

BREWOD AND COVEN PARISH COUNCIL
WITH BISHOP'S WOOD AND COVEN HEATH

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, STAFFORD STREET, BREWOOD
ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

M. Alden-Court, Mr A. Ball, Mrs J. Carr, Mr R. Dakin, Mrs J Jeffries, Mrs K Holmes, Mr G.E. Martin, Mr. G. Sibley, Dr R.C.H. Taylor, Mrs L. Tomkins, Mr M. Webb MBE.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Mr. M. Sutton.

The Chair M. Alden-Court, apologised to Dr R. Taylor regarding the result of the Best Kept Village. She had confused the matter with the results of for Hanging Basket Competition which had already been reported.

APOLOGIES:

Mr D. Evans (personal), Cllr Mike Hampson (personal), Cllr B. Cox, Mr J. Pegg (personal), Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes (personal).

The Chair suspended standing order 1(c) to allow gentlemen to remove their jackets.

Co-option onto the Parish Council. Mrs L. Holmes had previously signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, in the presence of the Proper Officer.

DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PERCUNARY INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

There were no requests for dispensation as required under the Code of Conduct adopted in compliance with the Localism Act 2011. Mrs J. Carr declared a personal interest in item 134 Clerk's Report (Chairman's Civic Sunday).

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held 14 August 2014 were approved as being an accurate record and duly signed.

CRIME AND DISORDER ACT:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 places a duty on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications when exercising its functions and to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area. Unless otherwise stated it was not considered that the resolutions moved herein would have any adverse impact for the purposes of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

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133. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair moved that the meeting be adjourned for a period of no more than fifteen minutes to allow any electors of the parish or his/her representative to raise or question any issue appertaining to proper Parish Council business.

Mr C. Bayliss of School Lane Coven, enquired whether there was any intention of repairing the pavement in School Lane, Coven, due to its poor state. He pointed out that other works had been undertaken on pavements in Coven that were not in such a state of disrepair.

Cllr M. Sutton agreed to arrange a meeting with a representative from Highways and Mr Bayliss. M. Alden-Court stated that she wished to be present, as both herself and Mrs. J. Carr received daily comments regarding this problem from residents of Coven.

Mr R Hewitt of Four Ashes Road, Brewood expressed his concern regarding the parking and traffic issues in Brewood and asked if there were any plans in place to facilitate further parking and to put a one-way system around the village centre. Dr. R. Taylor quoted the findings of the traffic surveys that had been carried out recently and advised that there were currently no plans regarding this issue. Dr Taylor also commented on previous attempts to introduce a one-way system.

Cllr Mr. M. Sutton explained that he had been dealing with Mr. M. Keeling and was happy to meet separately with Mr. Hewitt.

134. POLICE REPORT:

The Council received the written report of the Police, tabled at the meeting. Concern was raised that an incident of tyre slashing on 30th August in Coven Heath, which had been attended by the Police, was not included in the report. Mrs J Jeffries reported on the Police forum which she, Dr. Taylor and Mr. M Webb MBE, had attended. Inspector Knight had reported that the Police were very short staffed and therefore calls had to be prioritised. The Parish had been classed as low priority based on statistics that had been given and therefore resources were being sent to areas with a higher priority. Mrs Jeffries was impressed by the new computerised reporting system which was updated every 24 hours. This enabled officers to be aware of the most important issues and target resources accordingly which was preventative rather than curative. Clerk' Report also referred.

It was resolved that the Clerk write to Inspector Knight expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the 101 service.

MATTERS ARISING:

245** **Brewood Bowling Club Lease.** Mrs J. Jeffries and Dr R. Taylor advised the Clerk of their availability to meet with Ms Skidmore to discuss what should be the final draft of the lease.

Matter of report.

347** **Wall – Amenity Area, Sandy Lane.** Mr Twigger had advised that the builder was in the process of sourcing additional stone in order to complete the wall in Sandy Lane. He had also advised that the following shrubs will be planted: 2 acer pseudoplatenus (sycamore) 2 corylus auellana (hazel) and 2 symphoricarpos chen hancock (snowberry).

Matter of report.

351** **Site Allocation Document.** Three further sites had been put forward for consultation. One at Engleton Lane, Brewood, one at School Lane, Coven and a strategic employment site at Four Ashes.

Documents had been received in the office and were also available on South Staffordshire Council's website. Consultation ended on 7 October 2014.

It was resolved that Members examine the documents and make any comments directly to South Staffordshire Council's Planning Department.

391* **School Lane Playing Field.** Members of the working party were asked to arrange at date to meet in order to pursue the proposed development.

It was resolved that the working party meet on Monday 15th September at 2pm.

44. **SUSSED.** Feedback received from Brewwood library that no vouchers were purchased for the summer SUSSED activities, most users preferred to buy them from directly from the leisure centres. All vouchers would be returned to South Staffordshire Council.

Matter of report.

105. **Trees Behind the Public Conveniences, Sandy Lane.** Confirmation received from Mr S. Dores arbouriculturalist that the trees were stable. Letter received from the Council's solicitor advising that the owner of the higher of the two areas was responsible for maintenance of the wall and those who own trees had a duty to ensure that no harm or damage came to the adjacent property.

It was resolved the Clerk write to the owner of the trees, bringing the loose brickwork to their attention.

MATTERS ONGOING:

118* **Bench Installation Bishops Wood Park.** Clerk to follow up the installation of the last bench.

273* **Renaming Bishops Wood Park.** Mrs J. Jeffries reported that the group agreed to investigate a permissive footpath from Bishops Wood to Boscobel and consider installing a way mark in memory of Sue Groom.

Matter of report.

339* **Bridge 11, Giffards Cross. Port Lane.** It was reported that the work had been completed.

374* **Bishops Wood Skate Park.** It was reported that the young people who used the skate park had been consulted and although it was no longer used as a skate park it was used and valued by the young people as a meeting place to chat, away from their parents. Therefore it should remain in situ.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

135. Email received from Mr J. Lancaster regarding rural affordable housing, advising that there was a land owner in Coven who was willing to provide a site for affordable housing (ref the Housing Needs Survey in Nov 2008) and asking to meet the Council.

It was resolved that a meeting be arranged for 25 September at 7.00pm.

136. Letter received from Stafford County Council advising that Bargate Lane, Brewwood would be closed from its junction with Bargate Street for a length of 50m on 16 October for the day, to enable BT to carry out essential works.

It was resolved that a copy of the Order be placed on the Parish Council's notice board. Cllr M. Sutton to advise the Fire Service to ensure that the fire engine was not obstructed.

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137. Email received from Premier Estates Ltd advising that there were fallen fence panels alongside 45 Deacons Field. The matter has been forwarded to South Staffordshire Council.

Matter of report.

138. Email from Mr D. Evans requesting that the Council congratulates Wolgarston High School on its A Level results. **It was resolved that no action be taken as this was not a matter for the Parish Council.**

Individual Members may wish to write separately to congratulate the school.

139. Letter received from Staffordshire County Council regarding its Supporting People Review. The Council advised that £7m would be spent on the Supporting People Programme this year. This was followed by a letter from South Staffordshire Housing Association advising that with effect from 30 September 2014 the contract with Staffordshire County Council for Supporting People i.e. funding, would be terminated. The housing association would like to impress on MPs, Councils and council officers that this would have an immense impact on local people.

Matter of report.

140. Invitation received from Cllr Mrs J. Johnson, Chairman of South Staffordshire Council to a Bollywood Evening on 27 September at Perton Civic Centre in aid of brain tumour research. Tickets were £20 available from South Staffordshire Council. Deadline was 12 September.

Matter of report.

141. The annual playground inspections had been received and the Council's handyman had carried out any minor repairs. The equipment at The Bront was in a poor state of repair and consideration should be given to its removal.

It was resolved that the equipment be removed and its replacement considered in the Precept next year. Mrs K. Holmes voted against the resolution.

142. CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED:

SSCVA Buzz – summer newsletter;

PCC Bulletin' helping businesses beat crime;

The Penkrige Advertiser

SLCC Notice of AGM

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Notice of AGM and Annual Report

Wolverhampton Magazine

Brewood Civic Society Minutes of meeting held 18 August

Canal & River Trust Notice of Annual Public Meeting

143. DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPORT:

In the absence of any District Councillors the Chair invited Cllr M. Sutton to report on behalf of the County Council. Cllr Sutton reported the following:

- Consultation would take place regarding reducing speed limit on New Road, Featherstone, which affected this Parish Council.
- From 1st September young people with special needs and disabilities would have a greater say in how they would be supported.

- There had been an increase in the uptake of apprenticeships which had been given more credibility by the introduction of a graduation ceremony.
- Dementia Centres of Excellence would be set up in the near future.
- Entry to The Iron Man competition, to be held on 14 June was fully booked.
- Two RAF regiments would relocate to Stafford from Germany, meaning that 1038 personnel plus their families would be relocating and work to accommodate them was on-going.

144. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Council received the report of the Chair and noted that M. Alden-Court had attended the following:

- St. Paul's Church garden party.
- The 'Jonah and the Whale' Workshop
- Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston Civic Sunday
- An evening of Pentecostal singing
- Staffordshire Community Foundation. A bespoke service for the transfer or management of an existing trust, charity or fund and could be found at www.staffsfoundation.org.uk

145. FINANCE REPORT:

The Council received the Finance Report from the Head of Finance, Mrs J. Carr and resolved the following matters:

The accounts payable as at 11 September 2014, **be approved**

The payment of employee salaries at the end of August. Clerk 22.25 additional hours, Car Scheme Co-ordinator 29.75 days (covering Assistant Clerk duties, 5.5 hours Civic Sunday administration), **be approved**

Members considered increasing the annual rent (1 Oct 2014 to 30 Sept 2015) for the Poor's Land at Coven Heath. **It was resolved that the rent be increased by 1.6%.**

The Council's winter planting in its troughs / planters and two memorial gardens, **be approved up to a limit of £200.**

A donation of £150 for Remembrance Day poppy wreaths **be approved**

402*. Coven Heath Allotments. Quote received from Mr W. Bucklass to resurface the car park at the allotments.

It was resolved that two further quotes be sought.

103. **Grant (Bishops Wood Village Hall).** The most recent accounts had been received from Bishops Wood Village Hall. Mr J. Pegg, on behalf of the committee requested that the Parish Council holds this year's grant until further notice.

It was resolved that the balance of the grant £4558 be retained (ring fenced) until required by the Village Hall.

Letter received from Cynthia Heath thanking the Parish Council for this year's grant of £2,380.

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146. **PLANNING REPORT:**

The Council received the Planning Report and considered the applications received.

147. **CLERK’S REPORT:**

The Council received the written report of the Clerk and noted the following:

- Affordable Housing.

It was resolved that Ms Riley and Mr Lancaster be invited to attend the Parish Council Chamber at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th September.

- Civic Sunday payment. Members discussed the proposal and agreed that the matter would not be taken further.

ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT (for inclusion on the next Agenda if appropriate):

That a letter be sent to Callum Swinnerton-Ions congratulating him on his inclusion in the Under 17’s England Hockey team

That consideration be given to increasing the allowance for Chairman’s Civic Sunday, when setting the Precept in December.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

..... Chair

**REPORT OF THE CLERK FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD 11 SEPTEMBER 2014**

134. **POLICE REPORT**

Coven Playing Field. The caretaker has been experiencing some trouble with young people at the playing field refusing to leave at closing time. He rang 101 and was on hold for 20 minutes. The Chair has asked if a complaint could be sent to Inspector Knight advising of the delay in responding. See Police Report.

Members' views.

MATTERS ONGOING

290**/ 56 **New Model Standing Orders.** The revised standing orders, financial regulations and policy on relations with the press have been reviewed and drafts are tabled. Members are requested to proof read the documents and advise the Clerk of any amendments before the next meeting of the Council to be held on 9 October when they will be formally approved.

339* **Bridge 11 Giffards Cross. Port Lane.** Reported as urgent Feb 14. Work to repair the bridge is now well under way.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

135. **Affordable Housing.** I have spoken to Charlie Riley and John Lancaster. They would like to address the Council prior to the meeting of 25 September at 7.00pm. No further details have been given as to which site they wish to discuss but it is possibly the additional site as listed in item 351**.

Members' views.

OTHER MATTERS

New Councillor Mrs L Holmes. Mrs Holmes would like the Council to be made aware that she was available to attend the meeting held on 14 August. However, due to problems with the postage she did not receive the summons.

Matter of report.

Chair's Civic Sunday. The Chair has requested that Members consider in principle paying £50 to Fr Malcolm Lockey for conducting the service to be held 14 September. As RFO I am unable to identify a power under which this payment could be made and historically the clergy have not been paid for undertaking the service, it would be therefore, in my opinion, be imprudent to make such a payment and would set a precedent. If agreed, the matter must be placed on the agenda for the next meeting under Finance. It is estimated that the budgets for the Civic Service £800 and Chairman's Allowance £400 will be fully utilised with the current expenditure.

Member's Views.

Resurfacing School Lane. A number of complaints have been made to Mrs J. Carr regarding the state of repair of the road and pavement surface of School Lane, Coven; including a partially sighted woman and a disabled man. Cllr M. Sutton has previously advised that School Lane was not in this year's programme for resurfacing. Mrs Carr may wish to report further.