

BRERETON AND RAVENHILL PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1 February 2022.

Present: Cllrs P A Fisher (Chairman), Alderman R Easton (Vice Chairman), K Ansell, Alderwoman Mrs P A Ansell, Mrs M Easton, Mrs W Fisher, J Harvey, Mrs G Harvey, Mrs C Hodgkiss, Mrs L Johnson and T A Jones plus District Councillor G Molineux

In attendance: Mrs S Gibson – incoming Clerk

Mr P Harrison – outgoing acting Clerk

The Vice Chairman gave a warm welcome to the new Clerk and gave a vote of thanks for the outgoing acting Clerk who spoke very highly of the Councillors at Brereton and Ravenhill. The Members welcomed Mrs Fisher back following her term of absence

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P Fisher declared an interest in Item 6 – this was the Licence Application for a micro-pub

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D Johnson and Mrs J Brown

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January be approved and signed as a true record. The Minutes were then signed.

4. BUS SERVICE

The council considered a letter dated 11.1.22 from John Henderson CB, Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council concerning the buses.

The point was made that the M.P. got extra buses for Norton Canes. Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council needed to write to her to make a plea to put on extra buses. District Councillor, Cllr Molineux gave an update on D&G Buses. He had phoned them to complain about the service. It emerged that D&G was running a double decker bus to take children to the Friary School at a cost of £75 per month. The normal bus pass was £45 per month. The District Councillor was trying to gather further evidence and would keep the Chairman of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council informed, especially in terms of this anomaly. There was a decision to send a letter to Staffordshire County Council (SCC) asking why the current service is so bad. One Councillor made the point that the service is bad elsewhere as well. There was a need for an enquiry into bus transport provision in Brereton

RESOLVED:

That Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council should reply, as follows:

- a) Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council objects to the use of the phrase “Private and Confidential” at the top of the letter. In fact, the parish council wondered of this was a mistake.
- b) The public has a right to know what was happening about the local bus service
- c) Residents had made the point that they appreciated the difficulties caused by parents parking close to the school. Nevertheless, it was considered that the bus driver could still cope in those circumstances.
- d) It was considered that D&G Buses have kept the most profitable routes.
- e) There was a fear that the 828 service was going to be cut, especially during the evenings
- f) That the 828/826 had been coming very late or not at all, to pick up schoolchildren in the morning.
- g) Mr Henderson said, in his letter, that buses were having difficulty in making the turn from Birch Lane into Talbot Road. Councillors said that they have seen buses make far sharper turns than that.
- h) Mr Henderson said that most of the bus users are concessionary users. Does that not prove that that there is a great need for public transport, amongst that group of people? He may wish to consult Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010

PROPOSED by Cllr Jones. SECONDED by Cllr Ansell

5. POLICE MATTERS

There was no police presence and the police had not sent in a report

6. LICENCE APPLICATION – MICRO-PUB / NEIGHBOURHOOD BAR 65 – 67 LODGE ROAD

The application was for the sale of alcohol from 11.00 am – 11.00 pm during the week and 11.00 am – 10.00 pm on a Sunday. It was suggested that Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council supports this application because it would be good to have a venue which was open in that area. If ever the micro-pub applied to extend its licence for particular events, these events should be scrutinised. One Cllr said that people go to a micro-pub to have a specialist beer. These pubs seem to work better than a normal pub

RESOLVED:

That Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council would support the application provided that the times given are adhered to. PROPOSED by Cllr Jones. SECONDED by Cllr C Hodgkiss

7. COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:

To accept the minutes from the Finance and Management Committee on 6 January 2022.
PROPOSED by Cllr R Easton. SECONDED by Cllr M. Easton

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Parish Hall and Property Management Committee on 6 January 2022. PROPOSED by Cllr M Easton. SECONDED by Cllr R Easton

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes from the Planning Committee on 4 January 2022.
PROPOSED by Cllr Jones. Seconded by Cllr R Easton

8. MEMBERS' ITEMS

The Queen's Jubilee

Cllr C Hodgkiss spoke about the Queen's Jubilee. She has been in touch with the Church, Brereton Millions and Jill Shaw to see what plans they have for the event

Pot holes

Cllr M Easton spoke about pot holes, specifically the one at 31-33 Lodge Road. It was reported that this pot hole was due to be filled in.

Road Closure

Cllr Jones spoke about Western Power and its plans to close Main Road from 24 January by St Michael's Church. It has not been closed yet so there was a request that the Clerk writes to SCC to find out what the actual situation is.

A possible purchase for Health and Safety reasons

Cllr R Easton spoke about the possibility of purchasing a scissor-lift for use in the hall which would make working at height much safer. He knew of one that was for sale at a reasonable price and he would refer this to the Finance Committee and would request the Council to confirm any action which was subsequently taken. The money to purchase it would come from Reserves.

Hedge cutting

Cllr R Easton spoke about the fact that Brereton and Ravenhill Council had been cutting back hedges but this was coming to an end apart from the fact that a request was going to come in from the Church. He reminded everyone that Cllrs carried out this service on a voluntary basis and only helped organisations that had full liability insurance.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The District Councillor left at this point

10. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK – PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements were enumerated. The outgoing Acting Clerk was going to be there to support the incoming Clerk until the end of February.

11. NEXT MEETING

This would be held on 1 March 2022.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Signed:

Dated: