**BRIZLINCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING**

**1ST OCTOBER 2020, 6.00 PM**

**VIA THE PLATFORM ZOOM**

**Present:** Cllr L Campion, Chair, A Cowan, Vice Chair, K Hyde, B Bidgood, B Marsden, R Page, B Judd, R Ludford-Brooks, W Qneibi, S Moss

**In attendance:** Mrs K Lear, Locum clerk

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council. No members of the public were present at this meeting.**

**1/3 - Apologies**

 None received

**2/3 - Declarations of Interest**

 None received

**3/3** - **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chair invited Cllr Judd to present to council his proposals on why the parish council should consider a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Judd advised that ESBC had a statutory duty to give advice and assistance if the parish council embarked on a Neighbourhood Plan. This would involve activities like mapping, referendum costs etc. Cllr Judd confirmed that the parish council could receive up to £9K in funding towards the project also. He had concerns as to what a Parish plan would cost the parish and what support was available. He also felt that ESBC would have to take note of Neighbourhood Plan policies which he felt the parish council currently did not have. He also felt that a number of other parish councils had a Made Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Ludford-Brooks stated that whatever option is selected, the parish council needed to be clear on what was needed for the parish. He felt that policies were needed going forward to assist the parish council in meeting its goals. Due to the lack of land which is at risk of development, Cllr Ludford-Brooks favoured a parish plan.

Cllr Hyde advised members that a questionnaire had been sent out to all residents as part of the parish plan. She confirmed that all matters raised fitted in with a parish plan not a neighbourhood plan. There was a discussion about the questioning techniques used although it was agreed that additional open questions were asked to obtain wider thoughts from residents. It was noted that a neighbourhood plan would not stop development. It was noted that some of the perceived land for development within the parish was green belt land.

Cllr Cowan felt that Neighbourhood plans were being promoted by central government and as such it was not mandatory that a neighbourhood plan was pursued. He also noted that the planning authority made the ultimate decisions in relation to planning and that the parish council were only a consultee. He said that it is up to the parish council ultimately, however switching to a Neighbourhood Plan is more complicated and more involved and will take up more personal time and won’t necessarily prove to be any more beneficial than a consultation document.

Cllr Campion gave all members an opportunity to ask questions to ensure that the initiative was discussed by all parties in detail.

It was noted that a Neighbourhood plan would take approximately 18 months to 2 years which is a similar time scale as a Parish plan.

There was constructive debate with all members who in general supported a parish plan being compiled rather than a neighbourhood plan.

There were concerns in how to engage with residents and it was suggested that local groups within the parish needed to be consulted to give feedback as a possible way forward. Bottom up questioning members felt were very productive and worth while.

Cllr Hyde felt that she had summarised her thoughts already in relation to the initiatives. She felt the parish council should make better use of the documents that are already available and read through the examples from her research circulated already.

It was agreed that Cllr Judd should submit his proposal.

Cllr Judd proposed that the parish council determine whether they wished to proceed by having a neighbourhood plan.

The proposal was defeated 1 for, 9 against.

Members agreed that it was important to engage with all groups within the parish as part of the parish plan consultations. Research into any possible funding streams for a parish plan was also expressed. It was noted that it was important that parish councillors in their capacity as local residents supported the parish plan initiative.

An action plan with key timescales was also discussed as possible approaches to keep the focus on a Brizlincote parish plan.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and wished them a good evening.

Signed: …………………………………………………. (Chair)

Date: ……………………………………………………