

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursery on Thursday 8th August 2013

Present:

Councillors Geoffrey Willett, Cedric Insley, Ruth Goldstraw, Arthur Goldstraw, Adrian Cowan, Bill Warrilow, and Graham Lomas

Apologies:

Borough Councillor Bernard Peters and Councillors Mike Ball and Jim Muir

Public:

County Councillor Conor Wileman, Borough Councillor Jake Fellows, Sue Paxton of Stapenhill Parish Council and Clerk - Liz James

39/13 Public Participation

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

County Councillor Conor Wileman gave feedback on the parking issue on Violet Way. Double yellow lines around the area are to be added to the list of TROs. However, with a 3 year wait on TROs, junction protection has been requested which will allow for double yellow lines in the most dangerous places to be in place more quickly. A question from Councillor Cowan regarding the impact assessment of these additional yellow lines led to a wider discussion on solutions, local infrastructure and economic partnerships. There was also comment regarding the Drakelow development and the impact that this will have on the local area.

Borough Councillor Jake Fellows gave information on the element of the special expense taken as part of the precept towards grounds maintenance of the open spaces. This amounts to £44080 in total but this may not cover all elements of the work that is done. He asked if the Parish Council could quantify whether they are looking for all of this to be reallocated to the Parish Council or whether the council are just looking to take over elements of the work. Councillor Cowan clarified the purpose of requesting the information and more information was given as a result of a meeting with Trudi Joyce. She has asked to know what jobs the Parish Council would assign to a lengthsman so that she could cost out these elements. This led to conversation regarding the augmentation of the current service rather than taking away the responsibility from the Borough – especially given the economies of scale that they are able to achieve. The Chair discussed the current situation in Winshill where it is believed that the lengthsman responds to immediate issues and augments the work which is done by ESBC especially in areas such as planting and beds. Councillor Goldstraw commented on the contract for grounds maintenance services in place with ESBC and their contractors and suggested that the use of the dropbox as set up by the Borough Councillor (see below) would be a good way of highlighting issues quickly.

The overgrown trees on Elms Road are awaiting a Tree Order to allow for some immediate trimming with further work scheduled in November by ESBC.

The enforcement officers for the Dog Control orders have attended and asked one owner to put their dog on a lead which was complied with. More signage is due.

Councillor Fellows also gave information regarding an initiative to allow for reporting of issues with the maintenance service provision. Photographs of the issue can be uploaded by the Clerk to a drop box which will be checked by the appropriate officers. This will be covered in the next newsletter or can be passed on through the Clerk. The plan is to trial this for 2 or 3 months to see if it helps and potentially to allow the public direct access if this is felt to be useful.

Councillor Willett gave background on the idea of a Youth Council and expressed his regret that the Community Teacher from Paulet School had been unable to attend. Following a discussion with the Chair of Stapenhill who had attended, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Steve Peach and ask him to arrange a meeting at Paulet with the local schools and the two Parish Councils if this project is something that he wants to take forward.

Clerk to action

40/13 – Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared by any member in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting.

41/13 - Minutes of the previous Council Meeting (18th July 2013)

The Council approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the July Parish Council Meeting, held on 18th July 2013 with one correction to a road name.

Matters arising:

Councillor Cowan passed on several comments that he had received regarding allotments and residents concerned about committing to an allotment which may be taken back as cemetery land in the near future. Councillor Fellows spoke about timings and the use of Rolleston and Claverhouse cemetery land. He offered to investigate the likely time scales.

Councillor Goldstraw reported that 3 members of the Parish Council had attended the Civic Service on 21st July.

Councillor Willett asked for clarification regarding BEST – he wished to clarify whether the Parish Council had a current representative. Councillor Muir had previously volunteered to take over when Ian Williams stood down some time ago. Ian Williams has now finished in this role.

42/13 – Brizlincote in Bloom

Councillor Lomas reported on the judging and the results from the previous weekend. He commented that all the gardens were of a really high standard. The Clerk was asked to invite all entrants and the judges to the September meeting for the awards ceremony and to arrange the prizes. Councillor Lomas confirmed that he would send the certificates to the Clerk for printing.

Clerk to action

43/13 – Litter pick

The Council received a report from Councillor Cowan regarding the litter pick which had been very successful. A handful of volunteers had worked their way up Grafton Road towards Tesco and the bags of rubbish collected had been picked up immediately by ESBC. Some fly-tipping was spotted and Councillor Peters was going to report this. There was discussion regarding the next event as both the local press and one of the volunteers had asked when this was to take place. It was suggested that the Redhill Woods be tackled on the next date with a suggested date of Saturday 21st September starting at 10.00am. This was proposed and seconded and passed with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions.

Councillor Willett offered to do his local path down towards Tower Woods on that date. There was discussion over recruiting volunteers from the local schools.

44/13 – Parish Maintenance

This matter had been covered during earlier discussions as a result of Councillor Fellows' report.

45/13 - Planning Applications and Decisions

P/2013/00880 8 Franklin Close Burton upon Trent Staffordshire DE15 9AN, Subdivision of existing dwelling to form two dwellings. **Planning committee observed that no additional parking provision has been made for the additional dwelling but had no objections otherwise.** **Clerk to action**

46/13 – Correspondence

Date	From	Regarding	Action
July 2013	The National Forest	National Forest Wood Fair 2013	Noted
July 2013	Tamworth Town Council	Freedom of the Borough granted to regimental mascot	Noted
July 2013	Mrs Valerie Williams	Potential for a Brizlincote ranger	Discussed in light of the lengthsman query. Noted
August 2013	VAST	Information regarding 3 rd Sector services	Noted

47/13 – Finance

1. Accounts to be Approved for Payment

Supplier	Goods or Services	Gross	VAT	Net
Liz James	Wages for August	458.86	0.00	458.86

All were in agreement that these payments be approved and paid. **Clerk to action**

48/13 – Clerk's and Members reports

The Chair reported on requests for a handrail down to Doveridge Road along a cut through public footpath as has been commented upon in the past. There is also an additional concern regarding noise from a gate at the bottom of this path. The steepness of this path

was commented upon and its inaccessibility for pushchairs and anyone unable to manage the very steep slopes and steps. After discussion including the idea of building a house on the plot and removing the footpath, Councillor Fellows offered to look into whether there is a way to make this footpath safer, tidier and quieter.

Councillor Willett also commented on the bed that had been cleared by Bloomin' Gardens on Clifton Way. The contractor had promised to come back and break up the soil as the conditions had not been appropriate when the work was originally done. **Clerk to action**

Councillor Warrilow reported flooding on Spring Terrace Road and Stapenhill Road due to blocked gullies as well as flooding at Rosemount. Councillor Wileman replied that the gullies and drainage at the first site is due to be looked at and that he would report the second issue for investigation. There was a discussion regarding the number of gully clearers in Staffordshire which has recently increased. Councillor Fellows was asked to find out how often the roads and pavements are currently swept. This led to a conversation regarding Moat Bank coverage and the grit bin and turning circle on this road.

Councillor Warrilow also commented on the need for the stickers for the grit bins and for the replacement of some bins and the refilling of all of them. The Clerk offered to contact the appropriate officer. **Clerk to action**

Councillor Warrilow also reported on the recent Speedwatch campaigns with one motorbike having been recorded as travelling at 58 mph in a 30 limit.

Councillor Lomas reported on the recent site meeting with Trudi Joyce of ESBC with a walk through the top end of valley looking at work due to be done. Various hedges are to be reduced in height. A query regarding the mowing of the public open space at Hargate Road was made by Councillor Arthur Goldstraw who had received complaints that the area had not been mown at all this year apart from some paths to allow access for dog walkers. Councillor Lomas confirmed that this had been discussed as part of the meeting and that this area is now only due to be cut once annually.

Councillor Warrilow asked whether Cottesmore Close is due to be part of the on-going work at Quorn Close and it was confirmed that once Quorn Close is completed, the work will move onto Cottesmore Close.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 19th September 2013.

Note:

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers, or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Liz James, the Clerk of the Council. Telephone 01538 702077, or email barabarani@aol.com Correspondence should be sent to Fox House, Tythe Barn, Alton, Staffordshire, ST10 4AZ

Distribution: All Members of BPC, East Staffs Borough Councillors, Staffs County Councillor







