

**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 MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cllr. M Hampson.

**APOLOGIES:**

Mrs L. Holmes (personal), Cllr B Cox (personal), Cllr M. Sutton (prior meeting), Cllr W. Sutton.

**DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PERCUNARY INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:**

Mr D. Evans, Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes and Dr R. Taylor declared personal interests in planning number 15/00124/FUL.

**MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2015 were approved as being an accurate record and duly signed, with the exception item 302. Cllr Mrs D. M. Holmes had said that JLR were only able to deal with 3,000 applications.

**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.

308. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There were no members of the press or public in attendance at the meeting.

309. **POLICE REPORT:**

No report of the Police was received.

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**MATTERS ARISING:**

287. **Newsletter – Winter.** The Newsletter had been forwarded to the printer. Delivery would coincide with the Parish Guide, date for receipt had not been received. Clerk's Report referred.

**Matter of report.**

391\*. **School Lane Playing Field.** The letter to Mr Monckton was circulated prior to the meeting, together with the most recent correspondence from Mr P. Maddox.

**It was resolved that the content and the letter be approved with one amendment and be forwarded to Mr Monckton by the solicitor.**

397\* **Fingerpost, Coven.** Funding was available towards the upkeep of fingerposts from Staffordshire County Council under its Lengthsman's Agreement. However, the agreement was under review. If the scheme was still available a small amount of money may be available.

**It was resolved that the Clerk investigate the possibility of having a Lengthsman's Agreement with Staffordshire County Council once it had been established that the agreements would not be phased out and report back to the Council in due course.**

295. **Community Paths Initiative Bid.** Mr P. Rochford had advised that the route between Hillcrest and Deansfield Road was not a public right of way so would not be suitable for CPI funding. Cllr Hampson advised that maintenance of this footpath was the responsibility of the local residents. Mr Rochford had advised that the route near the Rainbow Public House was footpath 28 Brewood and Coven. It had been inspected by Mrs J. Carr but nothing came within the scope of the CPI. It was suggested that footpath 3 in Brewood would be improved if hard core was laid on the low lying area to raise the path up above the level of the stream.

**It was resolved that the Clerk investigate who was responsible for the Hillcrest path. It was further resolved that the Clerk pursue to possibility of funding for footpath 3 using the Community Paths Initiative.**

296. **Draft Open Space Strategy.** Members thanked Mrs L. Tomkins as she had reviewed the document and had raised some relevant issues appertaining to Coven Heath. It was noted that Bishops Wood came under Wheaton Aston in Locality 2. Feedback was required by South Staffordshire Council by 23 March. Any further comments to be forwarded to the Clerk before Friday 20 March.

**Matter of report.**

300. **Coven Christmas Lights.** Deferred from last meeting. M. Alden-Court advised that she would comment further when all the accounts were finalised. She confirmed that letters had been sent to all businesses that had donated money and further letters would be sent to businesses once the exact financial position had been established.

**Matter of report.**

**MATTERS ONGOING:**

257\* **Bus Shelter A449.** It was noted that the bus shelter was never used and would be improper to spend £5,000 to replace it. Members agreed not to replace the shelter at its current site unless there was a request for it to be reinstated. The handyman to be asked if he would be able to remove the wood and make good the area. Clerk to liaise with the insurance company to ascertain if the Council could claim for a replacement shelter to be situated further south on the A449 outside 'Darelyn'.

269\*\* **Superfast Broadband.** Clerk's Report referred.

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347\*\*. **Wall – Rear of Amenity Area, Sandy Lane.** Clerk's Report referred. Dr R. Taylor advised that the sandstones were not the property of the Canal and River Trust and suggested that they may have purloined them as they would effectively be the property of the insurance company once any claim had been settled. The Parish Council should be able to purchase them from the insurance company. Clerk to write again to the Canal and River Trust making this point.

387\*\* **Flooding Ball Lane.** Mrs L. Tomkins reported that the tyres had been removed and Severn Trent had installed gates, which had been stolen from the site; CCTV surveillance was now being considered. Clerk to write thanking Severn Trent for its compliance with the requests from residents.

374\*/27. **Bishops Wood Skate Park/Flooding/drainage Bishops Wood Park.** Mr J. Pegg advised that Mr C. Wolverson had been away and so was unable to respond to the letter, Mr T. Sloan would be responding shortly. Investigations were being undertaken on underground pipes using a CCTV camera. Mr Pegg suggested that the Parish Council may wish to widen the entrance to the playing field if the adjoining land became available. Members agreed that nothing could be done about dismantling the skate park without first obtaining the views of the village as a whole. There was a difference of opinion regarding whether or not the skate park was well used or not used and therefore the reason for wanting it removed was unclear. Mr Pegg stated that as part of the village hall extension, the car park would also require extending which would have an impact on the skate park. It was agreed to wait until the CCTV survey had been received before considering further.

402\* **Allotments Coven Heath.** Mrs L. Tomkins advised that cutting back of the trees had still not been completed. Clerk to write formally to the contractor requesting that the work be completed as a matter of urgency and advise him that he was in breach of contract.

298. **PCC People Power Fund.** Clerk's Report referred. The Clerk advised that it was unlikely that this project would qualify for funding under this scheme. Interested Members to be advised when the site visit would take place.

**The following items to be removed from Matters Ongoing: 387\*\*, 27 and 88.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

310. Correspondence received from Mr A Sloane, regarding the supply and erection of a flagpole at Bishops Wood Village Hall. There was some confusion as to the future ownership of the flagpole. The Village Hall Committee confirmed in writing that the Parish Council would have no responsibility for the flagpole once installed. Mr J. Pegg advised that the flagpole had now been erected and the flag was flying. See Finance.

**Matter of report.**

311. Letter from the Local Government Pension Scheme requesting nominations onto the Local Pensions Board, copy circulated prior to the meeting.

**No Members wished to be nominated.**

312. Swings at Bishops Wood Playing Field. Following a site visit by the Clerk and a Playdale engineer, it had been confirmed that the frame for the flat bed swings (the swings were removed in the summer as the cross beam was split) and the cradle swings were both rotten. The cradle swings had not been condemned but would require replacing within the next 12 months. Separate report tabled.

**It was resolved that the matter will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council, subject to estimates being received.**

313. Copy of letter from Fr M. Lockey, Vicar of Coven, to Mr Johnson of South Staffordshire Council regarding the extension of Coven Churchyard. Copy circulated prior to the meeting. Mrs J. Jeffries advised that there was a section for graveyards included in the Open Space Strategy.

**Matter of report.**

314. Members noted the content of the letter received from Brewood Civic Society regarding heavy goods vehicles accessing School Road and Newport Street, Brewood and requesting that the Parish Council took the matter up with Staffordshire County Council at the next Traffic Management Working Party meeting with a view to possibly erecting a sign 'Not suitable for HGVs'.

**Matter of report.**

315. **CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED:**

Gavin Williamson Newsletter

Fields in Trust Newsletter

SSCVA Bulletin

Staffordshire Police New Powers to Tackle Drug Driving, Staffordshire Equestrians Urged to be Vigilant

Penkridge Advertiser

Village News

Brewood Civic Society Minutes 16 February and copies of letters to Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire District Council.

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

Cllr Mrs D.M. Holmes had attended the Good Life 'Let's Work Together' masterclass which was very informative and covered Chase Against Crimes of Hate (CACH), Dealing with Loan Sharks, Olive Branch, a fire awareness in the home scheme, and Fear and Risk of Crime and Anti-social Behaviour. An information leaflet would be produced at regular intervals in future.

Cllr M. Hampson had attended the Glenside, Dark Lane enquiry held on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. (Planning application 14/00601/LUE) Caravan site occupied year round for up to 10 caravans and had made his objections known. He had also attended a site visit on 10 March regarding 4 planning applications concerned with future cemeteries and crematoria provision in South Staffordshire.

317. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chair M. Alden-Court reported that she had been unable to attend the Commonwealth Day or the 'Good Life' seminar due to personal circumstances.

318. **FINANCE REPORT:**

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

- The income and expenditure accounts payable as at 12 March 2015 be approved Income £1566.89 Expenditure £4928.86 gross, **be approved.**
- The expenditure on behalf of the village hall for the supply and installation of a flagpole, from the Roseclaim grant. £697.80, **be approved.**

The Council considered the letter from Stafford Samaritans requesting a donation.

**It was resolved that the Clerk check what action was taken in the last financial year and take the same action this year.**

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Coven Changing Room Roof. Approved at the meeting held on 26 February, additional roof repairs at a cost of £165 exclu VAT were required, Clerk's Report referred. The Contractor had estimated that two thirds of the original cost of the remedial work was due to vandalism.

**It was resolved that the repairs to the soffit be approved. Clerk to pursue a claim through the insurance company provided that there would be a surplus of £150 once the voluntary excess had been deducted.**

319. **PLANNING REPORT:**

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

15/00170/FUL Sandy Lane Encroachment. Email received from C. Gutteridge, enforcement officer advising that a planning application has been received for 'proposed timber steps to serve land at Sandy Lane, Brewood'. Ms Gutteridge will inform the planning department that the engineering work has already started. The Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment once the application has been validated.

**Matter of report.**

320. **CLERKS REPORT:**

The Council received the written report of the Clerk.

**Staffordshire Fire Fighters.** Mr A. Ball advised that the cut backs were for financial reasons. The cost of paying the retained fire fighters was much higher in recent years than it used to be and consequently the proposal to close some fire stations was inevitable. Members agreed to visit the website and comment on the proposals. Details to be placed on the Parish Council's Facebook page and noticeboards.

**ANY OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT (for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting if appropriate)**

Mrs J. Carr advised that she had attended the recent seminar to regarding the registration and assessment of war memorials. Details had been given to Dr R. Taylor.

Dr R. Taylor raised the matter of the recent publicity in South Staffordshire's Review magazine regarding the establishment of the Voluntary Car Scheme in Perton. Sadly the article failed to mention that Brewood and District had had a Voluntary Car Scheme for over 10 years. It was agreed that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

.....Chair

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

**MATTERS ARISING**

88/287. **Newsletter and Parish Guide.** The newsletters have been delivered to the office. We are waiting for the Parish Guides which are at the press and Local Authority Publishing has advised that they should be delivered in the next week or so.

**Matter of report.**

**MATTERS ONGOING**

269\*\* **Superfast Broadband.** The cost of the new contract with BT including fibre broadband will be less than we currently pay. Details will be available for the next meeting to be held on 26 March, for approval.

**Matter of report.**

347\*\*. **Wall – Rear of Amenity Area, Sandy Lane.** Email received from Lesley Beard of the Canal and River Trust advising that they cannot release the sandstone blocks from Bridge 11 but would keep the request on file and should any further stones become surplus to their requirements they will advise us accordingly.

**Matter of report.**

298. **PCC - People Power Funding.** At the meeting of 12 February it was suggested that the 'People Power Fund' might be a way of financing a barrier at the junction of Sandy Lane and Vicarage Road, Brewood. The grants officer will shortly be advising as to whether or not this scheme would be appropriate for funding. I have also contacted Mr S. Griffiths of Staffordshire County Council, for an estimate of the cost, he has suggested a site meeting with himself, Mark Keeling, Cllr M Sutton and the Clerk. Members wishing to attend should advise me and I will forward the date of the scheduled meeting.

**Members' views.**

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

312. **Swings at Bishops Wood.** See tabled report.

**FINANCE**

**Coven Changing Rooms Roof.** Further quote received to repair the soffit £165 excl VAT. The total being £590. The contractor has advised that some of the repairs are due to wear and tear and some to vandalism. I will be pursuing a claim through the Council's insurance company for a proportion of the cost.

**Matter of report.**

**OTHER MATTERS FOR THE CLERK'S REPORT:**

**Staffordshire Day.** Mrs L. Holmes advised at the last meeting that Gavin Williamson had proposed to have a Staffordshire Day. It has been suggested as 18 September this year but is probably unlikely that everything will be in place in time for it to go ahead. He would like as many people as possible to become involved in 'flying the flag for Staffordshire'. I have requested that this Parish Council be kept up to date with any developments.

**Matter of report.**

**Staffordshire Fire Fighters.** I received a telephone call from Paul Danby of Brewood Fire Station regarding the proposal to close over half the fire stations in Staffordshire including Brewood and to make all the 400 part time fire fighters redundant. There would be just 15 stations with 15 vehicles staffed 24 hours per day. The nearest for this parish would be Penkridge. Consultation can be accessed at <http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk/3362.asp>.

**Engleton Lane Verge.** Several complaints have been received regarding the grass verge along Engleton Lane having been churned up by vehicles attending 42 Engleton Lane. The occupier has visited the office to apologise and has advised that he will make every effort to reinstate the verge once the renovations have been completed.

**Matter of report.**