



FEATHERSTONE AND BRINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: F Beardsmore, B Pickering, J Beardsmore, M Griffiths, J Brindle, R Tucker,
M Lawrence, J Hayward and K Nightingale.

In Attendance: District Councillor R Cope.
John Lancaster.
One Member of the Public.
R Young, Clerk to the Council.

1) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Mr David Betts of Speedwell Gardens reported there was a problem with litter due to the lack of litter bins. Waste bins are required at either end of the walkway – Baneberry Drive to Speedwell Gardens – doctor's surgery.

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, said that the Litter Picker has recently been off work due to a fall. It was agreed additional litter bins were required.

- John Lancaster of RAHP Consultancy gave a detailed summary of the results of the housing survey. J Lancaster gave details of the appraisal and confirmed the conclusion of each option as follows:

- Site 1 : Reject on grounds of unsatisfactory highway access and impact on landscape.
- Site 2 : Reject, isolated extension of village into open countryside.
- Site 3 : Strong potential as exception site for affordable housing and location for a football pitch.
- Site 4 : Reject, difficulty obtaining safe highway access.
- Site 5 : Reject, impact on the landscape.
- Site 6 : Reject, although a good location, access issues likely to prevent.
- Site 7 : Reject, although a good location, access and public right of way issues likely to act against potential development.
- Site 8 : Good potential subject to exploration of joint development of site and overcoming possible access issues.
- Site 9 : Good potential subject to design feasibility study.

Site 10: Good potential subject to design feasibility study.

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, thanked J Lancaster for the housing survey.

2) POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk read out a police report giving the crime statistics for an area greater than the parish. The Clerk was requested to ask Staffordshire Police to provide statistics for the parish only.

Councillor B Pickering mentioned an incident on 30th January 2010 at one of the caravan sites involving the arrival of six police cars. This being the third incident. Parishioners are concerned as to whether there is a risk to members of the public. District Councillor R Cope commented it was in-fighting between two families and he had been in contact with the Community Safety Officer Gordon Scott. The Clerk to contact M Jones for further details.

3) VILLAGE AGENT

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, read out a prepared report on behalf of G Hughes as follows:

- Request for “Loose Women” to have key to noticeboards.
- Councillors reviewed the Playbuilder plan – Councillors concerned regarding the sand in the pirate ship. It was agreed the sand would need to be checked each day.
- The Clerk to check whether the Parish Council insurance scheme would include the Playbuilder proposal.
- It was agreed letters should be sent to residents when the bid has been obtained.

4) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillors M Griffiths, J Brindle, F Beardsmore, J Hayward, 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 Councillor A Brindle and D Hill.

6) **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2010**

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st January 2010 be approved as a true and correct record.

Resolved:

- **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2010.**

7) **MATTERS ARISING**

7.1) **Deposit – South Staffordshire Council**

The Clerk confirmed he had instructed South Staffordshire Council to transfer the £50,000 deposit to the Parish Council's bank account.

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

The Clerk to request an update from Adrian Eggington.

8) **PLANNING**

8.1) **Applications for Consideration**

- 09/00928/FUL
Installation of portakabin within existing prison compound for use as a drug testing facility.
HMP Featherstone, 1 New Road, Featherstone
- 10/00065/FUL
Form new dock levellers and three large door openings.
5 Hilton Cross Business Park, Cannock Road, Featherstone

8.2) **Decisions Received**

No decisions had been received.

8.3) **Other Planning Matters**

- Gypsy Site Appeal
District Councillor R Cope gave a detailed update covering a number of existing pitches, Government policy and options available.

R Cope agreed to draft an appeal letter for the Clerk.
- Fishponds Planning Proposal.
The Clerk to obtain a copy of this planning application.

- Bickfords Site
Councillors reviewed the increased use of this site. The Parish Clerk to contact the District Council regarding enforcement to issue a stop order on usage.
- The Clerk to write to South Staffordshire District Council, Planning, and confirm that Policy E3 General Employment Proposals which states that “14 hectares of land for Class B1 and B2 employment uses is allocated at Royal Ordnance Factory, Featherstone. At least 10 hectares of forest planting shall be implemented in accordance with a master plan to be agreed with the District Council before development commences and should be included in the Local Development Framework.

9) **CLERK’S REPORT**

9.1) **Brewood and Coven Parish Council**

Letter dated 2nd February 2010 from Mrs Valerie Turner, Acting Clerk for Brewood and Coven Parish Council, asking if Councillors would be prepared to attend a meeting of Parish Councils affected by South Staffordshire Council’s gypsy sites policy.

The Clerk to obtain further details.

9.2) **South Staffordshire District Council - Deposit**

The Clerk confirmed the transfer of the £50,000 to the Parish Council’s bank account would take 7 – 10 days to process.

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

a) **County Councillor M Lawrence**

County Councillor M Lawrence gave an update regarding the following:

- Budget approved
- Children’s Trust
- Building Schools for the Future
- Waste Plant
- New Chief Executive recruited with a salary of £190K per year.

b) **District Councillor R Cope**

District Councillor R Cope mentioned the following:

- Gave details of the BAE site. The Clerk to contact R Cope concerning a written comment (see planning).

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

- Meeting of Councillors with County Councillor M Lawrence at the shops on 12th February 2010, 2.00 pm to inspect the state of footpaths.
- The Clerk to request S Poyser of South Staffordshire District Council to contact J Brindle to review the proposed siting of a streetlight.
- M Lawrence commented that the County Council had spent £21K re-surfacing Brookhouse Close and not The Avenue.
- R Tucker reported that the Brookhouse Lane road surface had numerous potholes and B Pickering said the surface of Paradise Lane needed attention and that some damage had been caused by contractor's vehicles. The Clerk to also report the potholes at the junction of Brookhouse Lane and East Road.
- J Hayward reported that at the bottom of Hilton Road (flats to the school) plus also Penderell Close had potholes needing attention.
- J Brindle commented that the M54 junction 1 traffic island needs attention. Car bonnet and old tyres dumped and trees chopped down.

M Lawrence to notify Highways.
- J Brindle also said water was lying on the A460 opposite the garage. Drains need inspecting.
- Report of meeting with D Wright of Staffordshire County Council, Highways:
 - Agreed to install name signs Featherstone (1) and Brinsford (3).
 - Closure of Featherstone Lane. Need access to Old Farm. D Wright said could not close the lane. D Wright to review all options and give opinion.
 - K Nightingale – South Crescent to be one way.
 - Brinsford – dropped kerb to be installed on park side of East Road.
 - David Wright of Staffordshire County Council, Highways, to come back to the Parish Council regarding Featherstone Lane.
- School bus (yellow) – site meeting with representatives of Staffordshire County Council and Cheslyn Hay School regarding the bus stopping on East Road. At present school bus is still going through the estate.
- Email dated 10th February 2010 from Mark Keeling of Staffordshire County Council, Highways, confirming the community gangs did carry out work in the parish. The Clerk to request details of work undertaken and request that signs at M54 island are cleared of vegetation.

12) FIRST RESPONDERS (8th November 2007)

Councillor M Griffiths reported that First Responders had attended 23 responses.

13) MILE WALL (12th June 2008)

Neil Glasper of the Highways Agency confirmed he had been instructed to re-tender the work which was still based on the specification that Andy Pillow discussed at the recent meeting with Councillors. Confirmed tenders are due back on 15th February 2010.

The Clerk was asked to enquire why there was a need to re-tender and is it still proposed to start the improvement work in the Spring 2010.

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

The Clerk to contact Adrian Eggington requesting an update from G Read regarding request from Parish Councillors to improve parking space on Hilton Road.

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

- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, commented the "Brighten up the Village Group" needed to arrange a meeting.
- J Hayward asked if the Christmas lights are to be taken down.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed to leave the Christmas lights installed.

Resolved:

- **To leave the Christmas lights installed.**
- Best Kept Village competition – the Clerk reported the following:
 - Headteacher suggested a joint school / Parish Council application.
 - Meeting at school on Thursday 25th February 2010 at 2.30 pm to progress the Best Kept Village competition. Councillors R Tucker, B Pickering, J Brindle and D Hill to attend.
 - The Clerk reported that the judges of last year's Best Kept Village competition had commented that improvements were needed to noticeboards, chapel area and around shops.

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

- The Clerk to enquire whether the school website could be linked to the Parish Council site at South Staffordshire District Council.
- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, confirmed a barrier would not be installed across the road adjacent to the school.

17) WEBSITE (9th January 2008)

The Clerk confirmed this item was ongoing.

18) DOG WARDEN (9th January 2009)

The Clerk was asked to progress the following:

- Delivery of dog fouling signs
- Report dog fouling is a problem around the school, The Avenue and South Crescent

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

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, invited Councillors to confirm which option detailed in the Housing Survey produced by J Lancaster. Each Councillor confirmed their preferred option. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Clerk should confirm to J Lancaster the preferred options are 8, 9 and 10.

Resolved:

- **To confirm to J Lancaster that the preferred options from the Housing Survey are 8, 9 and 10.**

20) BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION (11th September 2008)

The Chairman, F Beardsmore, confirmed that quotations were still being obtained for a footway in the cemetery extension.

21) REVIEW OF FOOTPATHS (9th January 2008)

Meeting with County Councillor M Lawrence for 2.00 pm on Friday 12th February 2010 to review footpaths.

22) ROAD SWEEPER (21st January 2010)

The Clerk confirmed that S Poyser of South Staffordshire District Council had stated the road sweeper visits The Avenue every month and the village every thirteen weeks. It was agreed the Parish Clerk should query the standard of road sweeping and request a schedule of estimated dates the sweeper will visit the parish so that Councillors can monitor the work.

23) CORRESPONDENCE

The incoming and outgoing post had been noted.

- Letter dated 20th January 2010 from Wayne Mortiboys of Staffordshire County Council, Highways, outlining the current position regarding the Neighbourhood Highway Teams.
- Letter from Paul Collings, Development Plans and Conservation Manager, regarding the South Staffordshire Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Policy Choices Consultation Document, January 2010.

- News release – South Staffordshire District Council. Free online calendar to showcase local events.
 - Email from Wayne Mortiboys, Group Manager, Community Highway Liaison, Staffordshire County Council, Highways, outlining the County Council policy regarding the distribution of grit during the Winter and the shortages experienced. Confirmed that two areas in Coven hand gritted were in the vicinity of the schools in School Lane and Brewood Road.
- The Chairman, F Beardsmore, raised the issue of no grit bins in the parish. M Lawrence agreed to look into the provision of grit bins by the doctor's surgery, Turnstone Drive, and in the area of the chemists.
- The Clerk circulated details of 3 websites obtained from G Hughes who may provide funding for CCTV at the Community Centre.
 - The Clerk circulated to Councillors a draft letter to be circulated to residents of Baneberry Drive for comments concerning the installation of a bus stop.
 - Letter from Derek Ridgeway (Kazoky Kai) thanking the Parish Council for the donation towards the cost of new equipment.

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

The Clerk circulated to Councillors a copy of a letter dated 10th February 2010 from Claire Poulton of Rutherford's solicitors regarding the sale of land adjoining Featherstone Family Health Centre.

The Chairman, Frank Beardsmore, gave a résumé of a meeting with Claire Poulton on 5th February 2010 attended by F Beardsmore, J Hayward and R Young. F Beardsmore agreed to speak to Dr Lee regarding water running from the surgery site into the nearby lane.

25) GROUND MAINTENANCE (10th September 2009)

The Clerk to contact F Beardsmore regarding two contractors who may be interested in undertaking grass cutting in the parish.

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

J Beardsmore circulated to Councillors copies of the Community Centre Management Accounts for the period April 2009 – December 2009.

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

Email dated 4th February 2010 from Hayden Baugh-Jones stating that he was about to commission consultants to carry out the contamination study which should be completed by the end of March 2010.

The Clerk reported he had not received a reply from Andy Johnson of South Staffordshire District Council regarding the funds available for the project.

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

The Clerk reported that Peter Sands who rents the fields in question from Bibby Estates will be on holiday for the next four weeks.

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

Deferred until the next meeting.

30) PROBATION SERVICE (12th March 2009)

Deferred until the next meeting.

31) BRINSFORD POST BOX (10th December 2009)

The Clerk to contact Phil Terry at the Post Office regarding when the post box will be moved.

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

The Clerk to forward a letter to David Heywood at South Staffordshire District Council stating as funding has been obtained for the next 2 years for the Village Agent, the Parish Council will consider funding requests.

33) SPCA – REVISED GRANT AID FORM

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)

This matter is ongoing.

37) CCTV – FHCC (21st January 2010)

The Parish Clerk reported the following:

- Circulated to Councillors the details of organisations who may grant funds for CCTV.
- Meeting arranged with Phil Russon to review and discuss CCTV options for the Community Centre.

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 – February 2010)	845.00
Veolia Environmental	10.58
Record RSS Ltd	1,586.60
R Young (Expenses)	76.00
Featherstone and Hilton Community Centre	464.20
TOTAL	£2,982.38

Resolved:

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

39) ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR FUTURE AGENDA

- No items were raised

40) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday 11th March 2010.

The Chairman of the meeting, Councillor F Beardsmore, thanked all those present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 11.04 pm.

F Beardsmore
Chairman