

Brinsworth Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24 JUNE 2021

Those present :

Chair : Cllr C L Jones

Vice-Chair : Cllr K L Hollis

Councillors : Cllr A Buckley, Cllr J T Chatwyn, Cllr J R Gelder, Cllr P Gregory, Cllr T Hannan, Cllr A Nocton, Cllr S Ridge, Cllr M Rollinson, Cllr J Watson

Officers : Mrs G Blank, Mrs J Huddleston

2524 Apologies

There were no apologies received.

2525 Declaration of Members' Interests

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

2526 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on :-

- 29th April 2021, 6th May 2021 & 20th May 2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on the 29th April 2021, 6th May 2021 and 20th May 2021 are approved as a true and accurate record.

2527 To Receive Information on Ongoing Issues and Decide Further Action Where Necessary

At the meeting held on the 29th April 2021 the Clerk informed the Parish Council of a RMBC investigation into a complaint that the spring 2021 edition of the Parish Newsletter was full of electioneering material and breached the rules of purdah.

The Clerk informed the Council that following the investigation the Parish Council and the Clerk have been cleared of any wrong doing and the mitigating circumstances around the delayed delivery was accepted. The Parish Council is advised caution in future election years.

The Clerk had also been reported for seconding a councillor nomination paper, however again the Clerk has been found not to have breached any laws and as a resident of Brinsworth was within her rights.

In his capacity of Ward Councillor Cllr Buckley had also been cleared of any wrong doing.

2528 Membership of Sub Committees and working parties

To consider and approve membership of the following sub committee / working parties:

a) Staffing Sub Committee

The Council discussed the role of the staffing committee and what the most appropriate mix of Councillors would be to ensure that any employees are fairly treated.

The Clerk explained that the same Councillors dealing with any disciplinaries or grievances can not deal with any appeals arising from them.

Cllr Ridge and Buckley felt that it was important that the Chair and Vice Chair not be on the same committee and Cllr Nocton supported this.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Chatwyn, Gelder, Gregory, Hollis and Nocton form part of the staffing Committee.

b) Grievance Sub Committee

The Clerk suggested that the name of this sub committee be changed to appeals.

By default all those Councillors not on the staffing committee would form part of the appeals committee. If for any reason one of those Councillors was needed to join the staffing committee, such as making the committee in quorate, then they would no longer be able to sit on this committee and vice versa.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Buckley, Hannan, Jones, Ridge, Rollinson and Watson form part of the appeals committee.

c) Events working party

The Clerk explained that the purpose of the Events working party was to organise the events agreed by the full Events Committee and that usually there was no limit to attendees including non Council members, such as Ward Councillors, RMBC representatives and residents.

The working party also had authority to spend up to the budget limits unless authorised at a full Events Committee meeting. Minutes of the working party are shared at the full Committee meeting and actions approved where necessary.

The Deputy Clerk takes a lead on the working party arranging the meetings and taking the minutes.

At the next Events meeting the Clerk would issue a list of previously agreed events for the Council to discuss and agree the date and time of the first working party.

RESOLVED: That there would be no formal working party for Events and that Councillors may attend as and when they are available and would like to be involved.

2529 Representation on External Bodies

a. To consider and approve that the Chair or Vice Chair are elected to be the designated representative of the Parish Council at any meeting that they are invited to.

Councillors discussed the proposal and the Clerk explained that information and any issues arising from any meetings they attend will be relayed at the following Ordinary meeting under the reports agenda item.

RESOLVED: That the Chair and Vice Chair are elected to be the designated representative of the Parish Council at any meeting the Parish Council is invited to attend.

b. To agree that the elected designated representative of the Parish Council can determine whether or not they attend external meetings to which they are invited.

The Chair explained that this agenda item was to allow any Councillor or member of staff to be nominated where appropriate should the Chair or Vice Chair deem necessary.

RESOLVED: That the elected designated representative of the Parish Council can determine whether or not they attend external meetings to which they are invited.

c. To ratify nominations to represent Brinsworth Parish Council on the RMBC Local Councils Joint Working Group (JWG) - closing date 11th June 2021

The Clerk reported that Cllr Buckley had forwarded his nomination paper and had been elected to represent the Parish Council. There is still a position available for another Councillor to join and a Clerk.

Cllr Buckley suggested the Clerk may want to put her name forward. The Chair informed the meeting that she had already discussed this with the Clerk and had her reservations due to the current workload of the Clerk.

The Clerk explained that it was a voluntary position with no work involved, the only expectation was that she attend meetings to provide as and when necessary and that meetings were held every 6 weeks.

The Clerk said she would be interested in putting her name forward as it was a good learning opportunity for her.

RESOLVED: That Councillors nomination is approved and ratified and that the Clerk may apply to be a member of the RMBC Local Councils Joint Working Group (JWG).

d. To approve nominations to join the RMBC Standards and Ethics Committee - closing date 25th June 2021.

Details of this external committee had been circulated prior to the meeting and Cllr Buckley had expressed his interest in putting his nomination forward. Cllr Buckley informed Councillors that he had stood on the committee before he became Ward Councillor and would like to stand once again now he was able to.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Buckley's nomination for both the RMBC Standards and Ethics Committee is approved.

2530 Yorkshire Day

- To consider and approve who will represent the Parish Council at this years Yorkshire Day Civic Ceremony.

Unfortunately due to Covid19 restrictions Yorkshire Day for 2021 has been cancelled.

2531 Meetings

- To consider and approve the withdrawal of paid refreshments at Parish Council meetings.

The Chair explained that she thought the Parish Council should no longer use Council funds to purchase refreshments for meetings and that instead Councillors should contribute them themselves.

RESOLVED: That in future only an urn and cups are provided at Parish Council meetings and that Councillors would provide their own refreshments.

2532 Communications

- To consider and approve providing a district reporter to cover the Brinsworth area in the Rotherham Advertiser.

For many months Brinsworth had no coverage in the Rotherham Advertiser under district news. The Chair thought that the Council should take this opportunity to volunteer its own reporter to provide local news.

Cllr Chatwyn volunteered and informed the Councillors that she had spoken to the Rotherham Advertiser to find out more details. All Councillors agreed it was an excellent idea and thanked Cllr Chatwyn for volunteering

RESOLVED: That Cllr Chatwyn is nominated as district reporter to cover the Brinsworth area in the Rotherham Advertiser.

MEETING CLOSED: 21:00