

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council Meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursery on
Thursday 16th June 2016

Present

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

Public

Several Members of the public, Borough Councillor Bernard Peters and Clerk Barbara Roe

Public Session

There was a representation of the local Brizlincote residents who had come to address the Parish Council with their concerns over Japanese knotweed growing in Woods Lane.

Their spokesman was Mr Chris Campbell-Brown. He explained that around two years ago he had found Japanese knotweed growing at the bottom of the garden. He then went on to explain what knotweed was. He stated that the knotweed was growing on two properties and the person whose property it was spreading from said he had been cultivating it for the last 20 years. DEFRA have been treating the knotweed but it is still spreading. The knotweed is now in the brook and the threat is that it could spread along the banks of the brook causing further damage. As it is a criminal offence and illegal under the nuisance act, the police were involved initially but there was nothing they could do about it. On the day of the meeting (16th June 2016), the Council Enforcement Officers had visited the site and said that it is an actual offence under the Criminal Act and confirmed they intend to proceed and ask the gentleman concerned what his intentions are concerning the knotweed. If he does not act and loses the case, he will have to pay the costs. They have asked the Parish Council to write to the Parishioners as they want to keep the pressure on.

Borough Councillor Bernard Peters advised the meeting that he had been approached some weeks ago and agreed with what had been stated. He said that any required action was likely to take time, suggesting that certain activities would not happen overnight. An enforcement letter would be issued the following week and, providing the Parishioner opens the letter, he will have a timeline to submit his plans and he will have to provide information as to whom the approved contractor would be. He said the Enforcement Officers had confirmed it is knotweed and the Environmental Agency were aware.

Councillor Peters informed the meeting that Winshill have this problem and it is still ongoing after five years.

Councillor Peters said there was a need to keep on top of the problem. He said there is a protocol and a process that must be followed. Councillor Peters and Councillor Colin Wileman will ensure it is maintained at a high priority. He said it is not an offence to have knotweed in your garden but it is an offence to cultivate it. He said canvassing the residents would be a mammoth task but suggested the attendant group of residents do the canvassing and Councillor Peters would be the link for any frustrations they would have. He stressed that the problem would not be resolved overnight.

12/16 – Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Conor Wileman due to holidays.

13/16 – Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared by any member in any matter identified for discussion at the Meeting.

14/16 – Minutes of the previous Meeting (19th May 2016)

The Council approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the May Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held 19th May 2016 – Proposed by Councillor Colin Wileman and seconded by Councillor Arthur Goldstraw.

15/16 – Report by Borough Councillor/s

Borough Councillor Bernard Peters informed the meeting that as both he and Councillor Colin Wileman had been focussing on sorting out the Japanese knotweed problem, they had nothing else to report on.

16/16 – Report by County Councillor

There was no report by Councillor Conor Wileman as he was on holiday.

17/16 – Planning

A planning application had been received for the removal of one lower branch and selective branch reduction to the side of the crown of one Scots Pine tree at Yarrow Close to which there was no objection.

18/16 – Standing Orders/Good Councillor's Guide/Financial Standing Orders

The Chairman suggested we use the dates on the original existing Standing Orders. Councillor Arthur Goldstraw proposed this and Councillor Ludford-Brooks seconded.

Councillor Arthur Goldstraw proposed we adopt the existing Financial Standing Orders, this was seconded by Councillor Cowan and all were in favour. **Action: Clerk to send a copy of existing Financial Standing Orders to all Councillors.**

Councillor Cowan queried submission of motions – this refers to written motions or something that may come up in a meeting to give the public an opportunity to attend. Councillor Cowan asked if the Clerk made the decision as to what was to go on the Agenda and was told she did not.

19/16 - Heart of England in Bloom

Councillor Colin Wileman wished to thank everyone who had been involved. He said the beds were all done apart from the bottom bed which would be done on the 26th June. Councillor Wileman asked for continuing support and said that some of the beds belonged to the WI who had given us continued support. He was about to start planting the bed at the top of Ashby Road and said he had received good 'vibes' from members of the public. He had trimmed down the daffodils and East Staffordshire Borough Council via their contractor English Landscapes would be cutting the grassed area shortly.

Councillor Andrews asked what was happening about the area at the bottom of Clay Street which Councillor Wileman had said would be sorted. Councillor Wileman said that with the limited support he had, he had not been able to cover everywhere in the short time we had. Councillor Andrews commented on the length of the grass and Councillor Wileman said the contractors were only contracted to do so many cuts per year.

Councillor Goldstraw said he would like to personally thank Councillor Colin Wileman for all his hard work for the Heart of England in Bloom Competition.

20/16 – Committees

It was agreed at the meeting in May that the Committee members remain the same with the exception that new Councillors needed to be included. The following proposals were made and seconded.

Greenspaces and Brizlincote in Bloom

Councillor Bob Bidgood proposed by Chairman Paul Presley-Brooks and seconded by Councillor Vera John.

Councillor John Hoddy – proposed by Councillor Goldstraw and seconded by Councillor Vera John

Greenspaces only – Councillor Cowan (as before).

It was decided that we needed a new Committee for Heart of England in Bloom, it was agreed by all that Councillor Colin Wileman and Councillor Robin Ludford-Brooks run this Committee.

Councillor Peters reported that William Read, who is on our Parish Emergency Plan Committee, no longer worked for East Staffordshire Borough Councillor. He suggested the Clerk contact Andrea Davies at the Council for a new suggested contact.

Action: Clerk to contact Andrea Davies.

21/16 - Annual Survey

The forms had been circulated to all the Councillors prior to the meeting.

Councillor Cowan said the idea was to report any areas of concern such as deteriorating street names and out of date or illegible road signs, low overhanging branches over footpaths, items that may have been 'dumped' etc.

Once the forms have been returned to the Clerk and the information collated, the Parish Council will run through the information and decide what needs to be reported to East Staffordshire Borough Council or the Highways Department. This will be discussed on the September Agenda. The survey should include the status of the grit bins. **Action: Councillors to submit the survey forms to the Clerk and Clerk to include in September's agenda.**

Councillor Peters mentioned the shortage of litter bins and suggested we could include this and ask for more. The Clerk stated that this had been carried out in last year's survey and the Parish Council had been told that East Staffordshire Borough Council felt that we had an adequate amount.

Councillor Bidgood reported that some items on last year's survey had still not been carried out – such as the trees near Tesco which are almost hanging down on the road. The trees belong to the house owners and he asked if we could have a word with them. Councillor Wileman said someone had cleared one part and Councillor Bidgood asked if we could write to the house owners. He also asked if they were aware the trees were their property. Councillor Cowan said the Parish Council had written to them in the past. Councillor Arthur Goldstraw asked if they were a danger to the public, if so he said it is up to the local authority to let them know they are violating the law. Councillor Wileman said he had spoken to both Mike Hovers and Philip Lawford of East Staffordshire Borough Council and they informed him that unless they are causing a serious danger they would not do anything. Councillor Peters said he would look into the matter. **Action: Councillor Peters.**

22/16 – Newsletter

It was agreed that the next Newsletter would go to print in September. The editorial closing date would be 1st August 2016.

The Chairman suggested we invite someone to write an article for us.

23/16 - Brizlincote in Bloom

It was agreed that the judging date would be Sunday 26th June and the Clerk would inform the entrants of the new date and timings of the judging. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman proposed that next year we introduce more items in the competition such as a scarecrow competition and best dressed wheelbarrow. This will be discussed at length at a later meeting.

Councillor Bidgood kindly agreed to collect the plaques from last year's winners. **Action: Councillor Bidgood.**

24/16 - Clerk's pc and equipment

Following the annual risk assessment, the Clerk produced information on her pc equipment. She agreed that the best way forward was to continue to use her laptop and printer but suggested that the monthly £5 allowance paid for this use which included phone and broadband should be increased.

The Clerk also produced information on an external hard drive to safeguard the Parish Council's electronic files. It was agreed by all she should purchase the hard drive at a cost of about £40 and claim the expense back from the Council. **Action: Clerk**

25/16 - Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

26/16 – Finance

Councillor Ludford-Brooks proposed that the Clerk's salary and expenses and the PAYE should be paid and Councillor Bidgood seconded the payments.

The Clerk produced the audit sheet to be sent to Grant Thornton for the Annual Audit, Councillor Arthur Goldstraw proposed the Parish Council agree to the sheet being submitted and Councillor Bidgood seconded. **Action: Clerk**

27/16 – Clerk and Members Reports

Councillor Judd reported that the bin for dog foul waste disposal in Spring Terrace Road is full and piled high and smells really badly. Councillor Colin Wileman said he would report this. **Action: Councillor Colin Wileman.**

Councillor Cowan met with Andy Mason from East Staffordshire Borough Council to discuss potential options for a labyrinth on the green open space off Beaufort Road and will advise further in due course.

Action: Councillor Cowan

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on THURSDAY 21st July 2016.

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@brizlinote-pc.org.uk. Correspondence should be sent to 47 Hall Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9BX.