

BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of Brizlincote Parish Council meeting held at Violet Way Academy and Nursey on Thursday
24th March 2016

Present

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

Public

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

124/16 Public Session

As County Councillor Conor Wileman had to attend another meeting which would mean he could not arrive until later, it was agreed by all that he could submit his report in the main meeting due to the importance of his feedback on Beaufort Road and the parking changes in Violet Way.

Borough Councillor Colin Wileman reported that a resident of Betony Road had contacted him to complain about ball games being played in the area and graffiti on a wall. Councillor Colin Wileman had contacted the local PCSO and also said he would keep an eye on the situation.

He reported that there had been yet another accident on Hargate Road/Beaufort Road with a vehicle colliding with a lamp post – this had been reported to County Councillor Conor Wileman.

Councillor Colin Wileman reported that work had now started on working towards our entry into Heart of England in Bloom. The team, which Councillor Wileman is still building up, is to be called Brizlincote Volunteers and work has already started on an area at the bottom of Grafton Road near Woods Lane.

Councillor Cowan asked if East Staffordshire News was still published and Councillor Colin Wileman said it was no longer distributed but a copy can be requested from East Staffordshire Borough Council or at Burton Town Hall.

Councillor Cowan also suggested vegetable planting with a sign saying 'when it grows help yourself'. He made reference to the vegetable bed belonging to East Staffordshire Borough Council that used to be outside Costa Coffee in Burton Town centre with the above sign and suggested this could possibly be an idea to explore.

Councillor Cowan stated there were hardly any bluebells anywhere – Councillor Ludford-Brooks said there were some in Grafton Road.

125/16 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Arthur and Ruth Goldstraw and Borough Councillor Bernard Peters.

126/16 Declaration of Interest

There was a discussion as to whether or not Councillors Cowan and Hoddy should leave the meeting whilst County Councillor Conor Wileman discussed the new Parking areas for Violet Way Academy as they both lived in roads affected by the new plan. After considerable debate during which Councillor Cowan offered his resignation. The Chairman reminded Councillor Cowan that he (the Chairman) had to step out of a meeting when the Solar Farm was being discussed and this was because he lived in the road that could be affected. It was eventually decided they could stay in the meeting for that section but not contribute to its content.

127/16 Minutes of the previous Council Meeting (18th February 2016)

The Council approved as a correct record, the Minutes of the February Parish Meeting held on 18th February 2016. Proposed by Vice Chairman Judd and seconded by Chairman Presley-Brooks.

128/16 Heart of England In Bloom Competition

It was agreed by all that, to avoid confusion, it should be given its full title of Heart of England in Bloom.

Councillor Judd asked if it would be part of Brizlincote in Bloom. Councillor Colin Wileman informed him it was a separate competition and not a Parish one that would cover the whole Parish including shops and businesses and not just individual gardens but it would be run alongside Brizlincote in Bloom. He said it was hoped that some of the entrants into Brizlincote in Bloom would be interested in helping the Brizlincote Volunteers working on Heart of England in Bloom.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks said he had not seen a copy of the notes sent out by the Clerk on the initial Heart of England Competition meeting attended by Councillor Colin Wileman and the Clerk at the Stapenhill Cemetery Office. The Clerk agreed to forward him the notes. **Action: Clerk**

The cost to enter the competition in the Urban Sector would be a one off fee for this year of £55 and all agreed we would pay this fee. **Action: Clerk**

129/16 Planning

Nothing had been received on Planning.

Councillor Cowan asked where a member of the public could enquire about a planning query. Councillor Colin Wileman said that we could put the query to a Borough Councillor.

130/16 Newsletter

As Graham Lomas is no longer able to produce the Newsletter for us, the options were discussed on how we proceed. Councillor Hoddy and Councillor Andrews had both volunteered to attempt producing the Newsletter but neither had Publisher on their PCs or any experience with the package.

Councillor Cowan was requested by the Chairman to contact Graham Lomas to enquire if he would help 'train' Councillors Hoddy and Andrews for a fee and then the Council could purchase Publisher for their use. Councillor John said her husband has experience in producing Newsletters and she would ask if he could help. **Action: Councillor Cowan and Councillor John**

The Clerk was reminded to provide costings on advertisements for the future Newsletters. The Chairman said local charities would then receive the proceeds from the advertisements. Another suggestion was that we purchase a memorial bench which could be placed in the children's area of Stapenhill Cemetery. This of course would depend on permission being granted. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Ludford-Brooks suggested we could advertise on the Streetlife website.

131/16 Tesco Express Signage

The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Carter Towler, the agents for the owner of the site. They had stated they did not feel it was their responsibility to install any signs other than those already on the tarmac. The last quote they had received for further signage was £500 which would have to be taken out of the Service Charge paid by the businesses on the site and they felt this was unfair. The Clerk was asked to write back to Carter Towler and ask for their Risk Assessment as the Entry and Exit involved a public pathway and could be considered a danger to the public if cars were not expected to exit the car park via the entrance. It was agreed that the Parish Council were happy to pay half towards the cost of more visible signage but needed some input from the landowners/agents. **Action: Clerk**

This was proposed by Vice Chairman Judd and seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks asked if we could serve a notice to the Highways to force action.

Councillor Bidgood suggested we ask each of the tenants on the site to pay towards the cost.

Councillor Cowan also suggested that signs before the roundabout and the exit to be erected to indicate the entry point.

132/16 Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

133/16 Finance

The Clerk's salary and expenses were approved by the Chairman and seconded by the Vice Chairman.

The Clerk reported that there had been an error on the Precept Figure requested which had resulted in a rise in the Parish Council Tax rate. The figure should not have included the ESBC grant. It was agreed by all that we urgently needed to put the funding to good use within the Parish. **Action: All**

The Chairman proposed, we pay for a memorial bench with a plaque in the Children's area at Stapenhill Cemetery and Councillor John seconded – voted in favour depending on cost. The Clerk was asked to look into the costings of such a bench. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Andrews suggested we could offer financial support in some way to the Greenhouse at the Cemetery. The staff there are training pupils from Fountains School in Stretton and some of them help out in the shop and also the planting within the greenhouse and certain areas for Heart of England in Bloom. This could lead to them attaining an NVQ.

This was proposed by Vice Chairman Judd and seconded by the Chairman subject to further investigation with the Cemetery Office by Councillor Colin Wileman. **Action: Councillor Colin Wileman**

It was suggested that, in the next Newsletter, we ask for people applying for grants to come forward to see if we can offer any financial assistance. **Action: To be discussed when the next Newsletter is on the Agenda**

Report by County Councillor Conor Wileman

It had been agreed at the commencement of the meeting that County Councillor Conor Wileman could give his report in the main meeting. This was because he had to attend a prior meeting and would be late arriving. It was considered that his report on the Hargate/Beaufort Road problem was vital to the meeting.

Councillor Conor Wileman understands that what has been done in the past is not enough and something must be done.

Councillor Andrews suggested a radar speed sign attached to a lamp post, the type she was suggesting could be moved around the area. She had looked into costings and it would cost £2,800 + VAT each. Councillor Andrews also suggested a chicane, the Chairman agreed this was good idea.

The Chairman suggested a wider chicane and also said perhaps one could be placed at each end of the road. Councillor Cowan added that perhaps three chicanes would be a better choice, but not short ones. Councillor Conor Wileman thought this to be a good idea.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks asked if the accidents occurred involved vehicles coming from Ashby Road. Councillor Bidgood said the first two were cars going up to Ashby Road and the third coming down.

Councillor Ludford-Brooks said parking in Winshill next to a chicane made them dangerous.

Deputy Chairman Judd said he agreed with Councillor Andrews idea and Councillor Colin Wileman said he felt we would need two.

Councillor Conor Wileman said he thought the speed signs would cost between £5,000 and £6,000 but he would not have ample funds in his budget to cover the costs. All were in agreement that the Parish Council should cover any shortfall from their funds but no formal motion was raised or made.

It was left with Councillor Conor Wileman to investigate further and report back to the Parish Council at the next meeting. **Action: County Councillor Conor Wileman**

Councillor Conor Wileman also reported on the new Violet Way parking scheme. Councillor Cowan said that it was good to hear it was getting sorted.

The Clerk had been asked to complete a form and return it to the Senior Highways Engineer at Stafford by 4th April informing them of our approval. Deputy Chairman Judd proposed we approve the scheme and all were in agreement. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Cowan asked about a dip in the number of police and stated that for another few pence per household per week on County charges we could have more.

The Clerk had received a complaint from a Parishioner about the barrier that had been removed following an accident opposite Violet Way Academy on the corner of Greenvale Close. The Parishioner had stated it was exactly where the lollipop man stood. Councillor Conor Wileman said he would look into it, he was aware it was with Highways to be replaced but not sure when as they were so busy. **Action: County Councillor Conor Wileman**

It was noted that the two grit bins that should have refilled before the winter and were missed, were still empty despite repeated requests for them to be filled.

It was also reported that there were still temporary barriers on Stapenhill Road. Councillor Conor Wileman said a full audit was being carried out on the barriers and that there had been 14 accidents there in the last year.

134/16 Clerk's and Members' Report

Councillor Cowan reported that the tenancy on the Claverhouse Allotments on Scalpcliffe Road had now been extended to 2020.

Councillor John reported that the litter inside the empty shop near the Co-op and chip shop in Woods Lane was now piled as high as the letter box. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the fire brigade and Councillor Conor Wileman informed her the contact name was Peter Hyde. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Bidgood reported that the cable on the downhill side of Beaufort Road, which was previously reported as being dangerous as it ran through the trees, was now "slack". Whilst still going through the trees, it was not being stretched and therefore not, in his opinion in danger of breaking. The cable is a life line cable (telephone cable) which he had discovered goes to a house where the resident has had a serious heart surgery. This would be used in the event of him being in need of vital medical treatment at any time of day or night.

Councillor Hoddy reported that there was a tree down between Greenvale and Violet Way. The Clerk was requested to contact Andy Mason. **Action: Clerk**

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 21st April in the ITC room at Violet Way Academy and Nursery commencing at 19.00.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 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.