

Brinsworth Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2020

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr A Buckley

Vice-Chairman : Cllr J Williams

**Councillors : Cllr R Bowler, Cllr D Dyson, Cllr Mrs P Gregory, Cllr Mrs M Hughes,
Cllr S Ridge, Cllr Mrs M Rollinson, Cllr Mrs J Tompkins**

Non Councillors : Cllr N Simpson

Officers : Mrs G Blank

2390 Public Question Time (20 minutes)

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The Clerk presented the Councillors with a revised agenda due to an urgent matter that had arisen. The Chairman asked Councillors to approve by a show of hands if they were happy to receive the revised agenda.

RESOLVED: That the revised agenda is approved.

The new Deputy Clerk who joins the Parish Council on 14th April 2020 was present at the meeting and was introduced to Councillors.

2391 Apologies

Apologies have been received from Cllr Mrs K Saxton and the reason given was approved.

2392 Declaration of Members' Interests

The Chairman asked Councillors to express any declarations of interest prior to the relevant item being discussed.

2393 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on :-

13th February 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2020 are approved as a true and accurate record.

2394 To Receive Information on Ongoing Issues and Decide Further Action Where Necessary

2386 - Cllr Buckley confirmed that he had passed on a response to queries from Cllr Hughes and Cllr Saxton.

2395 Community Issues

a) Police - The Clerk reported that Brinsworth now only has one PCSO (PCSO Tony Brown).

b) Ward Councillors - Cllr Simpson updated Councillors on several issues that himself and Cllr Buckley have been involved in, SYPTTE meetings, an 8 screen cinema for Rotherham, cycle routes, Fireworks noise nuisance fines, new bridge near former Tesco site, Kids lifestyle survey and the standards and ethics board meeting in June to discuss a social media policy.

c) Others

The Clerk informed Councillors that she has been approached by a young resident who wishes to meet with the Council to discuss ideas she has on providing things for

younger residents. Councillors agreed that this enthusiasm should be encouraged and asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting.

Cllr Williams informed Councillors that he has been approached by a football team who have funding for an all weather pitch. He asked if this would be something the Council would be interested in looking further into and it was agreed that the representatives of the Club be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposal further.

2396 General Power of Competence

a) To consider and approve the adoption of the General Power of Competence

The Clerk presented a report regarding the adoption of the General Power of Competence (GPC) included in the Localism Act 2011 (part 1, chapter 1, ss 1-8) brought into force by SI 965 The Parish Council's (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in April 2012 and asked Councillors to consider adopting the power.

The intention of the legislation was that eligible local authorities would no longer have to identify specific powers to undertake an activity. As a result, the risk of legal challenge would be reduced. This would also allow them to do things they had previously been unable to do under existing powers.

The Council must resolve at a meeting that it meets the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Clerk. The resolution can be passed at any meeting of the Council but a further resolution must be passed at every subsequent 'relevant annual meeting' for the Council to be able to continue to exercise the power. A 'relevant annual meeting' is the annual meeting that takes place in a year of ordinary elections, once every four years.

At the time the resolution is passed, at least two thirds of the members of the Council must hold office as a result of being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an eligible qualification such as CiLCA.

If the Council loses its qualified Clerk or has insufficient elected Councillors then it must record its ineligibility at the next 'relevant annual meeting' of the Council (after the ordinary election). If it has already started an activity it can finish that but not start anything new.

Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of holding the General Power of Competence. Cllr Gregory was concerned about being able to offer grants to individuals, the Clerk reassured her that this was just a power available and not something that has to be done. The Parish Council are able to adjust its financial regulations and standing orders to clarify this if necessary.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council adopts the General Power of Competence.

b) To resolve that the Parish Council meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Localism Act 2011

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council, from 12th March 2020 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council, having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in The Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, adopts the General Power of Competence.

2397 Planning

a) To receive RMBC Planning Lists

1) RB2020/0208 - Single storey front, side and rear extension at 5 Willowgarth Avenue - noted.

2) RB2020/0287 - Two storey side & single storey rear extension, single storey front extension and enlarged first floor bay window to front at 61 Bonet Lane - noted.

3) RB2020/0308 - Application to vary condition No 2 approved plans imposed by RB2019/1003 at 60&62 Whitehill Lane - noted.

b) To receive an update on applications previously considered

1) RB2019/1879 - First floor side extension and replace rear flat roof with pitched roof at 38 Fullerton Drive - granted conditionally - noted.

2398 Reports

a) To receive an update on the Elections Briefing

The Clerk ran through the timetable for the local elections:

27th March 2020 - Publish notice of Election

30th March 2020 - Nominations commence

8th April 2020 - Nominations close at 4pm

8th April 2020 - Nomination withdrawals close at 4pm

9th April 2020 - Nominations publicised

7th May 2020 - Elections

There are 3 forms to be completed by candidates and it's recommended that an appointment is booked with staff at electoral services to have your papers checked before the deadline.

The Clerk distributed nomination packs to those Councillors who had requested them.

b) To receive feedback from the Practitioners Conference

The Clerk updated Councillors on the Practitioners Conference and went through the workshops she had attended. The Clerk thanked Councillors for allowing her to go as she finds this conference a valuable learning experience. The Clerk suggested that next year herself and the Deputy Clerk would benefit going and that this has already been budgeted for.

Councillors thanked the Clerk and agreed that the experience is valuable and an important part of the role.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and Deputy Clerk book on the Practitioners Conference for 2021 at the earliest opportunity to ensure they secure their place at this busy event.

c) To receive any other reports

There were no other reports received.

2399 Correspondence

For Action:

YLCA - Training and Development - April - September 2020 (forwarded)
- To approve any training requirements deemed necessary

The Clerk identified areas of training required for herself, the Deputy Clerk and any new and existing Councillors.

RESOLVED: That the training requirements of the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Councillors is approved for the year 2020/21.

For Information:

- a) RMBC Electoral services - Full Register 2020 and March Update - noted.
- b) RMBC Neighbourhoods - Parish Councils Elections 2020 - Members Briefing Meeting Dates (forwarded) - noted.
- c) YLCA - White Rose Updates (forwarded) - noted.
- d) NALC - Chief Executive Bulletins (forwarded) - noted.
- e) SYP - Neighbourhoods Team (forwarded) - noted.
- f) SYFRA - Newsletter (forwarded) - noted.
- g) VAR - Bulletins (forwarded) - noted.
- h) Any Other Correspondence:
 - 1) Brinsworth & Catcliffe March 2020 Neighbourhoods team newsletter - noted.

2400 Staffing *

- a) To receive an update

The Clerk informed Councillors that the first candidate for the Deputy Clerk had decided the position wasn't for her and resigned. The Clerk approached the 2nd candidate who has accepted and will start her role on the 14th April 2020.

The newly appointed Amenity Attendant has left the employment of Brinsworth Parish Council as he was unable to carry out all the duties asked of him. An advertisement to replace this post is being advertised with a closing date of 20th March 2020. The Clerk reported that so far the response had been very good.

- b) To select a representative from the Council to be on the interview panel for the new Amenity Attendant.

The Clerk asked Councillors who would like to represent them on the interview panel with herself and the senior Attendant. It was agreed that when the Clerk has decided the interview dates she contacts the staffing committee to see who is available.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact the staffing committee members to ask for representatives on the short listing and interview panel for the amenity attendant post.

2401 Complaints Procedure *

- To receive a complaint from a local resident and decide appropriate action

The Clerk read out 2 emails that she had received on behalf of the Parish Council regarding an incident that occurred earlier in the week. The Clerk also read out her version of events to Councillors.

According to the Parish Council's current complaints procedure the complainant should be given the opportunity to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the issue and come to a resolution.

Councillors discussed the complaint and how they felt it should be dealt with. Councillors reassured the Clerk that they did not think she had done anything wrong in her actions and agreed that it would not be appropriate for her to attend any meetings held. The Clerk suggested that the support of another Clerk at the meeting is requested.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Bowler and Buckley, accompanied by a neutral Clerk from another Parish Council, meet with the complaints to discuss the complaint further.

MEETING CLOSED 20:00