged oak tree removed not in accordance with approved plans'. You were advised this case had been opened and were asked to provide further information.

The Planning Enforcement Case Officer spoke to Justin Howell, Associate Planning Director for Countryside Properties, on 12/11/21, and the case notes are as follows:-

"They are making best endeavours to adhere to the routing plan, however, County closed some of the roads so they were not able. Roads have now been re-opened so hopefully won't happen again. They have had to shut road out the front to get the services down but have escalated project and should be complete in next 2-3 days and road re-opened. He is aware that some of the contractors aren't adhering and they are constantly reiterating need to stick to the plan and contacting various businesses where lorries do not and they are made aware.

He thinks the hedge is probably to do with the Highways works taking place. He has no knowledge of the tree but will look into it.

I am waiting on Parish to identify the location of the hedge".

The attached email was sent by the Planning Enforcement Case Officer to yourself, as Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Clerk, on 14/01/22 requesting that diary sheets from witnesses be completed, to provide this Council with further information regarding the routing breaches, so that we could properly investigate. However, no evidence was provided and the case was closed pending any further information.

Therefore, in response to your specific question, no prosecution has taken place. In order to get to the serious action of prosecution, proper evidence is needed of the alleged breach in the first instance, and for enforcement action to be taken in response to that evidence. The applicants would then be entitled to the right of an independent appeal. If the result of an appeal is that the enforcement action is upheld, and the breach subsequently continues, we can then consider legal prosecution.

In this instance, no evidence has been provided by the Parish Council or the local community to substantiate a planning breach and in these circumstances, we are not able to take the matter forward and prosecution cannot be considered.

We would reiterate the advice you were given on 14th January 2022, to please complete diary sheets, together with evidence to show the planning breaches, and we can then re-open the case and investigate further.

Councillors commented as follows:-

- Put lives of Adults and Children at risk.
- Information provided including photographs.
- Had three/four meetings with Developer.

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Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10th November 2022 be approved as a true and correct record, subject to the above amendment.

7) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors R Tucker, T Smitheman and M Perks declared an interest in relation to all matters relating to Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.

8) MATTERS ARISING

a) Advertising Signage – Top of The Avenue opposite Post Office

➤ C Gutteridge (SSDC) requested completion of reporting form.

b) Christmas Service – Brinsford Prison

➤ R Tucker, D Betts and B Clayton to attend on the 14th December 2022.

c) Mann Hummel Building – Misuse of Adjacent Land

➤ The Clerk to enquire with Environmental Health regarding whether site inspected.

d) Brinsford Lodge

Gregg Hodgett of Countryside Properties confirmed the following:-

- Seven Plots left to occupy.
- Football Facility to be implemented by early 2023.

The Clerk to enquire as to when the Football Facility will be ready for use.

9) HIGHWAY MATTERS

➤ Clerk to enquire with Traffic Enforcement regarding parking abuse on The Avenue and on all corners of the road by the Chip Shop.

➤ The Clerk reported that Cheryl Larvin (SCC Highways) had confirmed the following regarding Old Lane:-

I can confirm that works have been carried out in Old Lane to clear a safe pathway and at the time all mud was scraped away from the two points in which it builds up.

No further work is planned at this time. If further funding becomes available next financial year, then we can look to carry out further works.

I visited Old Lane last week and was able to pass through with no obstructions or overgrowth. I did note that there was mud on the pathway at the gate with Baneberry Drive.

10) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

M Perks reported the following:-

- Football evening last Thursday well attended by families.
- Reviewed attendance and functions held plus future bookings.

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- New Brewery Agreement finalised – Trying to push for free issues.
- Details of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Member of staff left leaving one licensee.
- Refrigerator to be purchased.
- Replacement carpet – Local supplier to review.
- J Brindle requested details of Agreement with Brewery.
- Grants for Heating System at Centre.

- T Smitheman enquired regarding progress concerning annual contribution of £1,000 from Hilton Parish Council – Hilton Parish Council have no knowledge of Agreement Reported.

11) REPORT – FEATHERSTONE FIRST RESPONDERS

- Attended five incidents.

12) REPORT – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION

- No reply received regarding additional information concerning availability of Garages in the Parish. The Clerk to enquire again.

13) PLANNING

a) Planning Application Received

- i) 22/00781/FUL
Conversion of existing barn building to provide two dwellings. Demolition of two further former agricultural buildings and compensatory erection of single storage garage.
Featherstone Hall Farm, New Road, Featherstone

b) Planning Enforcement

- i) 22/00369/BOC
29 North Crescent, Featherstone
Alleged extension not built in accordance with plans at 19/00615/FUL and erection of outbuildings in the back garden.

c) Brinsford Lodge Development

➤ Non-Use of Designated Delivery Route

Reply received from Karen Richards (SSDC Planning) as follows:-

I refer to your email of 6th December 2022 sent to Ann Stoker regarding issues around HGVs and the Brinsford Lodge Site. Ann is away from the office this week and your request for information has been passed to the planning team for response. Mr Heywood is aware of this email and its contents.

As you know, your Parish Council raised a complaint with us, and a planning enforcement case, reference 21/00371/BOC was opened on 10/11/21 for 'Construction management plan not being complied with, hedge reduced in height by 50% along East Road without permission,

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14) **CORRESPONDENCE**

- SSC (Robert Smith) TR29.22 – New Link Road and Cat and Kitten Lane.
- Gavin Williamson – Email regarding lack of facilities for children in the Parish received from Parishioner. Parishioner present at Meeting and gave details of injury to stepson. Advised to forward details of injury to stepson to the Clerk to enable insurers to be notified. Councillors gave an update regarding the provision of play facilities for children.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter.
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service – Fire Safety Tips.
- SSDC (Chris Lander) – Council Taxbase 2023/24.
- SSDC (Ann Stoker) – Leader/CEO/Parish Chairman Touch Base.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- SCC – “Join in with the Conversation”.
- SSDC (Ryan Cresswell) – Rough Sleeping Survey 2022 – Are there any rough sleepers in the Parish.
- SSDC (Kelly Harris) – Making Representation to the Local Plan.

15) **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

- M Griffiths – Plan to name First Responders Room after M Griffiths. Carpet needs replacing due to water damage. Clerk to enquire with Mrs Griffiths in The New Year regarding a suitable date.

16) **NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT**

- Referred to Private and Confidential.

17) **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

- Football Club Committee.
- Precept 2023-24.

18) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday, 12th January 2023.

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19) **FINANCE**

a) **Cheque Payments**

It was proposed (J Brindle), seconded (D Betts) and agreed to issue the following cheques:

Date	Cheque No	Details	£
08/12/2022	003707	Autoguard Alarms	218.40
08/12/2022	003708	Parish Clerk	1,060.00
08/12/2022	003709	Litter Picker	411.67
08/12/2022	003710	Litter Picker	411.67
08/12/2022	003711	Litter Picker	405.07
08/12/2022	003712	Parish Handyman	346.73
08/12/2022	003713	HMRC (PAYE)	436.45
08/12/2022	003714	Jones Skips	483.00
08/12/2022	003715	Parish Clerk – Expenses	18.20
08/12/2022	003716	D Betts – Expenses	14.97
08/12/2022	003717	M & D Mechanical	636.00
08/12/2022	003718	NTR Electrical	969.60
		TOTAL:	£5,411.76

Resolved: To issue the above cheques.

b) **Parish Council Bank Account Balance**

- The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council Bank balance.

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