



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: District Councillor R Cope.
G Hughes.
Three Members of the Public.
R Young, Clerk to the Council.

1) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No matters were raised.

2) **POLICE MATTERS**

It was agreed a meeting should be arranged with Staffordshire Police to discuss the vandalism and damage that has occurred in the parish.

3) **VILLAGE AGENT**

The Village Agent, Graham Hughes, introduced 3 members of the Youth Forum; Becky, Amy and Sarah.

The following matters were mentioned and discussed:

- Problems with youngsters at recent disco.
- Procedure for contacting Councillors.
- Youth Clubs to be held during next month – Tuesday and Wednesday, 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm.
- Becky asked if anything the Youth Forum can do within the village.
- Councillor J Brindle said the Parish Council need to get over the message to some youngsters that if the Community Centre is damaged it costs rates payers.
- The Chairman, Councillor F Beardsmore, said a group of four or five youths were causing damage.

- Councillors agreed a meeting was needed with Staffordshire Police.
- F Beardsmore outlined details of the PCSO not being able to issue parking tickets to vehicles in the parish.
- G Hughes confirmed there was a small amount of bad language from youths when using the school.
- Councillor D Hill suggested there should be greater use of the community centre.
- G Hughes reported Staffordshire Police had attended the youth club to talk on the problems of “stranger danger”.
- G Hughes reported the playbuilder application had been unsuccessful and other bids were being considered.
- R Cope asked if funding was available from the youth bank.
- G Hughes said need to move forward on a youth building.
- The Clerk asked if an option was to involve students at a university with any application.
- G Hughes said there was a need to review application options.
- G Hughes mentioned activity of “Loose Women” with regard to the summer festival to be held on 22nd August 2010.
- “Loose Women” had completed a year of involvement with the youth club.
- G Hughes asked if the Parish Council would consider a donation of £100.00.
- J Brindle commented that publisher details should be included in the newsletter.
- J Brindle also commented the paragraph on the war memorial was very poor. The Clerk said he had drafted this item.
- F Beardsmore said the newsletter was looking very good but was disappointed the church and chapel had not contributed. Also it was agreed more should be included by the school.
- Next newsletter to be published again in 3 months.
- Councillor B Pickering commented that there was no mention of Brinsford in the newsletter.
- The Chairman thanked G Hughes, Amy, Sarah and Becky for attending.

4) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillors J Brindle, D Hill, F Beardsmore, and J Hayward 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 K Nightingale and J Beardsmore.

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

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

Resolved:

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

7) **MATTERS ARISING**

7.1) **Chapel Ramp**

The Clerk to contact T Nichols regarding an update with regard to the quality of work and design.

7.2) **Parking in Hilton Road (10th September 2009)**

Councillor D Hill reported that the drain had been tested and Les Caine had referred to the soakaway in the Community Centre grounds. It was agreed meetings should be arranged to discuss the parking and drainage.

7.3) **Brewood and Coven Parish Council**

Letter dated 23rd March 2010 from Maggie O'Brien stating the District Council's policy regarding gypsy sites was under review and said a meeting between Parish Councils should be deferred until the policy review is completed.

District Councillor R Cope confirmed there was not a need for a meeting at present.

7.4) **Road Sweeper (21st January 2010)**

Letter dated 12th March 2010 from S Poyser of South Staffordshire District Council including a schedule of the frequency of visits to the parish by the road sweeper.

Councillors challenged the frequency of visits and it was mentioned that the road sweeper had never been seen in Brinsford.

The Clerk to write to S Poyser requesting him to contact the Chairman, F Beardsmore, to discuss this matter.

7.5) Dog Fouling Signs

Email from John Littleton of South Staffordshire District Council stating that police can request the District Council to issue dog fouling penalties. The Clerk to request Mark Jones of Staffordshire Police to arrange for police officers and PCSO's to issue dog fouling penalties. The Clerk to mention K Gutteridge with regard to training.

District Councillor R Cope reported he had contacted Staffordshire Police Headquarters who confirmed that PCSO's can issue dog fouling penalties subject to them having appropriate training. Only two tickets had been issued in South Staffordshire District.

7.6) Featherstone Prison

The Clerk to notify the Governor's Secretary that F Beardsmore will not be able to attend the meeting arranged for 9th April 2010 and would be replaced by J Brindle.

7.7) Litter / Waste Bins

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported he would arrange a meeting with Bob Taylor from South Staffordshire District Council to review the litter / waste bins in the parish.

8) PLANNING

8.1) Applications for Consideration

- 10/00051/COU
Change of use of land to extend transit licence by five additional plots.
Fish Ponds Caravan Site, New road, Featherstone
- 10/00129/FUL
Replacement of existing commercial buildings with single storey security dwelling.
Land to the east of Paradise Lane, Slade Heath, Wolverhampton.
- 10/00249/FUL
Two storey extension to side, front and rear.
49 – 51 Penderell Close, Featherstone.
- 10/00051/COU (Amended Plan)
Change of use of land to extend transit licence by five additional plots.
Fish Ponds Caravan Site, New Road, Featherstone.

8.2) Decisions Received

- 09/00928/FUL
Installation of portakabin within existing prison compound for use as drug testing facility.
HMP Featherstone, 1 New Road, Featherstone.

Grant of Planning Permission

- 09/00917/FUL
Construction of garden store.
31 Thistledown Drive, Featherstone.

Grant of Planning Permission

- 10/00065/FUL
Form new dock levellers and three large door openings.
5 Hilton Cross Business Park, Cannock Road, Featherstone.

Grant of Planning Permission

8.3) Other Planning Matters

- Bickfords
Email from David Pattison of South Staffordshire District Council confirming that the Planning Department are chasing Bickfords Agent for documents relating to Goodyear which are outstanding and the District Council would not succeed in taking action whilst this information was outstanding.
- Appeal
Usage of adjoining land as a residential caravan site for 8 gypsy families, each with one static mobile home and car parking at land adjoining Oak Tree Caravan Site, New Road, Featherstone.

Councillors B Pickering and F Beardsmore plus District Councillor R Cope to appeal against Oak Tree Caravan Site. Appeal and original appeal date of 17th March 2010 re-scheduled for 27th April 2010. The following comments were made:

- Letter from Featherstone and Brinsford Parish Council and B Pickering on file, but at least 30 letters from residents have gone missing. District Councillor R Cope to find out how many objections received.
- Letter to be sent to South Staffordshire District Council regarding appeal mentioning the following:
 - Room for appeal too small
 - Inspector had to check that everyone had a copy of District Council's statement
 - Inspector nor applicant had copy
 - Adjourned four times – copies distributed
 - Members of public not informed
 - The Inspector adjourned appeal and commented it was unsound and embarrassing

- Part of case was the anti-social behaviour of site residents.
 - The Clerk to confirm that original objections still stand (10/00051/COU) plus commenting two transit pitches provided at St James site. Also to state that opinion of police is that it would be more ideal if transit pitches were at a different location to permanent pitches.
- Persimmon Homes
The Clerk to invite K Else of Persimmon Homes to a meeting with Parish Councillors at Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.

9) **CLERK'S REPORT**

9.1) **Featherstone Prison Meeting**

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting with the Prison Governor had been arranged for Friday 9th April 2010 at 2.00 pm at Featherstone Prison.

9.2) **Highways – Meeting with Representatives of Staffordshire County Council Highways**

The Clerk confirmed a meeting had been arranged with representatives of Staffordshire County Council Highways to discuss outstanding highway issues in the parish on Friday 16th April 2010 at 2.00 pm in Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre.

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

a) **County Councillor M Lawrence**

County Councillor M Lawrence gave details of the following:

- Reported that posters attached to lamp-posts would result in the offender being sent a charge invoice.

b) **District Councillor R Cope**

District Councillor R Cope mentioned the following:

- Not very much to report.
- Update on meetings attended.
- Also mentioned need to remove litter from junction 2.

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

- As previously mentioned a meeting with Staffordshire County Council Highways had been arranged for 16th April 2010.

- The Clerk to enquire with Staffordshire County Council Highways as to what work was completed by the Community Gang when they worked in the parish during February 2010.
- Councillor J Hayward mentioned the van parked outside the post office. The Clerk to enquire with South Staffordshire District Council Environment Department.

12) FIRST RESPONDERS (8th November 2007)

Councillor M Griffiths reported the following:

- Twenty seven responses during February 2010.
- Twenty responses during March 2010.
- Ten members went for interview and seven of those passed. Two could not progress due to personal reasons.
- Five to be fully trained.

13) MILE WALL (12th June 2008)

Neil Glasper of the Highways Agency confirmed the following:

- Delay in commencing work due to problems arranging the traffic management with the Highways Agency.

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

This matter had already been reviewed.

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

- Hanging baskets
Councillor B Pickering reported that Jack Moody had quoted £49.00 each for the hanging baskets (18" baskets).

A Brindle and J Brindle declared an interest in relation to Jack Moody.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase 21 hanging baskets from Jack Moody at a cost of £49.00 each.

Resolved:

- **To purchase 21 hanging baskets at a cost of £49.00 each from Jack Moody.**

- Hanging Basket Brackets
It was agreed a further 7 brackets were required for the hanging baskets. It was proposed, seconded and agreed to purchase a further 7 brackets for hanging baskets.

Resolved:

- **To purchase 7 hanging basket brackets.**
- Chapel Planters
It was agreed to review plants and materials needed to fill the planters. B Pickering to arrange planting.
- Noticeboards
The Clerk confirmed he would arrange posts for the noticeboard ordered.
- Sponsorship
The Clerk to produce a sponsorship letter for hanging baskets and planters. The sponsorship period being the summer for hanging baskets and 12 months for planters.
- Chapel Electric Lights
Councillor Barry Pickering agreed to obtain a quote for electric lights at the chapel.

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

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported that additional car parking was now available and that Staffordshire Police was monitoring unauthorised parking.

17) WEBSITE (9th January 2008)

The Clerk reported he had emailed a copy of the Parish Council's minutes for inclusion and would forward copies for the last 12 months. The Clerk also reported he would forward copies of the agenda for each Parish Council meeting.

18) DOG WARDEN (9th January 2009)

This matter had already been discussed.

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

The Clerk to enquire with the Housing Association with regard to any feedback regarding the survey completed.

The Clerk also to enquire regarding the reinstatement of Parish walkabouts as in the past.

20) BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION (11th September 2008)

District Councillor R Cope reported that quotations had been obtained for a path:

£3,000 for gravel
£6,000 for slabs

No decision to be taken until C Shaw available.

21) REVIEW OF FOOTPATHS (9th January 2008)

This matter was ongoing.

22) ROAD SWEEPER (21st January 2010)

This matter had already been reviewed.

23) CORRESPONDENCE

The incoming and outgoing post had been noted.

- South Staffordshire District Council. Letter from Paul Collings regarding the South Staffordshire LDF Core Strategy Policy Choices consultation March 2010 Policy H4 – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People. Comments to be made by 24th May 2010.
- Staffordshire County Council Highways. Letter dated 15th March 2010 regarding the request for new, or changes to, Parking related Traffic Regulations Order (TRO) – The Avenue, Featherstone. Parking restrictions have been included in the forward programme to be progressed in 2011 / 2012.
- Staffordshire County Council. Letter dated 26th March 2010 from Robert Marshall entitled “Mineral Madness Campaign Success”.
- Audit Commission. Date of audit, 9th June 2010.

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

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, gave an update as follows:

- Legal matters were not finalised at the end of March 2010 due to Wimpey not signing documents.
- J Hayward and F Beardsmore had signed all documents.
- Solicitor had spoken to Taylor Wimpey and the Primary Care Trust.

25) GROUND MAINTENANCE (10th September 2009)

This item to be deleted from the agenda.

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

This item was put in abeyance until the next meeting.

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

This matter was ongoing. The Clerk to enquire with South Staffordshire District Council regarding any progress.

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

Councillor D Hill reported he had not received any contact from Mr Sands who rents the land from Bibby Estates. The Clerk to enquire with Mr Sands.

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

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, requested the Parish Clerk to amend the draft letter the Clerk had produced to request residents near to the proposed location for the new bus stop to comment.

30) PROBATION SERVICE (12th March 2009)

This item to be deleted from the agenda.

31) BRINSFORD POST BOX (10th December 2009)

The Clerk reported he had not received any replies to his emails. It was suggested the Clerk should see if an ombudsman reviewed complaints regarding the post office.

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

This item to be deleted from the agenda.

33) SPCA – REVISED GRANT AID FORM

It was agreed to use the grant application form circulated by the Clerk. It was also agreed the following should be included on the form:

“Receipts for expenditure should be forwarded to the Parish Clerk within 3 months or the end of the financial year, whichever is soonest”

34) ADDITIONAL CONTAINER (11th June 2009)

This item to be deleted from the agenda.

35) WAR MEMORIAL (14th January 2010)

Councillor John Brindle agreed to liaise with the school regarding proposals for a war memorial design.

36) FUNDING – DROP-IN-CENTRE (14th January 2010)

This matter was ongoing.

37) CCTV – FHCC (14th January 2010)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, reported this matter was ongoing and it was planned to arrange a meeting.

38) BULK COLLECTIONS / FLY TIPPING (11th March 2010)

Councillor Mike Lawrence commented the District Council intend to amend collections within 12 months. The Clerk to write to John Williams at South Staffordshire District Council requesting a review as it would appear to be a false economy.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

39) FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Cheque Payments

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

Item	£
R Young (Clerk's Salary – April 2010)	845.00
Rutherford's Solicitors	1,249.75
SPCA (Subscription)	500.00
Staffordshire County Council (Contribution to cost of trees – Brinsford)	237.96
South Staffordshire District Council (Ground Maintenance)	376.73
Veolia Environmental	10.58
Viking Electrical (car Park Lights)	341.34
R Young (Expenses)	76.00
Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre	459.20
F Beardsmore (Mileage)	36.00
TOTAL	£4,132.56

Resolved:

- **To issue the above cheques.**

40) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE AGENDA

No items were mentioned.

41) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- **Thursday 13th May 2010.**

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor F Beardsmore, thanked all those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.16 pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman