

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY 2013  
AT HOLY TRINITY METHODIST  
CHURCH GREGSON LANE.**

**PRESENT:-**

**D. METCALFE (VICE CHAIRMAN) IN THE CHAIR - COUNCILLORS J.BALDWIN,  
C. HINDLE , MRS S. LONG, W. NELSON, AND T.SHARRATT.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: COUNTY COUNCILLOR M. DEVANEY, DISTRICT  
COUNCILLOR D.DICKINSON AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

**3570. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were submitted from the Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) and Councillors Mrs B. Robinson and J. Swann.

**3571. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL/PREJUDICIAL INTEREST:**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct the Clerk asked if any Member wished to declare an interest in any matter to be considered by the Parish Council at the meeting. No one declared an interest at this stage.

**3572. MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 7th January 2013 having previously been circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3573. ADJOURNMENT:**

**THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO  
RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING  
MATTERS DEALT WITH.**

**ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT RAISED THE FOLLOWING  
MATTER:**

**DOG FOULING :**

The Member of the Public reported that dog fouling was a serious problem on the path alongside Brindle Mill leading from Back Bournes Row to the railway crossing with Oram Road and asked that some action be taken to prevent it continuing.

Resolved:- That Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer be requested to visit the path and take any necessary action to prevent further cases of dog fouling.

**3574. POLICE LIAISON:**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the police had notified him that there had been no incidents of crime in Brindle during January 2013.

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He also circulated the latest Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter and referred to the recently issued Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013 to 2018 consultation document . A report on this would be circulated to the next meeting.

A copy the Air Support Unit quarterly newsletter was circulated and their next PACT Meeting had been provisionally arranged for 4th April 2013.

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that there had not been a PACT Meeting in February 2013.

Resolved:- That the reports be accepted.

### **3575. COMMUNITY HALL:**

The next meeting of the Community Hall Management Committee would be held on 18th February 2013.

At the last Parish Council Meeting it was reported that it was intended to plant 100 trees in a corner of the playing field to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

A local resident had commented that the Parish Council needed to be very selective regarding the chosen species. During the construction of the M65, a policy was laid down by Lancashire County Council that any trees planted in the Parish should be native to the area.

The Parish Council were reminded that this was a matter for the Community Hall Management Committee and not the Parish Council. Their intentions were merely reported at the last meeting.

However, it was the Highways Agency and not the County Council that stated that only native species would be planted as part of the mitigation and landscaping measures following construction of the M65. That policy did not extend to a directive over what could be planted elsewhere.

Resolved: - That the reports be accepted, that the comments of the local resident be forwarded to the Community Hall Management Committee and that he be informed of the Parish Council's views on the the tree planting at the Community Hall.

*Councillor Mrs S. Long declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this matter in respect of being a representative of the Parish Council on the Community Hall Management Committee.*

### **3576. LALC REPORT:**

The Clerk submitted the current newsletter.

District Councillor Dickinson reported on the meeting of the Chorley Area Committee held on 6th February 2013. There was a suggestion that the Area Committee should merge with the Borough/Parish Liaison Committee. This was under consideration.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that in October 2012 they had considered highway resurfacing schemes and had asked the Three Tier Forum meeting on 27th November 2012 to consider schemes at Duxon Hill and Lower Copthurst and

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change the proposed resurfacing of the B5256 Sandy Lane to the length from the Hillhouse Lane junction rather than from the M61 Bridge.

It was decided not to include the resurfacing of Duxon Hill and Lower Copthurst and the resurfacing of Sandy Lane would be as originally stated. In addition a proposal to carry out work in Oram Road had been confirmed.

County Councillor Devaney was investigating the reasons for the decisions made at the Three Tier Forum and he reported on the current situation He supported the relocation of the resurfacing scheme on Sandy Lane but considered that only part of the section referred could be done and that the worst parts should be concentrated on. It was felt that this was from Head o the Marsh Farm to Brindle Bar.

Resolved:- (1) That the reports be accepted

(2).That County Councillor Devaney be requested determine when the resurfacing schemes at Duxon Hill and Lower Copthurst will be carried out and that the County Council be requested to consider the suggestion that the resurfacing of the B5256 Sandy Lane from the M61 junction be substituted by the length from Head o the Marsh Farm to Brindle Bar.

### **3577. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

#### **(A). SMITHY CLOSE/SMITHY LANE:**

The Clerk reported that the introduction of a 20 mph limit on Smithy Lane had been agreed by the County Council and consultations would begin shortly.

The introduction of parking restrictions on Smithy Close was still under consideration.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

#### **(B). DUXON HILL:**

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that the finger post sign had not been replaced and that Duxon Hill had still not been swept.

Resolved: - That District Councillor Dickinson contact Chorley about the delay in erecting the finger post sign and the sweeping of Duxon Hill.

#### **(C). GRIT BINS:**

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that the grit bin at Gowans Lane had been replaced but the old one was still in the hedge.

County Councillor Devaney reported that the damaged grit bin at Denham Lane opposite Birchin Lane, would be replaced.

Councillor Baldwin reported that there was a need for a grit bin at Breworth Fold.

It was suggested that the old grit bin at Gowans Lane be transferred to Breworth Fold.

Resolved:- That report be accepted and that Councilor Baldwin make arrangements to transfer the surplus bin in Gowans Lane to Breworth Fold.

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### **(D). WINDMILL LANE SIGN:**

The Chairman of the Meeting (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that the sign had still not been replaced or the broken chevron sign repaired. He also reported on the condition of the verges on Dover Lane near the equestrian centre

District Councillor Dickinson reported that the road surface from Dover Lane to Windmill Lane had deteriorated badly and required urgent attention.

Resolved:- That District Councillor Dickinson contact Chorley Council about the replacement of the sign and that County Councillor Devaney speak to the County Council about the chevron sign, the condition of Dover Lane and Windmill Lane and the grass verges on Dover Lane.

### **(E). BIRCHIN LANE:**

County Councillor Devaney informed the Parish Council that the pothole down Birchin Lane from the Denham Lane had been given to the response team to attend and fill. The localised edge deterioration at Birchin Lane\Lower Cophurst Lane bridge had also been given to the response team to repair. These were to be done within the next few weeks.

Councillor Baldwin reported that one of the potholes had been repaired but there were problems with the drains in this location.

Councillor Hindle reported potholes in Gregson Lane and at Mintholme.

Councillor Sharratt referred to the quality of repair of potholes.

Resolved:- That County Councillor Devaney be asked to arrange for action to be taken regarding the potholes in Gregson Lane and at Mintholme and that the Highways Inspector be asked to meet Councillor Baldwin regarding the drains in Birchin Lane.

### **(F). BLOCKED DRAINS:**

The Highways Inspectorate had been notified of the blocked grid on Marsh Lane the gully near Summerhill on Hillhouse Lane and the gullies in Gowans Lane but nothing further had been done. Councillor Mrs Long reminded the Parish Council that there were two drains on Gowans Lane but only one was attended to.

Resolved:- That County Councillor Devaney be asked to arrange for action to be taken regarding these blocked drains and that he contact Councillor Mrs Long regarding the location of the drains in Gowans Lane.

### **(G). HEWNGATE :**

The County Council was reviewing the suggestion regarding parking restrictions on one side of Hewngate.

Resolved:- That further developments be awaited.

### **(H). FOOTPATH - BRINDLE LODGE:**

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the footpath required attention.

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County Councillor Devaney and the Clerk would meet the County Council's Footpaths Officer about the work on 19th February 2013.

The Parish Council were reminded of the problem regarding a overhanging tree branch in Private Road. County Councillor Devaney reported that over 85% of the trees in Private Road were privately owned so it was for the owners to take any action.

The Clerk had written to one owner to ask him to prune the branches of some of the trees in his ownership.

Resolved:- That the reports be accepted.

### **(I). GRID – HOLT LANE:**

Councillor Nelson had reported problems with a grid in Holt Lane in December 2012 . The County Council had been notified and cones had been erected but the grid had not been replaced.

Resolved: That County Councillor Devaney investigate this matter.

### **(J). GOWANS LANE/MINTHOLME CROSSING:**

Councillor Mrs Long reminded the Parish Council of the flooding problems at Gowans Lane and the situation at Mintholme Crossing when it was icy .

County Councillor Devaney felt that the problems with Gowans Lane resulted from water draining from the fields. However, the presence of water at the Level Crossing needed further investigation

Resolved:- That the Clerk notify the Highways Inspectorate about these problems.

### **(K). FLOODING WATER STREET:**

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that this was raised at the last meeting, there was also concern about the condition of the gullies in Water Street particularly near St James CE Primary School where water was flowing out of not into the gully and flooding the road.

It was also reported that an area under the bridge near the phone box needed cleaning.

County Councillor Devaney had recently visited Water Street and the problem drains had now been placed on a list for repair.

Resolved:- That further developments be awaited.

### **(L). FINGER POST SIGN TOP OTH LANE:**

Councillor Sharratt reported that the finger post sign needed re-erecting. This had been reported to the footpaths officer.

Resolved That the report be accepted.

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### **(M). GINNEL SMITHY CLOSE/SANDY LANE:**

At the last meeting it was reported that there were problems in the ginnel which appeared to have been caused by a blocked drain.

County Councillor Devaney had investigated this and was informed that there was a drain in the ginnel but he had been unable to identify its location. Further investigations would take place but he felt that the best which could be done was to re-tarmac the surface.

Resolved:- That further developments be awaited.

### **(N). DAMAGE TO VERGES AND THE HIGHWAY:**

The Clerk reported that a local resident had drawn the Parish Council's attention to damage to the verges and highway on Top o'th' Lane, Holt Lane and Pippin Street. He suggested that this damage was being caused by slurry tankers which were tearing up the verges, blocking drainage systems and eroding the edges of the highway. This operation is being carried out with a total disregard for the general public, as passers by were coming into contact with spray from the operation.

The Chairman of the meeting ( Councillor D. Metcalfe) considered that this problem extended across the parish and was not limited to the areas mentioned. The ever increasing size of tractors and farm implements and the narrow lanes made this inevitable to some extent. Motorists were as bad, the concept of reversing into a gateway or passing place never occurred to many, indeed some seem to have no concept of reverse at all and considered the soft verges as part of the highway.

Resolved:- That the Clerk inform the concerned local resident of the views of the Parish Council.

### **3578. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:**

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council

Resolved: - That report be accepted.

### **3579. PLANNING REPORT:**

#### **(A). DECISIONS:**

The Clerk reported the the following application had been granted permission since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Application for Agricultural Determination for the erection of an agricultural building to store hay and machinery Pippin Fold Pippin Street (App no 12/01159/AGR)  
Applicant Mr. Dewhurst.

Resolved: That the report be accepted.

#### **(B). APPLICATIONS:**

The Clerk reported that the following planning application had been received since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

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Conversion of redundant timber frame building to a single residential property Bury Farm Sandy Lane Brindle (App no 113/00064/FUL resubmission of application no 12/01061/FUL ) Applicant Mr. Pawson.

Details had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council.

Resolved:- That the Parish Council reiterates its previous objections to the proposal and that District Councillor Dickinson request that the application be considered by the Planning Committee not delegated to officers and that a site visit be held before a decision is made.

Councillor W. Nelson did not agree with the recommendation to oppose.

### **(C) CHORLEY LOCAL PLAN:**

The Clerk reported that the Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State and would now be subject to Independent Examination by an Inspector appointed by him. The examination in public would be held in March/April 2013.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

### **(D). PLANNING IN PRACTICE EVENT:**

This event would take place on 4th March 2013 at Chorley Town Hall from 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and would deal with topics concerning permitted development, flooding and sewerage matters. The Parish Council had been invited to send representatives to this event.

Resolved:- That no further action be taken.

### **(E) OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING PITCH SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - CONSULTATION :**

The Clerk submitted this consultation document jointly issued by the Central Planning Authorities.

The purpose of the consultation was to provide guidance on the interpretation and implementation of each councils open space and playing pitch provision as set out in the local plans .

Resolved;- That no observations be made on the consultation document.

### **3580. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

The Clerk submitted the following accounts for payment.

1. A. Harkness	Print Cartridges	£61.69
2. Community Hall	Hire of Room January 2013.	£17.50.
3. Holy Trinity Methodist Church	Hire of Room February 2013.	£20.00

Resolved: - That the accounts be paid.

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### **3581. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – THREE TREES:**

The Clerk reported on the provision of information plaques regarding the new siting of the Three Trees. The Clerk would circulate details of the arrangements to the Parish Council.

He submitted the bill for the provision of stock proof fencing amounting to £300.00 plus VAT (£60.00) totalling £360.00.

The Brindle Estate would contribute to the final costs of the scheme.

The Clerk also reported the concerns of a local resident regarding the eventual height planting distance and location near the highway of the trees. He had also mentioned that the original three trees on the old sand pit site were planted in a triangle. It was important that problems were not created for future generations.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the trees had been planted on the recommendations of the tree supplier, the position and planting had to be done with due regard to the needs of both the Brindle Estate and the farmer. This precluded the triangle arrangement.

It was considered that the trees fit comfortably within the constraints of the site and were where the land owner and occupier wanted them. The project already had the benefit of Ingham & Yorke's expertise, they managed thousands of acres of farmland and woodland. In addition historical accuracy was not sought as the trees were at the wrong side of the road.

Resolved: - That the report be noted, the account for the provision of stock proof fencing by Westfield Tree Services amounting to £360.00 be paid and the local resident be informed of the views of the Parish Council.

### **3582. LITTER BIN PROJECT:**

The Clerk reported that at previous meeting the Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) had suggested that a larger bin with a lid should be provided at Denham Quarry.

Chorley Council was still considering the Parish Council's request.

Resolved: That report be accepted.

### **3583. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON MEETING:**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be held on 20th February at 6.30 p.m. The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) would attend and he had asked that the following resolution should be submitted, which the Clerk had done.

“What approach should parish/town councils use to ask Chorley Borough Council to exercise the new community rights within the Localism Act, such as the community right to bid, community right to challenge and community right to build?”

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

### **3584. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION:**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had again been invited to enter the

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Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition and circulated a copy of the Judges` report on the Parish entry in 2012.

Resolved:- That the Parish Council decline the invitation for this year to enable a thorough investigation of the areas requiring attention and a Sub Group be appointed at the AGM to carry out this investigation.

### **3585. GRASS CUTTING SERVICE:**

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that the County Council had confirmed that the current arrangement was to continue.

Chorley Council had indicated it would undertake five verge cuts over the season with a strim after each cut and a cut back to the boundary after the second and final cuts.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

### **3586. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA MEETING:**

The Clerk reported that the first meeting of the Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area Committee would be held on on 12th February 2013. The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) would attend.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted .

### **3587. SHOPMOBILITY**

The Clerk submitted an application for grant from the Chorley branch of this organisation.

Resolved;- That the Parish Council adhere to its existing policy and no grant be made.

### **3588. SPENDING IN THE PARISH:**

A local resident had requested an explanation of the spending of the Parish Council precept he felt it should be spent within the village. He considered that at present, the policy appeared to be to donate amounts to organisations where a significant number of their members were from outside the parish. It was the understanding that the precept was for the benefit of the parish.

It was reported that grants to organisations represented around 8% of the Parish Council spend. The suggestion that grants should not be made to organisations with members from outside Brindle could lead to some groups ceasing to function if it were not for members from outside Brindle helping to keep them viable and alive. It was part of the social function of these groups to enable communities to mix and share common interests and part of the Parish Council function was to support them with what were relatively small amounts of money. The alternative if they were to fold would be for Brindle residents having to travel to participate in groups elsewhere.

The other 92% of the precept was predominantly spent on the function of the Parish Council and entirely without exception for the benefit of Brindle residents. The question “when was the Parish Council going to spend the precept within the village” was asking for tangible projects, maintenance works and the like. With an income of

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£6800.00 the Parish Council was only able to fund modest projects, notice boards for example, and did not have the resources to undertake capital works.

The Parish Council's primary function was to persuade other tiers of local government to spend in Brindle as well as, or instead of elsewhere. Many of the projects undertaken by the County Council and Chorley Council would not have taken place or been brought forward only as a result of pressure from the Parish Council.

Resolved:- That the Clerk respond to the local resident concerned.

### **3589. TELEPHONE BOX TOP OTH LANE:**

A local resident had drawn the Parish Council's attention to the telephone box which was in a dilapidated and filthy condition. In the past it had been commended as one of the best kept phone boxes in Lancashire and was looked after by a resident from Top o'th' Lane.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that some four years ago BT had indicated that it wished to remove the phone box entirely. The Parish Council had objected to this and asked for it to be repaired and cleaned on a regular basis.

BT had not done so and the Parish Council as part of the Parish Plan provisions intended to relocate the box opposite the Community Hall. Discussions regarding this were ongoing.

Resolved:- That the local resident be informed of the situation.

### **3590. PRESS REPORTING:**

Councillor Nelson referred to a recent report in the Evening Post and Chorley Guardian which contained misleading information and inaccuracies and once again cast Brindle and its residents in a bad light.

Resolved:- That Councillor Nelson agreed to discuss this with the farmer concerned for his views on the article and inform the Chairman(Councillor D. Cranshaw) or the Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) regarding the outcome of his discussions.

### **3591. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 25th March 2013 at 7.30 p.m. the Annual Parish Meeting to be followed by the Parish Council meeting at the Community Hall Water Street .

**There being no further business the Chairman of the meeting declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.**

**SIGNED  
CHAIRMAN**

**25TH MARCH 2013**