

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2013
AT THE COMMUNITY HALL
WATER STREET BRINDLE.**

PRESENT:-

**COUNCILLOR D.CRANSHAW (CHAIRMAN) D. METCALFE (VICE CHAIRMAN)
COUNCILLORS J.BALDWIN, C. HINDLE , W. NELSON, MRS B.ROBINSON,
T.SHARRATT AND J. SWANN.**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: DISTRICT COUNCILLOR D.DICKINSON,

3592. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was submitted from Councillor Mrs Long.

3593. 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.

3594. MINUTES:

The Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Parish Council held on 11th February 2013 having previously been circulated were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments to Minute 3573 – **DOG FOULING:** to read as follows:-

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.

and Minute 3576 - **LALC REPORT** to read as follows "(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 Town House (Hillhouse Lane) to Head o the Marsh Farm thus including the junction with Marsh Lane.

The amendments were agreed and the Minutes signed by the Chairman.

3595. ADJOURNMENT:

THERE THEN FOLLOWED AN ADJOURNMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ISSUES AND QUESTION THE PARISH COUNCIL REGARDING MATTERS DEALT WITH. AS THERE WERE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT THE PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

3596. CLEARING OF SNOW:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) on behalf of the Parish Council thanked the farmers in the Parish who had cleared the lying snow from roads in the Parish and kept traffic flowing during the recent bad weather.

Councillor Sharratt also suggested that the Parish Council write to the Environment Director at the County Council to thank the gritting teams for the work they had done

Resolved:- That the Parish Council places on record its appreciation of the snow clearing operations of local farmers and that the Clerk write a letter of thanks to the gritting teams for their work during the recent bad weather.

3597. POLICE LIAISON:

(A) NEWSLETTERS:

As the police were not present no report was submitted.

(B) CONSUMER ALERTS – TRADING STANDARDS:

The Clerk circulated copies of the latest consumer alerts from the County Council's Trading Standards Officer

(C) POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER:

The Clerk circulated a copy of the latest Police and Crime Commissioner Newsletter. and referred to the recently issued Draft Police and Crime Plan 2013 to 2018 consultation document . The Parish Council considered the issues raised in the Plan and commented on the proposals.

(D) RURAL CRIME WATCH CONFERENCE:

Councillors Sharratt reported on the Conference held at Police Headquarters on 11th March 2013.

(E) PACT MEETING:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that he would attend the next meeting.

Resolved:- That the reports be accepted.

3598. COMMUNITY HALL:

A report was presented on current activities at the Hall including the 10th Anniversary of the Cuckoo Walks, the planting of tubs and the tree screen by the United Utilities Compound.

Resolved: - That the report be accepted.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) declared personal and non prejudicial interests in this matter in respect of being a representative of the Parish Council on the Community Hall Management

3599. LALC REPORT:

The Clerk reported that at a previous meeting it had agreed that Councillor Hindle should attend training courses for new Councillors organised by LALC . These would take place on 6th and 20th July and the course fees amounted to £60.00 . The attendance was agreed and a cheque for the fees was signed.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

Resolved:- That the report be accepted

3600. HIGHWAY MATTERS:

(A). DAMAGE TO VERGES AND THE HIGHWAY:

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting 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 was being carried out with a total disregard for the general public, as passers by were coming into contact with spray from the operation.

The Clerk had informed the resident concerned of the views of the Parish Council and he had replied that he did not accept this. Therefore, he wished to resubmit his concerns and asked the Parish Council what actions they were prepared to take. If no action was forthcoming then he would have to take the matter to a higher level of authority as this was a very serious issue which needed addressing.

The Parish Council felt that this issue was common throughout rural areas and there was little that could be done by the Parish Council except to refer the issue to the County Council.

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

(B). DUXON HILL:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that the finger post sign had not been replaced but that Duxon Hill and other areas of the parish had been swept.

Resolved: - That District Councillor Dickinson contact Chorley about the delay in erecting the finger post sign.

(C). DOG FOULING :

At the last meeting a 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. Mr. Peet the Neighbourhood Officer had visited the path and put up No Dog Fouling signs. He would patrol the area. He had also notified the Police Community Support Officers who would also undertake patrols. He suggested the provision of a dog litter bin.

Councillor Hindle indicated that what appeared to be a temporary bin had been located on the footpath.

Resolved:- That Chorley Council be requested to provide a permanent dog litter bin in this locality

(D). GRIT BIN:

Councillor Baldwin reported that he had relocated the surplus grit bin at Gowans Lane to Marsh Lane/Breworth Fold.

It was understood that the bin had been filled.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

Resolved:- That Councilor Baldwin be thanked for his assistance in this matter, that County Councillor Devaney be informed of the relocation and asked to put this bin on the list for refilling as appropriate..

(E). WINDMILL LANE SIGN:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that the sign had still not been replaced . However, the broken chevron sign had been repaired .

Resolved:- That District Councillor Dickinson contact Chorley Council about the replacement of the sign.

(F). POTHoles:

Councillor Baldwin reported on the current situation regarding the repair of the potholes and the unblocking of the drains in Birch Lane

Councillor Hindle reported on the current situation regarding Gregson Lane and at Mintholme.

It was reported that all the previously reported potholes had been filled in.

However, the Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported that a pothole had appeared on Windmill Lane between Silcock and Windmill Farms.

Councillor Nelson reported problems with the gully opposite Tullis Cottage.

Councillor Sharratt commented that new potholes seemed to appear with surprising speed and was concerned how rapidly they developed.

The Clerk circulated two press releases from County Councillor Ashton the Cabinet Member for Highways regarding road maintenance work and the repair of potholes.

Resolved:- That the Clerk notify the Highways Authority regarding the pothole on Windmill Lane and the problems with the gully on Sandy Lane opposite Tullis Cottage.

(G). BLOCKED DRAINS:

The Vice Chairman (Councillor D. Metcalfe) reported on the current situation regarding the gulley near Summerhill on Hillhouse Lane and the gullies in Gowans Lane. The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) reported on the blocked drains on Marsh Lane.

Resolved:- That the Clerk ascertain the current situation regarding the drains.

(H). FOOTPATH - BRINDLE LODGE:

District Councillor Dickinson and Councillor Sharratt reported on the outcome of the meeting with County Councillor Devaney and the Footpaths Officer about the work to the footpath on 19th February 2013.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a scheme was currently being drawn up by the County Council.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

District Councillor Dickinson also reported the latest developments regarding a overhanging tree branch in Private Road.

Resolved:- That the reports be accepted.

(I). GRID – HOLT LANE:

Councillor Nelson reported that the grid cover in Holt Lane had now been replaced.

Resolved: That report be accepted.

(J). GOWANS LANE/MINTHOLME CROSSING:

Following the last meeting the County Council had given their views on the problems at this location.

The County Highways Engineer had commented that Gregson Lane was on a secondary gritting route so during prolonged icy periods it would be treated. It was considered that a grit bin would not be appropriate nor would be likely to get approval from the grit bin assessment process. Anti skid surface was not a surface that would combat icy conditions so would not be appropriate in this case.

He also considered that motorists should drive in accordance with the road conditions and should adjust their speed during wintry icy conditions. There were also sufficient warnings of a level crossing ahead to expect traffic to be traveling at a speed which allowed them to stop should the level crossing lights flash and the barriers come down.

Councillor Hindle suggested the erection of signs near Private Road warning of possible skid conditions at the Crossing.

Councillor Sharratt commented that there was a spot on the Brindle side of the Crossing where water accumulated. This needed investigating as this might be the cause of skidding.

Resolved:- That County Councillor Devaney be asked to investigate the issue again with the Highways Engineers particularly with regard to the accumulation of water.

(K). FLOODING WATER STREET:

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that this was raised at the last meeting.

County Councillor Devaney had recently visited Water Street and the problem drains had now been placed on a list for repair. Work to clear the blocked drains had been carried out but further investigations were needed to ascertain the causes of the problem

Resolved:- That further developments be awaited.

(L). 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.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

Local residents still felt that the problem related to the drainage of the surface.

Resolved:- That the Clerk contact County Councillor Devaney to discuss the matter further.

(M) . SMITHY LANE/PIPPIN STREET - SLOW MARKINGS:

A local resident had asked that Slow markings be painted on the road at the junction of Smithy Lane and Pippin Street.

Resolved:- That the Clerk seek clarification as to the precise location of the suggested markings from the resident concerned.

(N) FOOTPATH CLEARANCE - SANDY LANE:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) informed the Parish Council of the action he had taken following a report from a local resident that the path between the Three Trees House property and Cavendish Cottages on Sandy Lane was completely overgrown and impassable. The stretch was on the Slack Farm and Cavendish side of Sandy Lane.

He had asked for the path to be cleared.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

3601. CHORLEY COUNCIL REPORT:

The Clerk reported on issues affecting the Parish Council

Resolved: - That report be accepted.

3602. PLANNING REPORT:

(A). DECISIONS:

The Clerk reported no applications had been granted permission since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the report be accepted.

(B). APPLICATIONS:

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

1. Two storey rear extension and renovation work Birch House Oram Road App no 13/00141/FUL Applicant Mrs. McPhail.

Details had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and Councillor Hindle had commented on some of the issues surrounding Birch House.

He suggested that the following points needed to be addressed

1)Had the work carried out on the retaining wall been to the relevant specification to withstand a 2 storey extension.?

2)Would the rear of the extension protrude to close the edge of the retaining wall and the adjoining boundary to Sycamore Villas?

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

3) Due to the extensive depth of the wall had due consideration been given to the footings which would support the weight load?

4) Had the impact of the nearby culvert and past flooding and drainage issues been taken into account? Notwithstanding the potential structural problems.

No further comments had been received and the Clerk had informed Chorley Council that there were no observations on the planning application but wished the comments made to be considered when the development took place.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

2. Conversion of a redundant farm building to a single dwelling Home Farm Hoghton Lane (App no 13/00118/FUL) Applicant Mr. Wilmer.

Details were circulated to all Members.

Councillor Hindle had commented on the application.

Councillor Sharratt raised no objections to the proposal.

District Councillor Dickinson had consulted the applicant about the proposals and they were for his own use.

Resolved:- That no observations be made on this application.

3. Felling of two Sycamore trees and the removal of the lowest long branch and other minor branches to one Sycamore tree located within the rear garden area Bringelly Cottage Sandy Lane. App no 13/00154/TCON Applicant Mrs Vost.

Details had been circulated to all Members of the Parish Council and Councillors Nelson and Sharratt had raised no objections.

Councillor Hindle had commented further explanation was required in respect of the need to fell the trees.

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) suggested the Parish Council should obtain details of all the Tree Preservation Orders in the Parish.

Resolved;- (1) That the Arboriculturalist be asked for an explanation as to why the trees required felling as the information with the application was not clear.

(2) That Chorley Council be asked to provide details of the Tree Preservation Orders.

4. Conversion of Redundant Barn into single residential dwelling (resubmission of withdrawn application 12/01062/FUL) Barn opposite Westleigh Sandy Lane. App no 13/00230/FUL Applicant Mr. W. Charnley.

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

Councillor Sharratt commented that it should be a condition that the adjacent parish boundary stone must not be concealed, altered, damaged, moved, or removed.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

Resolved: That subject to the comments made by Councillor Sharratt no observations be made on this application and Chorley Council be informed accordingly.

Councillors Baldwin and Swann declared an interest in this matter and did not vote thereon.

C. LETTER IN SUPPORT:

At the last meeting the Clerk had submitted the following application;-

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.

The Parish Council had reiterated 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.

A letter from the applicant's daughter was circulated in support of the application.

The Parish Council discussed the letter and following a vote decided by 5 votes to 2 to continue with its objections to the application.

The two Councillors against the recommendation wished their votes against to be recorded.

Resolved:- That the Parish Council adhere to its previous decision and the Clerk inform the writer of the letter..

3603. ACCOUNT FOR PAYMENT:

The Clerk submitted the following account for payment.

1. A. Harkness	Print Cartridges	£42.40
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Resolved: - That the account be paid.

3604. PAYROLL ADMINISTRATION :

The Clerk reported that because of changes brought in by HMRC the Company responsible for the Parish Council Payroll would from 1st April be required to send monthly returns and would now charge £18.00 including VAT per quarter. The current charge was £14.04.

Resolved: That the report be accepted.

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL – 25TH MARCH 2013

3605. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE – THREE TREES:

The Clerk reported on the provision of information plaques regarding the new siting of the Three Trees. The total cost of the commemorative planting was £910.42 plus £177.08 VAT. The Brindle Estate would contribute to the final costs of the scheme.

Resolved: - That the report be noted.

3606. BOROUGH/PARISH LIAISON MEETING:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) reported on the meeting held on 20th February 2013.

He had raised the question of 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? A response was awaited.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted.

3607. NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA MEETING:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) reported on the first meeting of the Eastern Parishes Neighbourhood Area Committee on 12th February. District Councillor Dickinson also commented.

Resolved:- That the report be accepted

3608. LITTER BIN PROJECT:

The Chairman (Councillor D. Cranshaw) reported that a larger bin with a lid had been provided at Denham Quarry.

Resolved: That report be accepted.

3609. LINDSAY HOYLE:

The Clerk reported that the local MP had been made a Privy Councillor and was now addressed as The Right Honourable.

Resolved:- That the Parish Council send him a letter of congratulation.

3610. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 13th May 2013 at 7.30 p.m. the Annual General Meeting to be followed by the Parish Council meeting at the Trinity Methodist Church Gregson Lane .

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

**SIGNED
CHAIRMAN**

13TH MAY 2013