

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

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

PRESENT:

M. Alden-Court, Mrs. J. Carr, Mr R. Dakin, Mr D. Evans, Mrs J. Jeffries, Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes, Mr G.E. Martin, Mr J. Pegg, Mr G. Sibley, Dr. R.C.H. Taylor, Mrs L. Tomkins, Mr M. Webb MBE.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr. B. Cox, Cllr. M. Sutton, Cllr. Mrs W. Sutton

APOLOGIES:

Mr M. Hampson (personal), Mrs L. Holmes (personal).

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.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held 27 November 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.

224. **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. No members of the public wished to speak.

225. **POLICE REPORT:**

No Police Report was received.

MATTERS ARISING:

245** **Brewood Bowling Club.** Letter received requesting the Council's written support for the Bowling Club.

It was resolved that the Clerk write an open letter for the bowling club to use when applying for grant aid, expressing the Parish Council's support for the project.

370* **Ice Busters (Coven).** Mr S. Griffiths had advised that a grit box had been ordered for Greenacres in Coven.

Matter of report.

135. **Affordable Housing.** Copy of the proposed survey and covering letter was emailed to Members. Response received from C. Riley regarding queries from the Clerk, a copy was circulated prior to the meeting. Also enclosed information from DCLG regarding changes to planning law in respect of s106 agreements. Members to decide whether to support in principle the need for Affordable Housing and as a result, agree to South Staffordshire Housing Association commissioning an up to date survey.

It was resolved that the Council agree in principle the requirement for an up to date survey to be carried out to ascertain the need for affordable housing in the Parish.

153. **Bridge 14 Repainting.** Email received in response to request to repaint the bridge. Copies were circulated prior to the meeting. Matter would be placed on Matters Ongoing for action in 2015. Clerk's Report referred.

Matter of report.

208. **Alzheimer's Society.** Further email received from Mel Baines asking if details of 'Dementia Friends' sessions could be posted on the Parish Council's website and a short article be placed in the Parish Newsletter.

It was resolved that details of 'Dementia Friends' sessions be included in the Parish Newsletter and the Parish Council's website.

222a. **Precept Meeting.** Deferred from last meeting, Members considered an appropriate date.

It was resolved that the Precept Meeting be arranged for 8 January 2015 at 6:00pm, prior to the full Council meeting.

225. **Dates of Meetings 2015.** The dates for meetings for the next year had been finalised. Copies were tabled at the meeting.

Matter of report.

MATTERS ONGOING:

25. **Dog Fouling Signs.** These would be erected in Bishops Wood by the handyman once the sites had been decided. Bishops Wood Members were asked to advise the Clerk.

It was resolved that the two signs be placed by the telephone box and by the bus stop in Bishops Wood.

198b. **Visit to Veolia Site at Four Ashes.** Hilary Hampton had confirmed that 21st and 27th January after 2.00pm were both available for Members to visit. Members were requested to advise the Clerk of their availability.

It was resolved M. Alden-Court, Mrs J. Carr, Mrs J. Jeffries, Mr. J Pegg and Dr R. Taylor attend 21st January and Mr R. Dakin, Mr D. Evans, Mr G. Martin, Mr G. Sibley, Mrs L Tomkins and Mr M. Webb attend 27th January.

222b. **Replacement PC.** A quote had been received for £502.37 (including Microsoft Office) for a Dell computer from South Staffordshire Council's ICTS team. See Finance.

It was resolved that item 269 be removed from Matters Ongoing.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

226. Letter received from Mrs C. Macquarie regarding staffing. Due to the content of the letter the matter was considered confidential in accordance with Standing Order 2.23 (a).

It was resolved that the Staffing Committee hold a meeting on 17 December 2014 to discuss the letter.

227. Email received from Clodagh Peterson of South Staffordshire Council inviting the Parish Council to take part in a pilot 'Delivering Differently in Neighbourhoods', a copy of the email was circulated prior to the meeting. As the deadline was 5 December, an interest had been expressed which could be withdrawn if Members decide against becoming involved.

It was resolved that the Council takes part in the pilot programme.

228. Letter from Staffordshire County Council advising of a temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order at Paradise Lane and Laches Lane, Slade Heath from 5 January 2015 to 30 May 2015.

It was resolved that a copy of the Order be placed on the Parish Council notice boards, on the website and Facebook.

229. Email from Society of Local Council Clerks advising of the 2014-16 National Salary Award which recommended that the new pay scales be implemented from January 2015.

It was resolved the Staffing Committee discuss the new pay scales at the meeting being held 17 December 2014 and make a recommendation to full Council.

230. Email from Staffordshire Police had advised that the 101 service was unavailable nationally. The 999 number was not affected. Alternative non-emergency number was 030 000 123 4455.

Matter of report.

231. **CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED:**

Village News - December edition.

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue offering training to agencies involved in home visits in order to prevent injury and death from accidental dwelling fires.

South Staffordshire Review – autumn edition.

Brewood Civic Society minutes of meeting held 24 November and letter requesting that the Parish Council recover the sandstone blocks along the canal adjacent to bridge 11.

232. **DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPORT:**

This item was delayed pending the arrival of Cllr M. Sutton.

Cllr Mr M. Sutton reported that Members could use www.roadworks.org for traffic information including live updates on congestion and roadwork diversions to help plan journeys.

It had been published in the Express and Star that the County Council element of the Council Tax would rise by 1.95%, mainly due to the increase in expenditure on social care.

A petition with more than 5000 signatures had been put forward to save Brewood and other libraries in Staffordshire. No decision had been taken with regards to the future of the library, however the County Council needed to save £1.2m over three years.

11 December 2014

233. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chair, M. Alden-Court, reported that she had attended Coven Christmas light switch on and had dressed as Mini Mouse. She had also attended Bishops Wood lights switch on and carol service.

234. **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 December 2014, **be approved**
- The renewal of the gas and electricity contracts with Npower for a further 12 months, having been the most competitive quote at the time, **be approved**
- The Schedule of Charges as set out in the letter received from South Staffordshire Council (copy circulated prior to the meeting) with regard to land at School Lane, Coven **be approved**. Clerk to instruct the solicitor to investigate the legal implications regarding the land.
- Replacement PC Car Scheme Co-ordinator. A quote had been received for £502.37 (including Microsoft Office) for a Dell computer from South Staffordshire Council's ICTS team. Approval was given for up to £800 at the meeting of 27 November.
It was resolved that a replacement PC be purchased at a cost of £502.37 exc. VAT.
- Letter received from M Groves of Campaign for Rural England thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £20.
- Letter received from Roseclaim enclosing a cheque for £6,500 from donations received at this year's V Festival. Bishops Wood members to approve distribution of the grant amongst organisations in Bishops Wood in due course.

234. **PLANNING REPORT**

The Council received the Planning Report from the Head of Planning Mrs J. Jeffries and considered the planning applications received.

With regard to planning 14/00984/FUL, Mrs J. Jeffries abstained from the vote.

Cllr M. Sutton arrived for the meeting.

Planning Application SS 14/18/655 W. Change of use of existing industrial units to accommodate a facility for the thermal recycling of asbestos waste at units 5a and 5b Sprint Industrial Estate, Station Road, Four Ashes.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would make no comment with regard to this planning application.

235. **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Council received the written report of the Clerk.

ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT:

The Chair, M. Alden-Court, reported that she had been invited to attend Father Lockie's induction at St Paul's Church, Coven 12 January 2015 and another function 14 December 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

..... Chair

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

MATTERS ARISING

153. **Canal Bridge 14 Repainting.** Some Members may not have received a copy of the email from the Canal & River Trust. The following was reported: the painting and repainting works for bridge 14 are scheduled in for 2017. With regard to the footbridge 14A (adjacent to the main bridge), ownership has yet to be determined – the engineering team to contact the council to confirm and the Thomas Telford bridge across the A5 at Stretton – to be inspected early 2015 and works to be scheduled following investigations.

MATTERS ONGOING

391* **Coven Playing Field Development.** (See Finance). Advice has been received from the legal team at South Staffordshire Council regarding progressing the matter, copy tabled. Members of the Working Party may wish to arrange a meeting to discuss the recommendations.

25. **Dog Fouling Signs.** These will be erected in Bishops Wood by the handyman once the site has been decided. Bishop Wood Members are asked to advise the Clerk.

198b. **Visit to Veolia Site at Four Ashes.** Hilary Hampton has confirmed that 21st and 27th January after 2.00pm are both available for Members to visit. Members are requested to advise the Clerk of their availability.

222. **Replacement PC.** A quote has been received for £502.37 (including Microsoft Office) for a Dell computer from South Staffordshire Council's ICTS team. Approval was given for up to £800 at the meeting of 27 November. Approval to purchase is requested.

FINANCE

226. **Staffing (Additional Hours).** Due to the confidential nature the Chair may wish to take this matter at the end of the meeting when the public and press will be asked to leave.

OTHER MATTERS FOR THE CLERK'S REPORT

None received.