

## **MINTUES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2022, AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE GLEBE**

Present: Cllrs L Campion, A Cowan, R Ludford-Brooks, R Page, B Bidgood, J Trivedy, W Qneibi, B Marsden, B Judd, County Cllr C Wileman, Mrs K Lear

- 1/21-4-22 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2/21-4-22 Minutes of the meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were approved as an accurate record and the Chair signed them accordingly.
- 3/21-4-22 Annual report of the parish council by the Chair of the Parish Council and the Responsible Financial Officer were received.

The Chair gave a report to all members on what has been achieved this financial which was accepted by members.

### **Chair's Report Annual Parish Meeting 2022- April 21st**

The year has not been without several challenges to the Parish ; these include Speeding issues and related road safety, dog fouling, litter, and anti-social behaviour as well as evidence of pre-meditated crime. The Parish Council have been consulting with our Borough councillors, County councillor and Staffordshire Police to see what actions can be taken to alleviate these issues.

On a more positive note, I am delighted to say that I have been genuinely humbled by the generosity shown by many people over the last year and by the willingness of various individuals and bodies to offer their time and resources to the Parish Council .

- On behalf of us all at the council I would like to thank all our volunteers who include those who help with newsletter delivery, care of flower beds , planting bulbs, additional watering of the Nordic tree while it becomes established and the watering of planters etc. Many individuals have donated their time and effort in volunteering to help at e.g. The Music competition, and in relation to the Nature Walk and Family Nature walk by undertaking surveys, donating time and resources, and offering additional support and constructive help in excess of their contracted employment. Thank you to all who help and are too numerous to mention individually.

Several businesses have generously offered their services free of charge to enable us to complete both our larger projects (and also some smaller ones) in a professional manner and at no cost to the Parish Council ; additionally, donations have been forthcoming and the response to our enquiries has at times, been truly astonishing. Support from those shops and sole traders who we have

approached (both local and slightly further afield) is also recognised.

As councillors we are also volunteers who are donating by offering many the many activities during the last year has been noteworthy as we have worked in co-ordination to work towards our goals.

During the last year and following the resignation of our long-standing Clerk and as a replacement for the interim locum, we have recruited a new permanent parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer ; we would like to thank the Clerk for her work in directing and facilitating the council in our endeavours to attain the additional funding sources which have enabled us to progress our projects.

- Grants include £4,000 from the National Forest, £500 through the Staffordshire County Council Climate Change grant, £250 through the ESBC Community Fund grant and £700 from Strata Homes -in addition we have received donations of specialist items from Burton Bridge Brewery, AGC Fabrications and Art Stone Memorials . Overall, these donations and grants total over £6,000 which has been spent in supporting and enabling our projects and thereby resulting in a much lower cost to Brizlincote Parish Council.
- During the last year the Council has Adopted General Power of Competence, moved from a Parish Plan to a Business Plan (to be finalised) , instigated a new Working party in relation to Climate Change Issues and formed a Jubilee Working party to present and collate ideas for the Parish Council's celebrations in relation to Queen Elisabeth's Platinum Jubilee.
- The Parish Council continues to ensure good governance and make changes where appropriate.
- Community engagement events included Brizlincote in Bloom, the East Side Arts Competition, and the new East Side Instrumental Music Competition – all of these events being promoted to encourage a sense of community involvement and belonging – the latter two being a co-ordination via local schools amongst our younger population. The decision was taken to approach a local group who were running a competition which was like the Christmas lights extravaganza with a view to their absorbing both into one event and they agreed the hand -over from ourselves. In addition, we have produced and delivered our usual two annual newsletters
- A contractor has been appointed to work monthly in order to continue the work undertaken improving and maintaining a section of the Nature Walk for ease of access.
- Brizlincote Parish Council have implemented the following over the last year and especially since Covid restrictions have been relaxed:

a) 3 Benches have been situated throughout the Parish to enable residents to sit and relax whilst enjoying the beautiful views of the Parish.

b) A Nordmann Fir tree has been installed to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and with the intention to provide a focal point at e.g., Christmas

c) The Time Capsule was sealed and contains a record of local experiences during the last two years.

d) Approximately 200 Bluebell bulbs have been planted in the Tall Trees area.

e) The Brizlincote Family Nature Walk phase 1 has been completed.

This includes 5 picnic benches, including ease of access, wheelchair friendly, child sized and standard benches; 3 oak rubbing posts ;1 colourful and educational Interpretation board; 4 Bat boxes, 16 Bird boxes, ( schools have been contacted to request help with monitoring); wood Stepping logs and the start of arboretum style tree labelling. We are currently working on phase 2. I am pleased to advise that we have been included in the National Forest Walking Festival with two walks taking part within our area. Several surveys on local biodiversity have taken place monitoring the area.

f) 8 Apple trees have been planted in the Community Orchard.

We look forward to the next year and working towards the completion of existing projects and the introduction future ideas which we hope will increase the enhancement of Brizlincote Parish for the benefit of our residents.

Financial report:

The RFO reminded members that the parish council received £7.77 per dwelling for Band D properties in Brizlincote, some dwellings will pay slightly more and some slightly less.

This equates to less than £1 per month per dwelling that residents contribute to the parish council.

It was noted that parish councils are a statutory body and have statutory running costs before visual improvements can be demonstrated to local residents.

Financial highlights

Income this financial year which included precept along with grants, etc = £24726.55

Expenditure = £30658.60 of which £18670.69 were projects

End of year balance 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 = £46727

4/21-4-22 No residents attended the meeting.

Signed: .....

Dated:.....