



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 8th July 2010 at 7.00 pm
in the Community Centre, Baneberry Drive, Featherstone

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

In Attendance: R Young, Clerk to the Council

1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Derek Hughes of Penderell Close reported that West Midlands Police were circulating publications in the parish when the village in Staffordshire. The Chairman, F Beardsmore, said he would take up this matter with Staffordshire Police.
- J Beardsmore reported he had a petition of 60 names regarding the problem of motorbikes coming down the alleyway onto Old Hall Road. The County Council had stated the problem was the responsibility of the Housing Association. It was agreed the police should be asked why they had taken no action when Emma Cooper of South Staffordshire Housing Association had reported the problem to Staffordshire Police. J Beardsmore to forward a copy of the petition to the Clerk.
- The Clerk to check with the Chairman, F Beardsmore, regarding a waste bin which had been installed too high above the ground.
- It was stated that speed humps were needed on Old Hall Road to reduce traffic speeds.

2) APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Tucker, J Hayward, M Lawrence, and District Councillor R Cope.

3) VILLAGE AGENT

No additional matters were raised at the Parish Council meeting.

4) **POLICE MATTERS**

- F Beardsmore confirmed that no police report had been received.
- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported that he and Councillors D Hill and K Nightingale had met Sergeant Cooke of Staffordshire Police. The following points were mentioned:
 - Outlined problems at Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.
 - Confirmed never seen police in the village.
 - Police not inter-reacting with the youth of the parish.
 - Meeting to be arranged with PCSO's and their Sergeant.
- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, gave an update concerning damage to play equipment adjacent to the Community Centre.
- M Griffiths reported two cars had turned into Dark Lane in front of a police car. No action taken.
- Councillor B Pickering said in the future may have to consider a vigilante group.
- F Beardsmore said there was a need to look at the possibility of going into a meeting with the Youth Forum.
- Need public meetings with parents and youngsters on different nights to discuss the problem of damage to the Community Centre (£15K) and play equipment (£5K).
- The Clerk to bring to the attention of Inspector Mark Jones the amount of damage in the parish.

5) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

6) **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2010**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2010 be approved as a true and correct record.

Resolved:

- **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th June 2010.**

7) **MATTERS ARISING**

7.1) **Featherstone Chapel**

- It was proposed, seconded and agreed to install a tap at the chapel at a cost of £130.00 (Avalon Plumbing).

Councillor J Brindle did not vote

Resolved:

- **To install at tap at a cost of £130.00.**

8) **PLANNING**

8.1) **Applications for Consideration**

- 10/00265/FUL
Two storey side extension plus porch and extended canopy to front
24 Dunlin Drive, Featherstone
- 10/00432/FUL
New attached single garage with utility room and toilet to rear and bedroom suite over (re-submission of 10/00265/FUL)
24 Dunlin Drive, Featherstone

8.2) **Applications Approved or Rejected by the District Council**

- No decisions had been received.

8.3) **Other Planning Matters**

- The Clerk to request an update from David Pattinson regarding the Bickfords situation.
- The Clerk to contact Katherine Else of RPS and confirm the following:
 - Require cycling track extension to Brookhouse Lane.
 - Football pitch and changing rooms are fit for purpose and handed over into the ownership of the Parish Council.
 - Permanent vehicular access to the car park / sports field.
- The Clerk referred Councillors to an email from Lucy McDonald of South Staffordshire Council regarding the proposed sale of residential units on Fish Ponds Gypsy site on New Road, Featherstone.

L McDonald and Trading Standards Officers were not allowed access to the site.

This matter to be monitored by South Staffordshire Council, Enforcement Department.

9) **CLERK'S REPORT**

9.1) **Meeting with Member of Parliament**

The Clerk reported that June Sharman had given two options for a meeting with the new Member of Parliament. Councillors B Pickering, J Brindle, F Beardsmore, K Nightingale and D Hill to attend.

9.2) **Bus Service No 10 - Brinsford**

The Clerk requested Councillors to review the email dated 7th July 2010 received from David Heath of Staffordshire County Council, Transport and Planning Unit, plus a letter dated 11th June 2010.

Councillor B Pickering commented that he had spoken to D Heath who had confirmed he had received a letter from an East Road resident complaining about the school bus and not the No 10 service. It was stated it was not acceptable for a service bus to reverse. B Pickering gave an alternative route to D Heath who said their may be an additional cost.

Two options were considered:

- Leave present route for 12 months
- Move back to the previous route

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to leave for 12 months.

Resolved:

- **To leave Route 10 for 12 months.**

10) **REPORT OF MEETINGS INCLUDING COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

a) **Councillor D Hill**

Councillor D Hill reported the following:

- Meeting with Emma Cooper and reviewed over-hanging trees at the school.

b) **District Councillor F Beardsmore**

No meetings to report.

c) **Councillor J Brindle**

Councillor J Brindle reported the following:

- Report on walkabout on 16th June 2010. The Clerk to forward a copy to Highways and the Housing Association.
- The Clerk to request a list of properties owned by the Housing Association in the parish.

11) WAR MEMORIAL (14th January 2010)

Councillor J Brindle reported an article had been produced and forwarded to Graham Hughes.

12) MILE WALL (12th June 2010)

Email from N Glasper dated 22nd June 2010 stating the following:

“Understand that the contractor put on a concrete capping as he feared a cost overrun. Smiths Gore has instructed otherwise and new coping stones are now on order and due for delivery by the beginning of July – anticipated completion date now 16th July 2010.”

The Clerk to chase the installation of all coping stones during August 2010.

The Clerk to contact Steve Does at South Staffordshire District Council regarding the application of TPO's to all trees on the other side of the Mile Wall.

13) WHITGREAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL – UPDATE (13th December 2007)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported a Governor's meeting had been arranged.

14) BRIGHTEN UP THE VILLAGE (8th November 2007)

a) Parish Flowers

- Reviewed procedure for watering hanging baskets and payments to Mr J Stewart.
- F Beardsmore commented that hanging baskets were looking very good, although those at the school were smaller. D Hill commented that he noticed the hanging baskets at the school were not as good as others in the parish.
- B Pickering said it was doubtful the hanging baskets at the school would recover and that their condition should be mentioned at the Governor's meeting. B Pickering said the hanging baskets were looking very good.

b) Featherstone Chapel

- M Griffiths commented that Featherstone Chapel was the worst he had come across with regard to maintenance. Areas mentioned were as follows:
 - Bricks need pointing
 - Plastic over windows yellow
 - Windows falling apart

Also commented the Trustees need to recognise and look at what can be done regarding maintenance. F Beardsmore reported he had received a thank you letter from the Trustees regarding the flowers. It was also reported that the new ramp was now being used.

- B Pickering asked if the rooms at the Chapel could be used by organisations and also asked if the Chapel should use the noticeboard.
- Councillor D Hill commented that the Village Agent could possibly help the Chapel obtain funding.

15) BRINSFORD POST BOX

The Clerk confirmed that the Post Office had said they require 6 weeks to complete their investigations.

16) HIGHWAY MATTERS (INCLUDING ROAD SIGNS AND NOTICES AND MOTORWAY / A460 J1), PLUS HIGHWAY AGENCY, M54 INCLUDING THE JUNCTION OF NEW ROAD AND THE A460

- The Clerk to contact Staffordshire County Council, Highways, regarding the prospect of increased volumes of traffic coming along New Road to the A460 due to the new prison development. As additional prison staff will start from November 2011 and the prison will be completed in the Spring of 2012.
- The Clerk reported that Mark Keeling of Staffordshire County Council, Highways, had confirmed the following:
 - Neighbourhood Team had been asked to trim the roadside of the M54 / A460.
 - Brookhouse Lane / East Road junction – some pothole repair work completed.
 - Signage to stop HGV's travelling through the village – consider there are sufficient signs to indicate the correct route.
- Email copy from M Lawrence confirming details received from James Bailey (Staffordshire County Council) confirming the following:
 - Immediate danger of potholes on Brookhouse Lane / East Road repaired on 21st April 2010.
 - Holistic repairs for this location included on work schedules and should be undertaken within the next 2 – 3 weeks.
- Email copy from Mark Keeling (Staffordshire County Council) to F Beardsmore confirming checks and inspections have been and will be made regarding the large Ash tree outside 99 Hilton Road.

17) DEFRA – WHAT CHEMICALS ARE USED ON THE FIELDS AT THE BACK OF WHITGREAVE SCHOOL (12th March 2009)

The Clerk to continue to obtain the details requested from Mr Sands.

18) FIRST RESPONDERS (8th November 2007)

Councillor M Griffiths reported the following incident statistics:

May 2010	-	29
June 2010	-	36

Also reported one new Responder recruited and 3 in training.

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

Email from John Lancaster confirming that the Housing Association has commissioned an architect to do sketch layouts to see how many housing units could be put on the 3 sites. This detail to be put to planners for comment before reporting to the Parish Council.

The Clerk to request J Lancaster to attend the September 2010 Parish Council meeting to give a detailed update.

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

The letter circulated to residents 4 weeks ago. The Clerk to contact Arriva regarding the change of bus stop confirming a survey of residents had been completed.

21) WEBSITE (9th January 2008)

The Clerk reported the following:

- 6 months minutes included
- Details of garden competition included
- Councillor list also included
- Next stage to include Councillor's photographs

22) FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (9th April 2008)

- J Beardsmore circulated to Councillors a copy of the latest accounts for the Community Centre.
- It was also reported that an insurance assessor would be reviewing the damage to the Community Centre on 12th July 2010.

23) REVIEW OF FOOTPATHS (9th January 2008)

- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported that footpath repairs were in the process of being undertaken/
- The Clerk to request M Lawrence to request that Rabbit Lane is cleared.

24) BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION (11th September 2008)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported the path had been installed and work was ongoing.

25) FEATHERSTONE PRISON – FINANCIAL BENEFIT

This item was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

26) CORRESPONDENCE

The incoming and outgoing post had been noted.

- Letter dated 22nd June 2010 from Dave Heywood, Deputy Chief Executive at South Staffordshire Council detailing a schedule of Locality Member Forum meetings.
- Letter dated 1st July 2010 from Tony Ward, Leisure Services Manager, giving details of Annual Playground Inspections. The Clerk to arrange inspections for Featherstone and Brinsford.
- Letter dated 9th June 2010 from Dave Heywood, Deputy Chief Executive of South Staffordshire Council outlining details of the South Staffordshire Parish Summit to be held on 12th November 2010.
- Letter dated 9th June 2010 from Helen Marshall, Community Safety Co-ordinator at South Staffordshire Council detailing a campaign with regard to South Staffordshire – “a safe place to be”.

27) FUNDING DROP-IN CENTRE (14th January 2010)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, confirmed a meeting had been arranged with Graham Hughes for 2.30 pm on Friday 9th July 2010 at the Community Centre for an update.

28) CCTV – FEATHERSTONE AND HILTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (14th January 2010)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported this matter was ongoing and was being discussed with Staffordshire Police.

29) PARISH CLERK – ERROR LIABILITY (8th July 2010)

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance brokers had confirmed the present insurance policy included an Official's Indemnity Section giving cover up to £250,000.

30) COMPUTERS FOR COUNCILLORS (10th June 2010)

The Clerk to research the option for Councillors to have computers after the election to be held in May 2011. Details of cost for computers and internet to be researched for 2011.

31) FEATHERSTONE CHAPEL – REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE (8th July 2010)

This matter had already been reviewed.

32) FAIRGROUND SITE (8th July 2010)

Councillor K Nightingale reported that the lights from the fairground site were shining into South Crescent. Councillor J Brindle agreed to raise the matter with Mrs Dobson.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

33) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Jigsaws Nursery - Mrs C Edge

- F Beardsmore gave details of Jigsaws use of space at the school and that Jigsaws is a private company. Also said that the school had declined option to run the group.
- The Clerk commented the Parish Council could loan items to Jigsaws.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Parish Council should donate £300 on condition that the Parish Council retain ownership of items purchased.

Resolved:

- **To donate £300 to Jigsaws Nursery (Mrs C Edge) and the Parish Council to retain ownership of items purchased.**

b) Cheque Payments

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

Item	£
Veolia Environmental	117.27
R Young (July / August 2010 salary)	1,690.00
Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre	499.20
R Young (Fixed Expenses)	152.00
J Stewart (Water)	80.00
J Stewart (Water)	80.00
J Stewart (Water)	80.00
Jigsaws Kids Club (Donation)	300.00
TOTAL	£2,998.47

Resolved:

- **To issue the above cheques.**

34) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE AGENDA

- No items were mentioned.

35) **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Thursday 9th September 2010.

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor F Beardsmore, thanked all those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.14 pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman