

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF BRINSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17 MAY 2018

Present: Cllrs Barry, Bowler, Dyson, Gregory, Hughes, Ridge, Rollinson and Williams

Officer: Gail Blank

Apologies: Cllrs Buckley, Saxton and Tompkins

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The last 12 months have been exceptionally busy for the Parish Council with both its challenges and successes. Once again, this year has been dominated by the development of the new Community Centre (now known as 'The Centre'), however we have also had to deal with a lot of other issues along the way.

In April 2017 the Parish Council received the good news that the Big Lottery had approved their funding application to build the new Community Centre for Brinsworth after months of hard work and bid writing by the Clerk, Peter Wilkinson. Following this good news, Peter felt it was an appropriate time to take his retirement and so the search for a new Clerk commenced.

In May I was elected as the Chairman to the Parish Council and Cllr Barry as the Vice Chairman. Also, Cllr Buckley was elected as the new Deputy Mayor for Rotherham. May also saw the tender process for the Contractor for building the Community Centre come to its conclusion with Cadam Construction winning the project.

June saw the interviews and appointment of the new Clerk. Discussions took place between the Parish Council, SYPT, RMBC and the Police regarding potential repositioning of both the bus shelter and pedestrian crossing on Brinsworth Lane but after several long meetings the decision was disappointingly taken to keep things as they currently are. Brinsworth saw the arrival of the beautiful hanging baskets supplied by Brinsworth Academy which brightened up the community well into September.

Talks with RMBC Library Services commenced in July with regards to the work required to build a new Library for Brinsworth next to the Parish Council Offices and the planning process began. July 2nd brought a lovely sunny day for Brinsworth's annual Village Fete on the playing fields, which was well attended.

August 25th saw the old Community Hall close its doors for the last time and existing users moved to their new temporary homes. Our new Clerk, Gail Blank also joined the Parish Council and following a short hand over period Peter retired.

October 16th saw the demolition of the old Community Hall start and the local school children enjoyed watching the large machinery on site doing their jobs.

I hope you agree that the Firework display on 4th November was another excellent display to the magical theme 'Spellbound'. As in previous years the event was well attended by both local residents and their family and friends from around the country. We appreciate some residents were disappointed at the lack of catering facilities and rides for the younger residents, but the Parish Council are working hard to put plans in place for the event in 2018. The Remembrance Service on 12th November was also very well attended and was a lovely service followed by tea, coffee and cakes kindly served with the help of the ladies from the Friends of St George's Churchyard.

In December we received news from RMBC that planning permission had been granted for the new Library to be built and work commenced on getting quotes in place to submit to RMBC Library

Services for funding approval. The Community Centre was renamed "The Centre" and its foundations were laid.

In January 2018 the Parish Council received confirmation that the Council Tax Support grant previously received from RMBC was to be withdrawn. This led to long discussions between the Councillors regarding the rate at which to set the precept for 2018/19. To meet this shortfall in funding, the Parish Council took the difficult decision to increase the precept. In 2018/19, a 'Band B' property will pay £99.84 a year – a rise of just 24p a week.

January and February saw a very wet and cold winter with plenty of snow which caused disruption to the building of 'The Centre', unfortunately this resulted in the project completion date being delayed by approximately a month. The search for a Centre Manager and Assistant started. These new staff will run 'The Centre' on a daily basis and the Parish Council took the decision to create 'Brinsworth Community Trust' to work with the successful applicants. Creating the trust will enable 'The Centre' to have access to a variety of grant funding opportunities not open to the Parish Council. These grants will be put towards providing services for our ever changing Parish.

The bad weather during the winter months also highlighted an issue with the Pavilion's roof and heating system. The heating system was replaced and will now accommodate the demands of the Pavilion and the new Library when it is built. Works to replace 2/3rds of the Pavilion roof commenced in March during the Easter break to prevent disruption to the Pre-school.

During the year the Parish Council have also responded to residents' complaints about litter, parking issues, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. We work with local partners such as RMBC and the Police to resolve as many of these issues as we can.

The Facebook page has been replaced by a Facebook group with over 1,100 members to date and we are still producing our quarterly newsletter to share information with the residents of Brinsworth, we hope you continue to find this informative and relevant.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the last 12 months. A Parish Councillor volunteers to do this job without any payment. For the Parish Council to be successful it depends on the hard work and commitment of all the team.

Our Attendants, Litter Picker and Caretakers do an exceptional job throughout the year and our Clerk and Assistant Clerk work hard, and at times under pressure, in the office keeping things going behind the scenes. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to them all.

Finally, thank you to the Brinsworth residents for your support and please remember our doors are always open if you have any problems in or around our Parish.

Sincerely

Jeff Williams
Chairman of Brinsworth Parish Council

Payments Made Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 During the Financial Year Ended 31st March 2018

Rotherham Holiday Aid	£150.00	Donation
Breast Cancer Care	£105.50	Donation
Radio Nightingale	£100.00	Donation

Statement of Income & Expenditure 2017/18

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Football Pitch Hire	1,898	Community Hall / Pavilion	23,439
Bowling Green Fees	4,992	<u>Events:</u>	
Community Hall / Pavilion Hire Fees	40,077	Brinsworth Fete	1,373
Events	950	Fireworks Display	7,048
Precept	260,444	Civic Service	326
Sundry Income	973	<u>Parks & Open Spaces:</u>	
Grants	8,504	Bowling Green	307
PWLB Loan for The Centre	329,884	Waste Collection	3,722
Big Lottery Grant for The Centre	240,000	Grounds Maintenance	19,455
		Vehicle Running Costs	2,133
		Salaries & Wages	115,356
		<u>Administration:</u>	
		Insurance	4,755
		Newsletter	7,196
		General Administration	8,745
		Donations	355
		<u>Projects:</u>	
		Hanging Baskets	1,836
		Play Equipment	4,810
		School Holiday Activities	6,970
		Active Regen Project (activities for Young & Older People)	5,890
		The new Centre Building costs	439,941
		Balance	234,065
TOTAL	887,722	TOTAL	887,722

The balance of £234,065 contains £129,943 PWLB loan allocated to 2018/19 building costs, the remaining £104,122 will put into reserves and go towards future expenditure, including the completion of 'The Centre'.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no members of the public in attendance and there was no other business.

MEETING CLOSED 18:20