

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursery on Thursday 17th December 2015

Present

Chairman Paul Presley-Brooks, Vice Chairman Brian Judd, Councillors Robert Bidgood, Adrian Cowan, Vera John and Marie Andrews

Public

Borough Councillor Colin Wileman, John Hoddy and Clerk Barbara Roe, no other members of the public were present.

Public Session

Councillor Colin Wileman wished to record his condolences to the family of Trevor Hill, who, as mentioned in November's Minutes, has recently passed away.

Councillor Wileman asked if the Parish Council could come to some sort of agreement to sort out the ongoing subject of the Tower Road footpath. Councillor John asked who owned the rest of the footpath? Councillor Wileman said he would speak to Mike Hovers of East Staffordshire Borough Council to see who is responsible. Chairman Presley-Brooks said it needed to be sorted at Borough level and then the Parish Council could support. Councillor Cowan said he had recently walked to the top end of the footpath at the end of Tower Road and said he had observed a temporary fence had been erected there alongside the path, possibly by the farmer. The Chairman passed this to Councillor Wileman to discuss with East Staffordshire Borough Council and then to be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

Action: Councillor Colin Wileman

Councillor Wileman informed the Council he had been dealing with an ash tree that has a TPO on it. The tree is situated at the rear of Ashworth Avenue and although it is not owned by the Borough Council they have agreed to carry out a crown reduction as the householder has incurred a lot of problems due to the tree. This will be subject to a Planning Application – see Planning. Chairman Presley-Brooks asked if the tree had been checked for disease. Councillor Wileman said that Phil Lawford of East Staffordshire Borough Council had carried out a check on the tree which he said was not in the healthiest of conditions but this was due to age not disease.

No further action required as this is already being sorted by East Staffordshire Borough Council.

Councillor Bidgood then said he had some queries for Councillor Wileman.

Firstly, he had been approached by several parishioners about the state of the drinking water. One claimed the water had a 'peculiar taste'. The Parishioner said he had knocked on doors and a total of 16 people have complained about this problem, he had taken samples of the water and has now taken independent advice. Councillor John said that she had the same problem and had a water filter installed. Councillor Andrews also had the same problem appeared to have gone away but has now returned, she had reported it in the past but nothing had been done as South Staffs Water said there was nothing wrong with the water. Chairman Presley-Brooks said the matter should be taken up with South Staffs Water, the people affected should get together and approach South Staffs Water. Councillor Cowan said this had been raised at previous meetings and the Parish Council had written to South Staffs Water and he felt we should write again. The Clerk agreed to speak to the previous Clerk to ascertain more details and Councillor Wileman asked that the Parishioners who were complaining should write to him so that he could take the matter further.

Action: Clerk and Councillor Colin Wileman

Secondly, a Parishioner had complained bitterly to Councillor Bidgood about dog fouling in the Woods Lane area and said it needed sorting urgently. The Parishioner's daughter is special needs and it is causing them considerable problems as she is constantly walking in it. The suggestion was that Enforcement team patrol the area in the evening and day time. Councillor Bidgood was asked to pass the details on to the Clerk for her to contact the Civil Enforcement Team.

Action: Clerk

Thirdly, Councillor Bidgood said, following on from the survey taken by the Parish Councillors earlier in the year, the area between Daleside and Derwent Road has not been touched yet and the trees have grown so high that they are lifting the power and telephone cables. He said there were at least 30 – 40 trees. The Chairman said that if he reported it to BT they would come out and sort the problem. Councillor Bidgood said he had tried reporting this problem to BT but to no avail. Councillor Wileman said he would take up the matter with Michael Hovers of ESBC.

Action: Councillor Colin Wileman

Councillor Bernard Peters sent his apologies to the meeting but had emailed the Clerk and spoken to her on the telephone to follow on from his discussions in the previous meeting regarding Parish funding for a raised bed. He asked for the reference of Heritage Way to be removed as the land is on Ashby Road junction into Brizlincote Valley. At the previous meeting it was decided that it was not our land and therefore it was decided Councillor Peters would discuss it with Winshill Parish Council. Councillor Peters reported that both Winshill and East Staffordshire Borough Council agreed the land was partly in Winshill and partly in Brizlincote. Winshill had said they were quite happy for Brizlincote to fund but they would not be contributing due to other commitments in their area. Councillor Wileman said he felt the area needed something like this but it was decided that we would not be going ahead with this project. This was proposed by Councillor Judd and seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Peters had nothing to report on the progress of the signage, he said he understood it remains a work in progress action.

92/15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Robin Ludford-Brooks, Arthur and Ruth Goldstraw, Borough Councillor Bernard Peters and County Councillor Conor Wileman.

93/15 – Declarations of Interest

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

94/15 – Minutes of the previous Council Meeting (19th November 2015)

The Council approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the October Parish Council Meeting, held on 19th November 2015 but wished the following to be noted:

Page 2 – third paragraph instead of saying 'Councillor Cowan asked if there was a need ' this should read 'Councillor Cowan also suggested that there' was a need.....'

Page 2 - end of third paragraph

Instead of 'hand rail' this should read 'step support'.

Page 2 – paragraph 4 – line 2

Reference to Heritage Way should be removed. This was requested by Councillor Peters, Bidgood and Wileman as the land referred to was not in Heritage Way.

Page 3 – 89/15 – Neighbourhood Forum/Priorities

The second line should read 'Labyrinth/Spiral' and not 'corkscrew'.

Page 3 – 91/15 – Finance

The Clerk was given an action to ask East Staffordshire Borough to clarify what the Re-imbusement of Cost of Election fees were but this was not mentioned in the minutes.

Page 3 94/15 – should have read 92/15 – and the final paragraph on page 3 should have read ‘Councillor Cowan also stated we were still waiting for the results of the Abbot Beyne Survey from Councillor Conor Wileman, which had been passed to Mrs Fletcher. On this point there was a discussion between Councillor Cowan and the Clerk who had been in touch with Councillor Conor Wileman. As there appears to be some dispute as to who requested the survey and where the survey information actually is Councillor Cowan said he did not wish to pursue the matter any further.

The Councillors all agreed to ratify these Minutes with the amendments noted.

95/15 – New Councillors

The Chairman introduced two prospective new Councillors wishing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

The first was John Hoddy who was asked what he could offer to the Council? Mr Hoddy said that as he lives in Brizlincote and is retired he felt he could offer his help and support to us. Councillor Cowan proposed that we co-opt Mr Hoddy and all were in favour.

The second candidate was Councillor Colin Wileman who is known to everyone and is a Borough Councillor. Councillor Cowan said he would be concerned about conflict of interest and for this reason he would not be supporting the vote. Councillor Wileman said he had lived in Brizlincote for many years, he has many interests and could see no reason why he could not be a Parish Councillor. Councillor Bidgood said that we would have to rely on Councillor Wileman’s integrity. Councillor Cowan asked why Councillor Wileman had not shown any interest in joining the Parish Council before but this matter was not taken any further after the Chairman put this question to the other Councillors. Chairman Presley-Brooks proposed that we co-opt Councillor Wileman and all agreed apart from Councillor Cowan. Councillor Andrews agreed with the proposal as long as there was no conflict in interest.

96/15 – In Bloom Competition

It was decided that no decision would be made on this until the Chairman and the Clerk had attended a meeting with Paul Steed.

Action – Clerk to set up meeting.

97/15 – Newsletter

It was agreed that this would be the main Agenda item for our January meeting where we would discuss items for inclusion, new layout etc. Some of the ideas so far were:

Invite people not on the Parish Council to contribute items.

Memorial benches in the woods.

‘Plant a Tree’.

‘Hatched, Matched and Dispatched’

Other topics to make Brizlincote into a Community’.

Councillor Cowan said he had looked back through previous Minutes and in the past we have given the volunteers who deliver our Newsletters for us a voucher for £25 once a year as a token of our thanks. Councillor Cowan proposed we do the same this year and Councillor Judd seconded him.

Action: Clerk to purchase £25 Post Office Vouchers for each of the volunteers and send them with an accompanying ‘thank you’ letter.

98/15 – Contacts List – Councillor Cowan

Councillor Cowan thought it would be a good idea to have a central contacts list so that all Councillors knew who they should contact for various queries/problems. The Clerk had assembled a list of her known contacts but a lot of them were really relevant to the Councillors. A more general list needs to be generated.

Action: Councillors to forward details of their contacts to the Clerk and Clerk to update the list for the next meeting.

99/15 Suggested New Agenda

A suggested new Agenda was distributed to all Councillors for their comments/ideas. This would be put on the agenda in January or February once the content had been digested by the Councillors.

Action: Clerk to add to January or February Agenda.

100/15 – Planning

Crown Reduction in canopy height and width of 2 – 3 metres of one ash tree which is the subject of TPO109) situated on land adjacent to 6 Ashworth Avenue, Stapenhill.

This application has been submitted by the Open Spaces Officer at East Staffordshire Borough Council and Councillor Goldstraw was of the opinion that the Parish Council should make no comment thereon.

This is the tree referred to by Councillor Colin Wileman page one paragraph 2.

101/15 – Correspondence

The Clerk had received another email showing interest on the Book Exchange suggested in our Newsletter.

No action to be taken until we know how much interest will be shown.

The Clerk had also received an email from a lady parishioner offering to contribute some of her spare time helping the Council.

Action: Clerk to email her asking for help with delivery of the Newsletters.

In response to her query regarding the Election charges the Clerk had received a letter from Nicky Gilligan at East Staffordshire Borough Council stating that it is a standard charge for the Returning Officer's fees, production of Nomination Packs and associated paperwork for administration.

102/15 – Finance

1. Accounts to be approved for payment

Supplier	Goods or Services	Gross	VAT	Net
Barbara Roe	Salary and expenses	1003.22	-	1003.22
	TOTAL	1003.22	-	1003.22

The Chairman informed the Council that the reason for the high payment to the Clerk was due to a back payment of Holiday Pay. All were in agreement that this payment be approved and paid. **Action – Clerk**

Precept – a letter had been received by the Clerk inviting us to submit our Precept figure by 15th January 2015. It was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all that the Clerk be given time to work on the figure

and contact the previous Clerk for information and then an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Councillors would be called for everyone to agree the figure. **This meeting will be Wednesday 13th January and would last for 30 minutes maximum. Venue to be advised.**

103/15 – Clerk’s and Members Report

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had been contacted by the Burton Mail to ascertain what intentions the Parish Council had to help the elderly over the winter months. The Clerk reminded the meeting about the Ice Busters email from Stafford and said she would email it out to the Councillors.

The Clerk asked for someone to bring a camera to our next meeting to enable her to order name badges for everyone.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Thursday 21st January. Please note the venue will be in the ITC room at Violet Way Academy and Nursery – this is the room we used at the last meeting which is separate to the main building at the back.

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 Barbara Roe, the Clerk of the Council. Telephone 01283 814648, or email barbara.roe@virgin.net Correspondence should be sent to 47 Hall Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9BX.