

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Brizlincote Annual Parish Council meeting held at The Glebe on Thursday 23rd April 2009

Present:

Councillors Geoffrey Willett, Bill Warrilow, Ruth Goldstraw, Asimah Alam, Graham Lomas, Jim Muir, Ian Williams & Kay Sherratt

Apologies:

Arthur Goldstraw & Cedric Insley

Public:

17 members of the public, 2 members of the local police force, Clerk - Liz Court

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all and thanking the public for attending. The Councillors present were introduced and a special welcome was extended to Liz Daykin- the previous clerk.

APM1/09 POLICE REPORT

The two representatives of the police were introduced and they gave details about ongoing antisocial behavior issues in Astle Street and Stapenhill Gardens and the action due to be taken. They also gave details about the staffing and location of the local offices. The Chair asked about the next PACT and Residents meetings and those details were given.

The Chair asked if there were any items that Parishioners wished to bring to the attention of the police. There was some discussion regarding parking on Malvern Street and it was suggested that the PACT meeting may be an appropriate venue for action on this matter. Thanks were extended to the police and they then left the meeting.

APM2/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 20TH MAY 2008

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. The Chair reported that Brizfest had been a great success with over 800 people attending.

APM3/09 CHAIR'S REPORT (see appendix 1)

The Chair directed all to his written report and expanded on some areas.

APM4/09 PRESENTATION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

These were distributed and discussed. The Clerk explained the role of SPCA and Councillor Muir discussed BEST. The Chair gave details about the cycle barriers and the contribution made by the Parish Council towards this project.

APM5/09 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (see appendix 2)

Councillor Muir directed the meeting to his written report and expanded on aspects. He also outlined proposals regarding Broadband and Local Members' Initiative Scheme. He invited members of the public to ask questions and questions were asked regarding involving younger members of the community and contact with school and youth groups in the area. Further

questions were asked regarding speed checks, local footpaths and parking on Malvern Street. Councillor Muir offered to send a letter to residents to gauge public opinion and feelings on the issue before taking it forward to the highways engineers to explore options.

APM6/09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Williams gave details regarding Burton in Bloom.
Councillor Willett announced the monthly Parish council meetings to be held on the first Thursday of each month at Violet Lane School and invited all to attend.

All were thanked for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.45pm

Appendix 1

Chairman's report on the year 1st April 2008-31st March 2009

Brizlincote Parish Council met on eleven occasions, with an average attendance of six. During the winter, attendance diminished on account of illness and through the postponement of the February meeting because of snow and ice. In September, Councillor Douglas Johnson (Chairman) announced his resignation, owing to his move to Redditch. By December, Councillor Bernard Peters resigned after discovering that additional duties on the Borough Council often prevented his attending meetings, whenever they were scheduled.

Miss Liz Daykin announced her resignation as Clerk to take effect at the end of 2008, but her readiness to see in her successor, Miss Elizabeth Court during January 2009 was appreciated. The Council voiced gratitude for all Miss Daykin had achieved from April 2007, and has been pleased to welcome Miss Court and all the experience of Parish Council work she now brings to Brizlincote.

The annual accounts indicate the readiness of the Council to support Community work such as Brizfest, Stapenhill allotments, daffodil planting in front of Violet Lane Infants School, the youth group 'Extreme', and additional police time in the spring to reduce antisocial behaviour. The Council was pleased to encourage the formation of the Burton East Sports Trust and even to fund almost half the cost of cycle restriction poles, first sought by residents in Ashbrook almost three years ago.

The Council was active in consultation with the Glebe Management Committee of Derby Diocese to urge Staffordshire County Council in extending the footpath in Woods Lane. It also took an active interest in negotiations with Post Office Network Development to keep open Stapenhill Post Office.

Councillors welcomed Mrs. Di. Needham, Senior Youth Worker with Staffordshire Youth Service to speak about the Youth Cub at Paulet School, and promised her support in obtaining a cabin to better accommodate the work. Likewise encouragement was offered to Mrs. Caroline Smith in seeking an improved play area for young children.

In conclusion, Brizlincote Parish Council remains young enough to look for further development. During the year, progress has been made on a website with the assistance of Mr Mike Gale, and it is hoped to distribute responsibilities across the Councils with the formation of sub-committees at the next meeting. The last meeting was glad to co-opt Mr Graham Lomas to fill one of the two vacancies on the Council. The readiness of The Burton Mail to publicize such opportunities and report on the proceedings of the Council is much appreciated.

Councillor Geoffrey Willett, Chairman

Appendix 2

County Councillor's report on the year 1st April 2008-31st March 2009

As always, this year has been eventful, not least as a result of the global economic downturn. This has seen the Authority concentrate on ways in which we might best alleviate financial pressure on households. Prime in this regard is of course the level of Council Tax, and we are pleased to have been able to keep it at below the rate of inflation, at 2.45% the lowest increase for fourteen years. This leaves Staffordshire amongst the lowest rated county in the land.

Despite pressure on budgets, the County Council continues to improve and is now recognised by the Audit Commission as being ranked 4th out of 388 councils in terms of improvements achieved in the last 3 years. We have successfully achieved the adjustments in provisions of care required as part of our "Changing Lives" programme, allowing elderly people to remain comfortably in their own homes with the support required to allow the maintenance of dignity in their later years.

Another task which attracted bad press at its commencement was the reorganisation of the County's farm holdings. Despite all the distracters, we have reorganised, established improved management systems and now achieved the support of the farmers themselves in the outcomes.

I have personally been working extremely hard in my role as Chair of Staffordshire's Health Scrutiny Committee in monitoring developments in the NHS, which includes amongst other things a review of the NHS Independent Treatment Centre here in Burton. I knew from the onset that this would be less than an easy task, but little did I think that the complexity of the

situation would result in the tangled mess that has been revealed. Not in the level of care, which has seen a marked improvement since its management has been placed in British hands, but in the future of the building at the end of the current contract in 2011. Questions in the House of Commons and ministerial meetings have still failed to achieve clarity on this issue which will I fear need much more work.

You may be aware that Ofsted found Staffordshire's school meals amongst the best in the country, but despite the fact, the take up continued to decline as it did across the land. A year ago I chaired an investigation into the county's service in the primary sector and presented a number of recommendations relating to the nature of the service and the way that food was presented. As a result of this work completed we have now seen a change in the trend, with take up now markedly increasing. However, there is still much to be done and we are now pleased to announce that we intend to reduce the cost of school meals to all nursery and primary age children from the current £1.99 to just £1. We also found that many children rarely sat at a table with their family at home with a high number unable to use a knife and fork properly. We were of the opinion that the etiquette of eating a meal should form a part of the education process, and that this was not helped by the youngsters having their food served in plastic trays. We have looked at options, and now intend to replace all such trays with crockery to enhance the experience of the mealtime break. We will of course ensure that all such tableware is manufactured in Staffordshire.

At the local level, we have now seen the result of the first twelve months following the installation of the speed humps in Beaufort Road/Violet Way, and I must say that the outcomes remain inconclusive. I can only repeat my oft expressed view that there are those things that Councils can do little about, and stupid drivers are one of those. Only fines and bans will control certain irresponsible individuals.

The work has now been completed on the creation of a new footpath in Woods Lane, and at last we have the barriers to slow cyclists using the footpath in Ashbrook. You may have read that many residents of Ashby Road have asked me to support their desire for the 30mph speed limit to be extended, and I have now passed their letters to the Highway Engineers to respond. I am hopeful of a swift reply and a satisfactory outcome.

Yet again I have spent my full allocation of £10,000 initiative money, providing support for local sports and activity clubs, the "Brizfest" event organised by The Community Church and the Police. However, I repeat my plea to the people of Brizlincote to put out a call for help in funding further schemes, as the greater part of my support goes into the Winhill area of my division, and I want to see a greater effort made in creating and improving community facilities in Brizlincote.

Councillor Jim Muir, Staffordshire County Councillor