



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 7.30pm on Thursday, 18th May 2023
in Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre

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

Also Present: R Cope
Five Members of the Public
R Young, Clerk to the Council

The Clerk requested Councillors to complete the following documents:-

- Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Parish and Town Councillors.
- Notification by Member of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests.

1) **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from PCSO T Nicholls.

2) **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

T Smitheman proposed F Beardsmore, seconded M Perks.

Counter Proposal:
Z Webb proposed J Brindle, seconded D Randall.

Counter Proposal was not supported majority vote that F Beardsmore be appointed
Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year.

3) **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

M Perks proposed R Tucker, seconded V Lockley.

All in favour of appointing R Tucker Vice Chairman of the Parish Council.

4) **APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE COMMITTEES**

T Smitheman to join the Park Group.

5) **APPOINTMENT TO COMMUNITY CENTRE**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that R Tucker, M Perks and T Smitheman be
appointed to the Community Centre.

6) **STANDING ORDERS**

It was proposed (J Brindle), seconded (M Perks) and agreed that Standing Orders be adopted for the coming year.

Resolved: Standing Orders be adopted for the coming year.

7) MINUTES

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th April 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 13th April 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

8) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

9) POLICE MATTERS

Councillors reviewed the following:-

- D Randall gave details of incident involving youths at the Post Office last Sunday. Police visited parents and youths have apologised.
- Whitgreave Avenue – Silver car distributing drugs.
- Unoccupied Bungalow – Housing Association to make shed and property secure.
- M Perks commented there was an increased Police presence in the Village.

9A) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Drain covers removed – SCC Highways confirmed replacements would take 4-8 weeks.
- Group of youths taking drugs at Brinsford.
- Play Area Gate – Details given of injury to child when gate swung back into child's face. F Beardsmore said need to have gate inspected. Also commented the new Play Area looks very good.
- Events at Community Centre – Isla Harvey said after organising events had received criticism – circulated a Receipts and Payments schedule for the last event at the Community Centre.
F Beardsmore said the Parish Council had not contributed anything to function and there was no criticism from the Parish Council.
M Perks as current Chairman of the Community Centre can confirm nobody has use of the Centre free of charge.
I Harvey confirmed no surplus was made on the Warm Wednesday event.
M Perks reported that whenever event organised at the Centre, a surplus was generated.
Z Webb raised concern regarding siting of a future Christmas Tree. F Beardsmore to review.
D Betts commented organised events need to generate a surplus.
It was agreed all members of the Community to work together for the good of the Community.

10) COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- No matters reported.

11) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

a) District Councillor R Cope

- Red, White and Blue
 - Rights carry over to new owner.
 - Planning Permission will be needed for Change of Use and will need to advertise the Red, White and Blue as a Public House for twelve months.
 - Need guidance when a planning application submitted and then decide on reaction.
 - Should demolition commence – notify Kelly Harris at SSDC.
- M54/A460 Traffic Island
 - Telephoned National Highways regarding road surface condition.

b) District Councillor J Brindle

- Attended first District Council Meeting.
- Discussed Red, White and Blue with Kevin Blair who had left Committee.
- F Beardsmore commented regarding Election Leaflet circulated as considered critical.
- F Beardsmore also said he had never specified a Parish Council Chairman must be a District Councillor.

12) MATTERS ARISING

a) Fly Tipping – Brookhouse Lane

- R Cope to follow up at District Council.

b) Overgrown Hedges near to Red, White and Blue

- Enquiries regarding ownership with the Housing Association and the new owners of the Red, White and Blue.
-

c) Brinsford Lodge Development

- G Williamson M.P. making enquires with Staffordshire County Council regarding provision of pavements.

13) HIGHWAY MATTERS

- Featherstone Lane – One Way – Clerk to request update from Bernard Williams.

➤ Turnstone Drive – F Beardsmore to send the Clerk photographs of road surface.

➤ Correspondence concerning Highway Maintenance

- M Keeling

We are fully aware of the local pressures and the need to address outstanding defects along this stretch of the A460.

I have been on site a number of times in the past few months and have raised the profile of the site with relevant teams and at program meetings.

Our Highway Inspection team have recently attended site to ensure all defects are recorded on our system, however, all recorded defects at present remain as lower category type defects. The reason for this is that only the top surface layer has stripped away from the sub-layer, meaning whilst the surface looks very poor, the majority of the defects are of shallow depth.

Unfortunately, at this time, our finite resources are directed to those defects of higher category such as Emergency, Cat 1 and Cat 2 defects, the defects on the A460 are all listed as Cat 3.

In the short term, these defects will be addressed through our routine maintenance operations (surface patching repairs) as soon as the resource is available. I will keep the Parish informed as we progress.

Longer term, it is our intention to consider the site for resurfacing through Capital funding in future years or to work collaboratively as part of the National Highways M54 – M6 link scheme.

- David Williams

Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council – A460/M54 Traffic Island

Thank you for your enquiry concerning the above.

Inspectors' reports are emailed to residents as soon as they are inspected. If you didn't receive this report at the time of your original enquiry, then I would be happy to resend this if you could supply me with your reference number for the report made.

All road surfaces deteriorate due to use and weathering and severe weather conditions can accelerate this process. Reactive maintenance work, which is aimed at keeping the roads safe, is identified by a comprehensive system of highway inspections that categorise each defect based on the risk it presents to the travelling public. However, interventions such as pothole repairs can quickly fail when the surrounding road condition is poor or where weather conditions are not conducive to good working practices.

There are several defects recorded at this location and longer term a structural scheme will be required to improve the highway surface, however, this is likely to cost in excess of £200,000.

Until these funds are available, we will need to carry out patching repairs and these will be undertaken as soon as possible. The location of the

defects means that additional planning is required in conjunction with National Highways and as soon as we have any further information on planned works, we will advise the Parish Council accordingly.

- Gavin Williamson M.P.

Reply from National Highways refers matter of condition of the road surface around the A460/M54 Traffic Island to South Staffordshire District Council.

- Old Lane – Cheryl Larvin at SCC Highways confirmed that cannot make the Old Lane footway wider.
- The Clerk to enquire with Cheryl Larvin as to whether overgrown trees alongside the Red, White and Blue are owned by Highways.

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

The following was reported:-

- Good trading month.
- Problem with new carpet to be resolved.
- It was proposed, seconded and agreed that £10.00 to refunded to Isla Harvey due to damage incurred.

Resolved: Isla Harvey to be refunded £10.00.

- Room to be prepared for Mrs Griffiths.
- Isla Harvey confirmed she would not continue with Warm Wednesday.

15) **REPORT – FEATHERSTONE FIRST RESPONDERS**

- Reported that the Annual Vehicle Insurance premium is £781.00. Essington Parish Council had agreed to fund 50%.
- It was proposed (J Brindle), seconded (R Tucker) that the Parish Council should fund 50% of the Vehicle Insurance costs.

Resolved: To fund 50% of the First Responders Vehicle Insurance Premium.

16) **REPORT – SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING**

- 27 Whitgreave Avenue – Fence in need of repair (Alleyway by School).
- 4 Whitgreave Avenue – Dog Breeding – Local Residents concerned.
- J Brindle gave a resume of meeting with Kerry Bolister including ownership option of garages and need for professional valuation.
The Clerk to request a purchase valuation from the Housing Association.
- Play Area at Brinsford – Land appears to be in the ownership of the Housing Association. The Clerk to request the broken fence is replaced.

- J Brindle provided photographs of the following:-
 - Potholes – Hilton Road garages.
 - Condition inside 33 The Avenue.

17) **PLANNING**

a) **Planning Applications Received**

- i) 23/00378/REMM
Reserved Matters application for the Construction of Employment Development (Use Class E, B2 and B8) for Plots 1-8, including details of appearance, scale, landscaping, layout, and the routing and profile of the internal access road, along with all associated works.
The outline planning application was supported by an Environmental Statement and was submitted to the Authority at that time.
Former Royal Ordnance Factory, Cat and Kitten Lane and Brookhouse Lane, Featherstone
The Clerk to circulate details to Councillors.
- ii) 23/00350/FULHH
Two storey side and front extension and single storey rear extension.
6 Teasel Grove, Featherstone
- iii) 23/00358/FULM
Change of Use from Class B2 (General Industry) with ancillary office space to flexible employment Use Class B2 (General Industry) and/or Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) with ancillary office space.
Mann and Hummel UK Limited, Hilton Cross Business Park, Cannock Road, Featherstone

18) **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Staffordshire Fire – Dementia Safety.
- Notice and Agenda – Parish Summit – 8th June 2023.
- SPCA Bulletin.
- Matt Powis (SSDC) – Co-option to Parish Councils.
- Sedgewick Insurance Claim.
- Thomas Reynolds (SSDC) – Election Expenses.

19) **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

- Bollard leaning over – South Crescent – Still outstanding.
- New Play Area
 - Need Certificate of Completion.
 - Safety Inspections in future.
 - Gate to Play Area – Need inspection.
- Play Area – Brinsford
 - Replacement Fencing – Featherstone Fencing to provide quotations.
- Highway Maintenance – Photograph provided by J Brindle.

- Raised Kerb Stone – 19 Hilton Road.

20) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- Football Club Committee (J Brindle – January 2023) – To be considered.
- Warm Wednesday (M Perks – March 2023) – The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Isla Harvey for work with Warm Wednesday.
- Parish Newsletter (T Smitheman – February 2023).

21) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Widgeon Grove – Trees leaning over – F Beardsmore to obtain quotation for work needed.

22) NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

- Matters already discussed. _

23) FINANCE

a) Cheque Payments

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to issue the following cheques:

Date	Cheque No	Details	£
18/05/2023	003766	Cancelled	0.00
18/05/2023	003767	Vaughan Davies	120.00
18/05/2023	003768	Jones Skip Hire	693.96
18/05/2023	003769	HMRC (PAYE)	497.73
18/05/2023	003770	Parish Clerk	1,165.90
18/05/2023	003771	Litter Picker	451.53
18/05/2023	003772	Litter Picker	451.53
18/05/2023	003773	Litter Picker	436.93
18/05/2023	003774	Parish Handyman	380.27
18/05/2023	003775	Gallagher	430.81
18/05/2023	003376	Revival Company	345.80
18/05/2023	003377	Proludie	53,091.84
18/05/2023	003378	Clerk's Expenses	65.20
18/05/2023	003379	Litter Picker	50.00
18/05/2023	003380	Paint Purchased	35.00
		TOTAL:	£58,216.50

Resolved: To issue the above cheques.

24) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday, 8th June 2023.

The Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman