

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursey on Thursday 21st April 2016

Present

Chairman Paul Presley-Brooks, Councillors Robert Bidgood, Robin Ludford-Brooks, Colin Wileman, John Hoddy, Marie Andrews, Vera John, Adrian Cowan, Arthur and Ruth Goldstraw.

Public

Borough Councillors Colin Wileman and Bernard Peters, County Councillor Conor Wileman and Clerk Barbara Roe. No other members of the public, press or police were present.

135/16 Public Session

Borough Councillor Bernard Peters reported having investigated concerns from residents regarding overgrown trees and said little progress can be made. The local authority has an approved tree policy which specifies specific circumstances when trees may be pruned and/or cut back. Recent problems have been experienced by residents on Marlborough Crescent who have a back garden adjacent to Redhill Woods and have been subject to disappointment not being able to have the trees cropped. The frustrations of many local residents have been noted. He said Borough Councillor Colin Wileman had also been working on this.

County Councillor Conor Wileman said the Neighbourhood team from Staffordshire County Council would be coming into the area to carry out some tidying up which would include ensuring no growth on footpaths and highways and also clean up any road signs. This work would not include Highways maintenance. The date of their visit will be week commencing 9th May for one day. He asked if any Councillors saw anything requiring this type of work they should let him know and he would report back to Highways. **Action: County Councillor Conor Wileman.**

Councillor Wileman said he had looked at ways of solving the problem on Beaufort Road/Hargate Road in terms of the way it is going to be approached. He said he has taken guidance from the Highways Team. They are going to look into all the reasons including speed as to why these accidents are happening.

He said we have to engineer the road in order to slow drivers down – possibly a chicane or an island in the middle of the road. Councillor Bidgood suggested closing the road off again so that it cannot be used as a ‘rat run’ but Councillor Wileman said this would not happen as it would take a huge amount of effort in terms of legality and was not something that was being considered.

He said speed indicator signs are going to be allocated on Hargate Road as soon as possible – in the next couple of weeks - and he had already decided where they would go.

The main investigation would involve the Safer Roads Partnership whom he hoped would help fund some improvements along with the Divisional Highways Budget (Councillor Conor Wileman’s fund). He feels we have a sizeable budget to tackle the problem with the help from Brizlincote Parish Council funds too.

Councillor Peters expressed his thanks to Councillor Conor Wileman for the progress being made in response to the representation made by Borough Councillors for action to address speeding issues on Beaufort Road.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks stated that the speed humps on Bretby Lane are ‘vicious’ whereas the humps on Beaufort Road are superficial.

The Chairman suggested someone drive through the chicanes in Abbots Bromley as he felt that was the way forward.

Councillor Conor Wileman said that the shiny surface on the humps was part of the problem.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks suggested it would be more effective if the humps were widened but the Chairman said it was the speed going over them that was causing the damage.

Councillor Cowan asked how many accidents there had been in Bretby Lane but Councillor Conor Wileman said it was a different 'type' of road.

Councillor Conor Wileman went on to say we now have access to funding and we have a short term measure with the speed indicator signs. If, in six months time, we can get a project together to slow the traffic down, he would feel we had done a good job but all these things take time and nothing could be done overnight.

Councillor Bidgood felt the chicane was the best option.

Councillor Conor Wileman said that the Safer Roads Partnership were the best people to advise him and then he could put their proposal to us and Richard Rayson could talk to us from an engineering perspective.

Councillor Arthur Goldstraw agreed that we should leave it to the Highways Engineers.

There was nothing to report in the East Staffordshire Borough Council section from Councillor Colin Wileman.

The Chairman ended this session by proposing that, as from the next Parish Council Meeting to be held on the 19th May, the County and Borough Councillors section will be moved into the main agenda of the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Arthur Goldstraw and all were in favour.

136/16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Judd.

137/16 Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of Interest.

138/16 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting (24 March 2016)

The Council approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the March Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2016. Proposed by Chairman Presley-Brooks and agreed by all.

139/16 Heart of England in Bloom Competition

Councillor Colin Wileman, who is leading the Brizlincote Volunteers team, said that Paul Steed and Phil Lawford from East Staffordshire Borough Council were going to identify areas to place wildflowers. These would include the area at the end of Grafton Road.

The wildflowers in Trevallion Way had now been set – the area has been rotivated and seeded as well as the area opposite the school. The beds in Clay Street are still to be worked on. Councillor Bidgood said the top of Beaufort Road has been rotivated. The next Heart of England in Bloom action day for the Brizlincote Volunteers was to take place on Sunday 24th April, the volunteers to meet at 1pm in Hargate Road to work on the top bed with rocks on at the top of Brizlincote with the help of Val Burton from the Women's Institute. Councillor Colin Wileman had also been to a meeting of the Women's Institute and addressed them and asked for their help.

Councillor Cowan said he had spent 15 hours clearing away brambles that overlap his garden in Leander Rise from Redwood Woods. He said he had dug out 50 – 60 brambles and substituted them with other plants.

The Clerk reported that she had written to the Co-op on the corner of Woods Lane and suggested we place tubs on the dormant area to the left of the main entrance but no response had been received so far.

139/16 Planning

Nothing had been received on Planning.

140/16 Newsletter

The Council expressed their gratitude to Councillor Cowan for sorting the Newsletters for Distribution.

The Council's thanks and appreciation was also given to Mervyn John who produced our Newsletter for us at short notice and made such a good job.

Mr John has agreed to continue to produce the Newsletter for us and in return for his work it was agreed that a small donation at the end of the year would be made to Winhill PCC. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by all.

Councillor Cowan agreed that he would continue to sort the distribution bundles in future and Councillor Bidgood said he would deliver to all the volunteers.

Councillor Bidgood also said that volunteer Arthur Stone had offered to deliver more.

We had also received an offer to take on delivery of some Newsletters from another resident and it was agreed that Councillor Andrews would contact them. **Action: Councillor Andrews.**

141/16 Tesco Express Signage

The Clerk had written to the agents for the owners again and asked for their Risk Review as the entry and exit to their car park involved a public walk way. The agents still do not feel it is their responsibility and did not feel it was a risk. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the owners of the site. **Action: Clerk**

142/16 Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

143/16 Standing Orders/Good Councillors Guide

The latest issue of Standing Orders and The Good Councillors Guide was issued to each Parish Councillor to read through prior to discussion at our next meeting. **Action: All.**

144/16 Risk Assessment

The annual Risk Assessment was run through by the Clerk. We are still waiting for the Risk Assessment from Violet Way Academy for the areas that affect the Council Meetings.

A discussion also took place regarding the security of the Parish Councillor's data. It was agreed by all that an external hard drive should be purchased and that a lap top should be purchased by the Parish Council for the Clerk to use instead of her own equipment. This was proposed by the Chairman and agreed by all. **Action Clerk.**

145/16 Speedwatch

Now that the weather has improved, Councillor Cowan said they are trying to get a Speedwatch underway.

Winhill Parish Council are also trying to sort out a Speedwatch and they will be approaching Brizlincote.

Councillor Conor Wileman said he would volunteer for Speedwatch and also Ray Faulkener who is the Borough Councillor for Winhill – they propose to have a team of six or seven to cover all the sites prone to speeding motorists.

146/16 Donations

The Chairman had proposed at the last meeting that the Parish Council donate a Memorial Bench to be placed in Stapenhill Cemetery in the children's area. He had looked into costings and said a teak bench would cost about £500. Councillor Ludford-Brooks felt teak was rare to import and suggested oak.

The Chairman suggested a plaque on the bench to say it was donated by Brizlincote Parish Council and to ask our previous Chairman, Geoffrey Willett, to dedicate the bench. Councillor Colin Wileman agreed to speak to Paul Steed at the Cemetery Office about the possibility of doing this. This was proposed by Councillor Ludford-Brooks and seconded by Councillor Bidgood. **Action: Councillor Colin Wileman.**

Councillor Colin Wileman suggested the Parish Council donate tubs for the Heart of England in Bloom competition. These would be placed either side of Brizlincote. This was proposed by Councillor Colin Wileman and seconded by Councillor Bidgood and approved by all.

Councillor Cowan said that the YMCA and Salvation Army are still in need of foods parcels and suggested a donation was made towards these for people in Brizlincote. He suggested £125 each. The Clerk was asked to write to the YMCA and Salvation Army to ascertain if this could be done specifically for Brizlincote. **Action: Clerk.**

147/16 Finance

The Clerk's salary and expenses were approved by the Chairman and agreed by all.

The Clerk asked for approval to use Richard Newton as our Internal Auditor as in previous years. This was approved by all.

148/16 Clerk's and Members' Report

There was nothing reported.

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 19th May 2016 which will commence with the Annual General Meeting in the ITC room at Violet Way Academy and Nursery commencing at 19.00.

Note:

If any Member has any general questions about the Meeting or the associated agenda papers or is unable to attend, he/she is asked to contact Barbara Roe, the Clerk of the Council. Telephone 01283 814648 or email clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk. Correspondence should be sent to 47 Hall Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9BX.