



**DISTRICT OF CANNOCK CHASE
COUNTY OF STAFFORDSHIRE**

Chairman: Councillor P A Fisher
55 Birch Lane
Brereton
Rugeley
WS15 1EJ

Acting Parish Clerk: Mr P Harrison JP BA (Hons)
c/o Brereton and Ravenhill
Parish Hall
Main Road
Brereton
Rugeley WS15 1DU
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breandravpc@gmail.com]

26 January 2022

Dear Councillor

Parish Council Meeting – 7:30 pm on Tuesday 1 February 2022

You are requested to attend the Parish Council meeting being held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 1 February 2022 in the Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Hall, Main Road, Brereton

The Chairman of the Council will give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or make statements outside of the formal meeting

Yours faithfully

Peter Harrison
Acting Parish Clerk

To: All Members of the Council

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Apologies
3. Minutes – To approve as a correct record the attached minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2022 (enclosed)
4. Bus Services
Letter from Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council (enclosed – Annex 1)

5. Police Matters
6. Licence Application – Micro Pub / Neighbourhood Bar – 65-67 Lodge Road
7. Committees (Minutes enclosed)
 - Finance and Management Committee – 6 January 2022
 - Parish Hall and Property Management Committee – 6 January 2022
 - Planning Committee – 4 January 2022
8. Members' Items
9. Exclusion of Public
10. Appointment of Parish Clerk – Practical Arrangements
11. Date of Next Meeting – 1 March 2022 **Note:** Mark Warrilow Skills, Employment and Education Manager of HS2 will attend to give an update

Annex 1 - Letter County Council Chief Executive

County Council

Private & Confidential

Mr Peter Harrison
c/o Brereton and Ravenhill
Parish Hall Main Road
Brereton, Rugeley
WS15 1DU

**John Henderson CB
Chief Executive**

Staffordshire County Council
Chief Executive's Office
1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford
ST16 2LP

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Postal Address:
2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Our Ref: C0009766-2122

Date: 11 January 2022

Dear Mr Harrison,

The previous Brereton service was part of the three Rugeley town services: 22 Rugeley – Etching Hill, 23 Rugeley – Pear Tree Estate and 24 Rugeley – Brereton, but D&G Buses, operating as Chaserider, revised the services as part of their network review on 21 June 2021, as they were not commercially viable as stand-alone services. Services 22 and 24 are now part of the Stafford / Lichfield corridor services: 826 and 828, with service 23 now part of the 63 service which runs from Cannock to Rugeley. The company has reiterated that there are no plans to change the services.

Below is a visualisation of the differences between the previous bus routes and as they operate now:

The “visualisation” referred to is a map showing previous and current bus routes and is of such poor quality it is not capable of reproduction. A copy will be available at the meeting

With regards to the turning at Talbot Road, D&G Buses state that they were unable to safely turn from Birch Lane into Talbot Road. Arriva only did this in one direction, and it is safe enough going southbound, but northbound visibility is very poor and requires the vehicles to cross the carriageway on a blind bend.

When the Rugeley town services were operated by Arriva, they were operating at a loss as passenger numbers were low and a majority were concessionary pass holders. Since taking over the service, Chaserider also experienced low passenger numbers and they made the commercial decision to make the changes they did in June 2021.

Another local service bus company is well within its rights to start up a commercially operated service in the Brereton area as long as it is registered with the Office of the Traffic Commissioner and authority is granted from that office prior to operation. The County Council is not allowed to subsidise a service in competition to a commercial bus service.

The services which operate in Brereton are not subsidised by the County Council but are operated on a fully commercial basis. As such, any decision regarding the service, for example the route and timetables, are made by the company and although the County Council can (and does) offer suggestions, it has no authority to force the company to make any changes.

The government funding is part of the National Bus Strategy 'Bus, Back, Better'. The County Council has committed to an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators and has submitted its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The Department for Transport has not specified how much funding each local authority will receive but the sum of £3Bn is to be divided between all local authorities and has to be used for transport infrastructure improvement as well as bus services. Grant funding is not expected to be announced until after Christmas and from the latest information from the Department for Transport (DfT) any funding awarded will not be available until the next financial year.

Yours sincerely



John Henderson CB
Chief Executive