

BRETBY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH MEETING HELD
MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2014
IN THE WRAGG ROOM, ST WYSTANS, BRETBY

Present: Cllr M Falder (Chairman), Cllr M Bridges, Cllr L Meyrick, Cllr G Corner, Cllr Mrs J Wilkinson, Cllr A Badger.

In Attendance: Mrs J Storer – Clerk
County Councillor Mrs Linda Chilton (to 7:59pm)
District Councillor Peter Smith (to 8:14pm)

13/81 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs P Newton. Apologies were also received from District Cllr M Stanton.

13/82 Variation of Order of Business

No items were identified that required the order of business to be varied.

13/83 Declaration of Interests:

No declarations were received.

13/84 Public Speaking

a) Members of the Public and council to comment on any matter

No matters were raised

b) Police, County Council and District Council members to raise any relevant matter

Police

No police were in attendance and no report has been received.

County Council

Cllr Mrs Chilton informed that DCC is inundated with complaints about potholes. The Mobile Library consultation was discussed and Cllr Mrs Chilton urged all to make their representations. When asked about the funding of the service by Cllr Falder, Cllr Mrs Chilton reported that she understood the service to be entirely funded by DCC, with nothing being provided by Central Government.

Adult Care is also under threat along with Home Start where means testing maybe considered for these services.

Cllr Mrs Wilkinson reported that there have been no problems during the recent heavy downpours.

Cllr Falder reported that DCC has carried out a significant amount of work along Watery Lane in relation to the clearing of the chambers on the road edges. The work appears to be beneficial. He made an enquiry as to whether DCC retained any of the plans drawn up when major projects are undertaken. This was raised as he has been asked to provide information on drains during the works on Watery Lane. Cllr Mrs Chilton could not confirm if this was the case, other than to express a hope that it was the case. She added that she will bring this matter to the attention of the Highways Dept.

Farmers are invited to sign up for the winter maintenance scheme.

Mention was also made of the bulk oil buying scheme that is in operation. Cllr Smith advised that the scheme operates by buying in bulk to obtain cheaper prices, but otherwise the purchaser can purchase any quantity of oil at any time.

Cllr Mrs Chilton also advised that library books can be obtained on line to download onto I pads and Kindles but she added that she is very aware that the significant use of the internet excludes some sections of society.

At DCC there is a new casework system for progressing complaints/queries which in her view is adding an additional layer of administration. The Conservative Group are not using it for this reason.

Cllr Falder asked how much public response is received to consultations. Cllr Mrs Chilton has no accurate figures but suspected the response level is low; partly due to fatigue over the number of consultations happening, coupled with a general apathy. Cllr Mrs Chilton added that she has complained that all surveys for South Derbyshire are undertaken in Swadlincote which is not indicative of the rest of the District and added that in her view, this skews the evidence for the services for this area.

Finally Cllr Mrs Chilton informed that there are still funds available in the Community Grant towards anything that the Parish may require. The Parish Council was requested to consider any funding need and to advise Cllr Mrs Chilton via the Clerk.

7:59pm Cllr Mrs Chilton left the meeting.

District Council

Cllr Smith informed that Heather Wheeler MP has taken up the matter of poor broadband provision in parts of South Derbyshire, e.g Bretby. Cllr Falder commented that a lot of work on the new cabling has been undertaken. New exchange boxes have also been installed. Cllr Smith added that the matter of poor broadband service has been referred back to BT.

Prior to the meeting the Clerk was explaining that funding is available for defibrillators to be installed within remote village. Cllr Smith agreed that the scheme is in existence and that a number of villages in south Derbyshire are participating in the scheme.

Cllr Smith added that SDDC is doing everything possible to maintain the service levels and the finances of SDDC will be discussed on 23rd January when further information will be available on how the funding will be allocated.

A survey has been undertaken of Bretby Lane and Knights Lane on the condition of the road due to the problems that exist e.g the existence of springs which bubble up on or near to the roads. No date as to when the results will be available or how the survey results can be obtained.

8:14pm Cllr Smith left the meeting.

c) Parish Council Members declaring an interest other than Disclosable Pecuniary Interest wishing to make representation

No representations were made

13/85 To confirm the Non-Exempt Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 4th November 2013, these were circulated, read, approved and signed as a correct record by Cllr

Falder.

13/86 To determine which items if any, should be taken with the public excluded.

No items were deemed necessary to be taken in Part 2.

13/87 To receive the Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Falder reported that the maintenance work on the village green trees has been completed.

The recent mild weather has been welcomed and the roads have been gritted when necessary. There was one exception; this being on 13th January 2014, when the temperature dropped during the morning rush hour. This late drop in temperature caused significant icing of roads and there were a number of skids and accidents.

13/88 To receive the Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report as previously circulated was accepted.

13/89 To consider consultation papers

a) Mobile Library Provision – DCC

It was agreed that the Mobile Library provision which visits Bretby is a valuable service providing not only reading material, but is also a useful community facility which the Parish is short of. Cllr Corner stated that the consultation offers 4 options, but there are no facts or figures provided to assist in making an informed decision; instead this is a broad report with no detail.

It was thought that the number of users in this Parish will be less than 10 but without data this is merely a best estimate. Concern was raised that once a service is withdrawn/lost, it is hard to get it back and reference was made to the poor bus service.

RESOLVED to request that efficiency savings are made rather than to remove the service; one suggestion is that the number of visits could be reduced by half; in this way the service is retained by those finding it useful and costing savings are made. The Clerk will make the response on behalf of the Parish Council
(Action: Clerk).

13/90 Correspondence

1. DALC – Various circulars
2. SDDC – Draft Local Plan
3. Clerks & Councils Direct
4. SDDC – Notification of Broadband provision within the District
5. SDDC – Email on consultation by the Police Commissioner relating to the Police Precept 2014/2015

13/91 Bretby Lane Drains

There was no further report.

13/92 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment

The following accounts were passed for payment

0342	SDDC – Service of litter bin at Bretby Hall	£152.47
0343	Mrs N Cooper – Service of Parish Council's website	£99.99
0344	HMRC – clerk's Tax (Jan)	£10.40
0345	HMRC – Clerk's tax (Feb)	£10.40

0346	Mrs J Storer – Petty Cash	£37.77
s/o	Mrs J Storer – Clerk fee December	£XX
s/o	Mrs J Storer – Clerk fee for January	£XX

Money Received

None

(b) Risk Assessment

There are no known additional items that require including in the risk assessment.

(c) 2014/2015 Precept

At the Full Parish Council meeting held 4th November 2013, the Parish Council had agreed to set the budget for 2014/2015 at £3,673.00, this being a nil increase in the precept. Nothing further had been raised or identified to alter that opinion.

RESOLVED the precept for 2014/15 was set at £3673.00.

13/93 To consider Planning Applications

9 2013 0934 – The erection of an extension and alterations at 44 Bretby Lane, Bretby
No Objections

9 2013 0528 – the erection of an all weather horse exercise area and stables with associated storage and a parking barn with the formation of a new access on land at Repton Road, Bretby

No Objections

13/94 Items for information only

- (a) Reports from Meetings attended
No report was received
- (b) Notification of Forthcoming meetings
None identified
- (c) Councillors comments
No matters were raised

13/95 Future Agenda Items

Bretby Lane drains

13/96 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24th March 2014 at 7.30pm at St Wystan's Church.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:35pm.