



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 11th March 2010 at 7.00 pm
in the Community Centre, Baneberry Drive, Featherstone

Present: F Beardsmore, M Beardsmore, K Nightingale, D Hill, J Beardsmore, J Brindle,
R Tucker, and B Pickering.

In Attendance: District Councillor R Cope.
R Young, Clerk to the Council.

1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No matters were raised.

2) POLICE MATTERS

The following matters were mentioned:

- Both officers off duty at the same time.
- No report given to Parish Council.
- Damage to fencing and lighting column at Community Centre.
- Gang of youths carry out damage to property in Featherstone.
- PCSO has been more visible in the parish recently.
- The Clerk to contact Sgt Cooke to arrange a meeting.
- The Clerk reported that Mark Jones had referred any queries regarding the problems on gypsy sites to District Councillor R Cope.
- M Jones also confirmed to the Clerk that South Staffordshire District Council was not in favour of PCSO's or police officers issuing dog fouling penalties.

3) VILLAGE AGENT

G Hughes, Amy Reynolds and Mia Reynolds mentioned the following:

- Gave details of current projects and the need for lights around the cage.
- Amy and Mia Reynolds gave details of a visit by a Government officer.

- J Brindle outlined the cost of repairs to make good damage to the Community Centre.
- F Beardsmore thanked Amy and Mia for attending and gave details of recent incidents which have given everyone a bad name. Also requested the Village Agent to “target” the young people carrying out the damage in the parish.
- Dan Norris, MP, to be involved with a community walk in the parish and will give a talk on “Health and Equality in Rural Areas”.
- G Hughes reported that during the next two weeks he should receive a decision regarding the “Playbuilder” submission.

4) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors J Brindle, F Beardsmore, and J Beardsmore declared an interest in relation to matters concerning or relating to Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.

5) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Brindle and M Griffiths.

6) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2010

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th February 2010 be approved as a true and correct record.

Resolved:

- **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th February 2010.**

7) MATTERS ARISING

7.1) Chapel Ramp

Councillors commented there were concerns regarding the new ramp as follows:

- Quality of work.
- Materials used, ie: slabs.
- Not in character with the building.
- Turning space for motorised wheelchair.
- Have Health and Safety been consulted?
- Have original plans been changed?
- Is ramp “fit for purpose”?

7.2) Deposit – South Staffordshire Council

The Clerk confirmed that the £50K deposit had been transferred by South Staffordshire District Council into the Parish Council's bank account with Lloyds TSB and that this amount was in a deposit account.

7.3) Parking in Hilton Road (10th September 2009)

The Clerk reported that Graham Read had stated he would request Les Caine to contact Councillor D Hill. D Hill said there was a need to have regular meetings with the Housing Association.

7.4) Brewood and Coven Parish Council

The Clerk reported that the Clerk of Brewood and Coven Parish Council would confirm prospective dates for a meeting.

District Councillor R Cope gave a detailed review of gypsy site planning applications.

7.5) Road Sweeper (21st January 2010)

The Clerk reported details of visits to the parish by the road sweeper were outstanding from S Poyser of South Staffordshire District Council.

8) PLANNING

8.1) Applications for Consideration

- 10/00051/COU
Change of use of land to extend transit licence by ten additional plots.
Fish Ponds Caravan Site, New road, Featherstone
- 10/00117/FUL
Erection of close-boarded timber fence with concrete posts within the rear garden.
20 East Road, Brinsford
- 10/00129/FUL
Replacement of existing commercial building with single storey dormer security dwelling.
Land to the east of Paradise Lane, Slade Heath, Wolverhampton

8.2) Decisions Received

No decisions had been received.

8.3) Other Planning Matters

- Bickfords
Email from David Pattison giving details of the current position regarding Bickfords and the use by La Farge of the Paradise Lane site. Also explained the options available such as Enforcement Notice, Stop Notice, Temporary Stop Notice, and Planning Injunction.
- Meeting of Councillors B Pickering, R Tucker, R Cope and F Beardsmore to review all aspects of the gypsy site planning application.

The following matters were reviewed:

- Contact with C Heminsley (Enforcement at South Staffordshire District Council) and report on his visit to the site.
 - Reviewed consideration pitches required.
 - Basis of case against application reviewed.
 - Appeal to be heard 17th March 2010 at South Staffordshire District Council.
- Councillor F Beardsmore and District Councillor R Cope gave details of a recent District Council meeting when the prison development was discussed further.

Councillor B Pickering commented that the provision of 1,000 parking places and disabled parking had not been thought out correctly, especially as the disabled parking is a distance from the prison. County Councillor M Lawrence confirmed that the proposal to close Dark Lane had been abandoned.

9) CLERK'S REPORT

9.1) Dog Fouling Signs

The Clerk reported that John Littleton of South Staffordshire District Council had confirmed that he had received four of the six dog fouling signs requested. Councillors to confirm the preferred locations for the signs.

9.2) Featherstone Prison

The Clerk reported that the Governor's Secretary had proposed 9th April 2010 for the next meeting. Councillors F Beardsmore, D Hill, B Pickering and District Councillor R Cope to attend.

10) REPORT OF MEETINGS INCLUDING COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

a) County Councillor M Lawrence

County Councillor M Lawrence gave details of the following:

- Sand and gravel extraction in Staffordshire and meeting of West Midlands Regional Assembly.

b) District Councillor R Cope

District Councillor R Cope mentioned the following:

- Attend meeting with Chief Constable and Sir Patrick Cormack.
- Recruitment of Special Constable from the community. Options were reviewed.
- Gave details of a speed monitoring gun which could be purchased by a group of Parish Councils.

11) HIGHWAY MATTERS (INCLUDING ROAD SIGNS AND NOTICES AND MOTORWAY / A460 J1), PLUS HIGHWAY AGENCY M54

- The Clerk referred Councillors to an email received from Mark Keeling:

Grit Bins – Turnstone and Baneberry Drive

No criteria to install a grit bin at these locations. Councillor J Beardsmore commented there was a risk of the bus colliding with houses in bad weather conditions.

Grit Bin – Old Lane

Suggested grit bin 28 metres away is placed at the junction of Old Lane which would then serve the senior citizen bungalows.

Brookhouse Lane – East Road

Agreed surface is in a poor condition although non-urgent. Junction will be re-surfaced shortly. Councillor R Tucker commented the surface is in very poor condition. M Lawrence agreed to raise the matter again.

Paradise Lane

Overall condition reasonable although ride quality near junction is poor. Not listed for patching but will review with D Wright.

M54 Island

No car debris found on the island.

Ponding opposite petrol station on A460

Will arrange to have gullies cleaned and jetted.

South Crescent – One Way

Matter on the Divisional Highways Programme for discussion at the next Development Plan meeting.

Hobnock Road by Essington Fruit Farm

Spoken to owner of farm land regarding mud and stones on road.

- The following matters were raised:

Shops at Featherstone

Councillor R Tucker asked if a grit bin could be put by the shops. Councillor M Lawrence said it is the responsibility of the shop owner.

Councillor D Hill asked why other parishes receive better quality work from the highways.

The Clerk to order one additional grit bin.

Footpaths – Review

The Avenue received no improvements for 30 years. M Lawrence agreed re-surfacing was needed. The Avenue is well used whereas proposed re-surfacing of Brookhouse Close is not logical as no great usage. M Lawrence said that re-surfacing of Brookhouse Close was an engineering decision.

Brookhouse Lane

F Beardsmore commented that the top course never put on to Brookhouse Lane. Councillor D Hill said Brookhouse Lane is the worst in the village. Councillors consider that expenditure on Brookhouse Close would be wasted and Brookhouse Lane should be given priority. M Lawrence agreed to arrange a meeting with D Wright of Staffordshire County Council Highways. The Clerk was requested to write to Mike Maryon, Cabinet Member for Highways at Staffordshire County Council regarding the Brookhouse Close / Brookhouse Lane decision.

Name Signs

The Clerk to contact D Wright regarding progress with new name signs for Featherstone and Brinsford.

Community Gangs

Mark Keeling confirmed that Featherstone had been allocated three days from 2nd June 2010, 4th October 2010 and 24th January 2011.

12) FIRST RESPONDERS (8th November 2007)

This matter was put in abeyance until the next meeting.

13) MILE WALL (12th June 2008)

Email from N Glasper of the Highways Agency confirming the business case for improvements has been approved and Smiths Gore has been instructed to proceed with the works.

14) PARKING AND DRAINS IN HILTON ROAD (10th September 2009)

This matter had already been discussed.

15) BRIGHTEN UP THE VILLAGE plus ADDITIONAL PLANTERS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (8th November 2007)

- The Clerk reported he had submitted an entry to the Best Kept Village Competition for 2010.
- Councillors K Nightingale and B Pickering walked the grounds around the Community Centre and mentioned the following:
 - Ground etched away around fence.
 - Water flowing from doctor's car park.

- Rented properties also need fence repairs.
- Bench needs repair.
- Noticeboard needs attention.

➤ Hanging Baskets		
Community Centre	-	6
School	-	7
Shops	-	8
TOTAL	-	21

Councillor B Pickering agreed to obtain prices for 21 hanging baskets.

- Planters
Councillor B Pickering agreed to progress the following:
 - Obtain chicken mesh for planter at the chapel.
 - Install planting step on existing planters.
- Chapel – Noticeboard on wall
Councillor J Brindle agreed to review this matter with representatives of the chapel.
- New Noticeboard
It was proposed seconded and agreed that the Clerk should purchase a new noticeboard at a cost of £189.00.

Resolved:

- **That the Parish Clerk purchase a new noticeboard at a cost of £189.00.**
- Bench
Councillor J Beardsmore agreed to request Duncan to repair the bench.
- Additional Matters
Councillor B Pickering to purchase any brackets needed for hanging baskets.
- School Meeting
Councillor R Tucker reported that children made a very good contribution to the meeting at Whitgreave School. Litter pick to be organised.
- Best Kept Garden Competition
Councillor R Tucker to draft advertisement and prize schedule for the next Parish Council meeting.

16) WHITGREAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL – UPDATE / REPORTS (13th December 2007)

This matter had already been reviewed.

17) WEBSITE (9th January 2008)

The Clerk reported he had collated information to be passed to South Staffordshire District Council.

18) DOG WARDEN (9th January 2009)

The Clerk reported that in Lichfield and Tamworth it was being progressed for PCSO's and police officers to issue fixed penalties for the offence of dog fouling. M Jones of Staffordshire Police had mentioned that South Staffordshire District Council is not in favour of such a policy.

The Clerk to enquire with J Littleton of South Staffordshire District Council regarding whether the policy of members of Staffordshire Police being empowered to issue penalties for dog fouling will be introduced in the future. District Councillor R Cope agreed to make enquiries on this subject.

19) SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HOUSING ASSOCIATION (10th July 2008)

The Clerk to provide a copy of the housing survey for Councillor D Hill.

20) BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION (11th September 2008)

District Councillor R Cope reported the matter of the new footpath was progressing.

The Clerk to invite the new Vicar to a meeting of the Parish Council.

21) REVIEW OF FOOTPATHS (9th January 2008)

This matter was ongoing.

22) ROAD SWEEPER (21st January 2010)

The Clerk confirmed he had requested details of the expected road sweeper visits to Featherstone from S Poyser.

23) CORRESPONDENCE

The incoming and outgoing post had been noted.

- Email from Bob Taylor of South Staffordshire District Council stating that the budget for waste bins had been cut and that only existing bins when damaged are being replaced.

F Beardsmore agreed to contact Bob Taylor for a site meeting concerning the need for additional waste bins.

- Letter dated 16th February 2010 from Mike Maryon of Staffordshire County Council explaining that Highways have identified 1,200 new potholes and that an extra £30M is being made available over 3 years to improve highways.
- Letter dated 25th February 2010 from Nick Taylor of South Staffordshire District Council outlining the "Peoples Pub Awards".

- Letter dated 1st March 2010 and schedule from Phil Hardy of South Staffordshire District Council explaining the concessionary travel scheme changes from April 2010.
- Letter dated 22nd February 2010 from P Rochfort of Staffordshire County Council with details of the Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2010 / 2011. Councillors mentioned the bridleway A460 – Shareshill to the top of Elms Lane requires improvements. The Clerk to enquire with P Rochfort regarding who would arrange the work to be carried out.
- Letter dated 8th March 2010 from Hayden Baugh-Jones of South Staffordshire District Council requesting information on allotments in the parish and outlining South Staffordshire Allotment Strategy.

24) DOCTOR'S SURGERY (11th December 2008)

Councillor F Beardsmore reported he had a further meeting with solicitors on Friday 12th March 2010. Also reported that builders will start 2 weeks after 12th March 2010.

25) GROUND MAINTENANCE (10th September 2009)

The Clerk referred Councillors to the letter dated 10th March 2010 from H Meddlicot of South Staffordshire District Council regarding ground maintenance recharge costs. The Clerk to enquire when the first cut of grass will take place and the frequency.

26) FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (9th April 2009)

Councillor J Beardsmore circulated to Councillors a copy of the management accounts for the Community Centre for the period April 2009 – January 2010.

27) FEATHERSTONE PRISON – FINANCIAL BENEFIT (10th September 2009)

Email received from Hayden Baugh-Jones of South Staffordshire District Council stating that consultants are progressing with the survey of Hilton STW and will notify the Parish Council when the results are known.

28) DEFRA – CHEMICAL USAGE ON FIELDS TO THE REAR OF WHITGREAVE (12th March 2009)

Councillor D Hill said he was waiting for a telephone call from Peter Sands.

29) BUS STOP – COMMUNITY CENTRE (12th March 2009)

The Clerk to produce a letter for circulation to residents who may be near or have a bus stop outside their house in Baneberry Drive when the bus service is re-directed.

30) PROBATION SERVICE (12th March 2009)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, commented that a good standard of work had been carried out by the Probation Service in Featherstone. The Clerk to forward a letter of thanks to Bill Harthill.

31) BRINSFORD POST BOX (10th December 2009)

The Clerk to contact Phil Terry of the Post Office regarding the moving of the post box at Brinsford.

32) FUNDING – VILLAGE AGENT (10th December 2009)

The Clerk to forward a letter to D Heywood of South Staffordshire District Council stating that the Parish Council will consider any requests made to support the Village Agent.

33) SPCA – REVISED GRANT AID FORM

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

34) ADDITIONAL CONTAINER (11th June 2009)

Deferred until the next meeting.

35) WAR MEMORIAL (21st January 2010)

This item is ongoing.

36) FUNDING – DROP-IN-CENTRE (21st January 2010)

The following points were mentioned:

- Meeting held which was attended by D Hill, R Cope, and F Beardsmore.
- Architects for prison confirmed they would produce plans for drop-in centre free of charge (Kier Construction).
- Also considered converting the meeting room into a drop-in centre which would reduce costs.
- R Cope mentioned “Secure By Design” scheme as raised by Gordon Scott.

37) CCTV – FHCC (21st January 2010)

F Beardsmore reported that Phil Russon had advised the following:

- Cameras to be located in different positions.
- System should be linked to the monitoring station.
- Gave details of specification needed for new system.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

38) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Cheque Payments

It was proposed, seconded and agreed the following cheques should be issued:

Item	£
R Young (Clerk's Salary – March 2010)	845.00
Veolia Environmental	20.70
R Young (Expenses)	76.00
Audit Commission	470.00
Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre	571.50
TOTAL	£1,983.20

Resolved:

- **That the cheques listed above be authorised.**

b) Audit of Accounts 2008 / 2009

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2010 had been approved by the External Auditor (Audit Commission) with the comment that the accounts in future may be produced on a receipts and payments basis.

39) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE AGENDA

- Bulk Collection
- Fly Tipping

40) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday 8th April 2010.

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor F Beardsmore, thanked all those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman