

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 12 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

M. Alden-Court , Mrs. J. Carr, Mr R. Dakin, Mr D. Evans, Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes, Mrs L. Holmes, Mrs J. Jeffries, 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. Hampson, Cllr. M. Sutton.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Mrs W. Sutton (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.

Dr. R. Taylor declared a personal interest in planning application 15/00062/FUL.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held 29 January 2015 were approved as being an accurate record and duly signed, with the exception of the following items: 272. Cllr. B Cox had reported that the budget had been frozen this year and would be frozen for the following two years at 0%. Item 259. Mrs L. Holmes advised that she had not stated Coven would not be entering the Best Kept Village competition.

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.

277. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Mr P. Tomkins from Coven Heath Community Association thanked the Parish Council for the installation of Coven Heath's Christmas tree and thanked the Clerk for assisting with insurance and the removal of the tree.

Mr C. Wolverson from Bishops Wood Village Hall Committee seeking support with sewage works at Bishops Wood village hall and skatepark as the skatepark equipment was Parish Council property. M. Alden-Court asked 12 February 2015

for any quotes received to be forwarded to the Clerk and suggested for the matter to be added to the agenda of the next Council meeting. Mrs J. Jefferies asked for quotes to include costing for the equipment to be reinstated.

Mr M. Webb spoke on behalf of Ms S. Deegan of St Chads Close, Brewwood coordinator of 'Save Brewwood Library' Facebook page. The County Council would make its final decision about Staffordshire libraries on Wednesday 18th February, 10am, Oak Room, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford. It would be a public meeting. Mrs Deegan urged residents and Parish Councillors to attend the public meeting and to visit the display at the library. Gavin Williamson MP would be visiting the display on Friday 13th February.

278. **POLICE REPORT:**

The written report of the Police was tabled at the meeting.

It was noted that crime had significantly increased over the last 12 months.

Mr D. Evans arrived for the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING:

245** **Brewwood Bowling Club Lease.** The Bowling Club had been advised by Sports England that they would be expected to display two signs, one inside and one outside of the building, advertising the fact that the club had been supported by them. Mr J. Ashfield from the Bowling Club advised that they did not intend to sign the lease until nearer to September, to coincide with the grant application.

Matter of report.

269** **Superfast Broadband.** Email received from Mr G. Grundy advising that fibre broadband was now available in Brewwood.

It was resolved that the Clerk enquire as to the cost in order for fibre broadband to be used at the Parish Council Office.

222a.13 **Instant Access Bank Interest (5500).** Mr M. Davies of CCLA had agreed to attend at 7.00pm on 30 April 2015. Clerks Report referred.

Matter of report.

MATTERS ONGOING:

385* **Grass Cutting.** Clerk to obtain quotes from alternative contractors. Mr J. Pegg enquired if this included Bishops Wood village hall and who was responsible for the hedge cutting at Bishops Wood village hall. It was agreed that the Clerk ascertain who was responsible for cutting Bishops Wood village hall hedge and report back to the Council in due course.

402* **Allotments Coven Heath.** Mrs L. Tomkins reported that the cutting back of the high trees had stopped. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the contractor and request that the work on the hedge be completed.

70. **Restructuring of Libraries.** Letter received from Mr M. Lawrence regarding the final proposals for Staffordshire libraries, a copy of the letter was tabled at the meeting. It was agreed that the public meeting be advertised as widely as possible.

88. **Parish Guides.** A draft was made available. Members were asked to proof read the Guide and let the Clerk have any comments by Monday 16 Feb. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes, Mrs J. Jeffries and Mrs L. Tomkins proof read the Guide and liaise with the Clerk.

12 February 2015

153. **Sandstone Block Bridge 11.** Further email sent asking the Canal & River Trust to reconsider its decision to take the sandstone blocks away from Brewood. Dr R. Taylor reported he was to meet with Simon Griffiths in the near future to organise viewing the sandstone blocks stored at Gailey, to assess their suitability for the wall in Sandy Lane.

262. **Coven in Times Past (book by a local author).** The Parish Council had been asked to consider purchasing a copy of the above book which would be under £20. It was agreed that the Council considered the purchase of the book.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

279. Letter received from Mr F. Barrett on behalf of Coven Heath Residents Association, requesting that there were two Parish Councillors for Coven Heath, copy of letter and report were circulated prior to the meeting. Mrs L. Tomkins thanked the Clerk for seeking advice from Mr P. Seccombe, consultant with the Association of Electoral Administrators regarding the process.

It was resolved that no action be taken on the matter. The Clerk to write to Mr F. Barrett advising him of the outcome.

280. The Council considered the adoption of additional contents for inclusion on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held this year on 14 May 2015 as recommended by SLCC and in line with the Parish Council's Standing Orders, a copy was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was resolved that the Parish Council adopt the additional content where it applied to the Parish Council as recommended by the Clerk.

281. Email received from Christopher Madeley of Weston Park requesting permission to post an article on the Parish Council's Facebook page asking for volunteers to assist with primary school visits. Weston Park would be holding an open afternoon on 18 February from 3.00pm.

It was resolved that an article be placed on the Parish Council's Facebook page to encourage community involvement at Weston Park.

282. CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED:

SPCA Bulletin 29 January

Gavin Williamson Newsletter 4 February

Coven Heath Residents Association Newsletter Jan/Feb

Brewood Civic Society copy of letter to Andrew Johnson re Permitted Development legislation

283. DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Cllr M. Sutton reported that a registration service was now available at South Staffordshire District Council every Tuesday, for further information or to book online www.staffordshire.gov.uk/birth or www.staffordshire.gov.uk/death or 0300 111 8001 or email registrarsenquiries@staffordshire.gov.uk.

John Henderson had been appointed as the new Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service from April 2015.

At the full County Council meeting a 1.95% rise in Council Tax for the next financial year had been agreed, the first rise in five years in order for an extra £20 million be put into social care. This included looking after the frail / elderly, people with learning disabilities across all ages and Families First (Children's Services). Staffordshire still remained one of the lowest County Council Council Taxes in the country.

Mr D. Evans congratulated Cllr M. Sutton on the action restoring stone bridge at Somerford.

12 February 2015

Cllr B. Cox reported that he had spoken to David Patterson, Planning and Enforcement regarding the matter at Middle Lane, Coven Heath and Catherine Gutteridge was the appointed officer but had no further information at present. Cllr Cox had attended a 'Good Life Session' which included managing medicines, health and safety and help in the home and congratulated County Council for finding and managing employment for people with autism. The budget had been set with contribution from the Government reducing by 18% per year, by 2018 it would be nil. The Council had to look at making savings without cutting services and find ways of raising additional money. A number of initiative had already been agreed.

Mrs L. Tomkins thanked Cllr B. Cox for his prompt attention regarding Middle Lane.

284. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chair M. Alden-Court, reported that Father Malcolm Lockey had been installed as the first Vicar of St Paul's Church, Coven and said it was a splendid occasions. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of congratulations to Father Lockey.

285. **FINANCE REPORT:**

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

- o The income and expenditure accounts payable as at 12 February 2015, **be approved.**

286. **PLANNING REPORT**

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

To carry out work to trees in a Conservation Area at Brewood Fire Station, Bargate Lane, Brewood.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would make no comment.

Consultation to remove a hedgerow 15/00053/HEDGE at 1 Gravelly Way, Four Ashes. Deadline for comments was 16 February.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would make no comment.

287. **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Council received the written report of the Clerk. Members agreed to advise the Clerk of any articles to be included in the Newsletter by Monday 16th February.

ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT:

Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes reported that the Darby and Joan Club had come to an end since opening in the early 1950s.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

..... Chair

**REPORT OF THE CLERK FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
TO BE HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2015**

MATTERS ONGOING

70. **Restructuring of Libraries.** Letter received from Mr M. Lawrence regarding the final proposals for Staffordshire libraries. Copy tabled.

Matter of report.

88. **Parish Guides.** A draft is now available. Would one or two Members volunteer to proof read the guide and let me have any comments by Monday 16 Feb. I will then place the order.

Members' views.

153. **Sandstone Blocks Bridge 11.** Further letter sent asking the Canal & River Trust to reconsider its decision to take the sandstone blocks away from Brewood.

Matter of report.

262. **Coven in Times Past (Book by a local author).** The Parish Council has been asked to consider purchasing a copy of the above book which would be under £20. If approved it will be included under finance on the next agenda.

Members' views.

222a.13 **Instant Access Bank Interest (5500).** Mr Davies had previously offered to attend on 9 April. As this is the date of the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm, Mr Davies has agreed to attend at 7.00pm prior to the meeting scheduled for 30 April.

Matter of report.

OTHER MATTERS FOR THE CLERK'S REPORT:

Winter/Spring Newsletter. Members are asked to advise the Clerk early next week of any items for inclusion in the newsletter.