

BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Community Hall on the 11th April 2024

Present: Councillor J Reid (Chairman)
Councillor T Heenan
Councillor I Currington
Councillor S Brown
Councillor Karen Keene
Councillor Judith Brickwood

Councillor T Gillias (RBC)
J Boonham (Cemetery Agent)
D Lloyd (Clerk & RFO)
5 Members of the public

1. Apologies.

Apologies received and accepted from A Warwick (WCC)

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

- 3. Minutes of the last meeting. **RESOLVED** **That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th March 2024 were approved, signed and initialled by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.****

4. Comments, Questions or Suggestions made by Members of the Public.

A question was raised about the plan for affordable housing in the village as nothing mentioned for approx a year; a meeting is arranged between the owner of the suggested site, architect, developer, and two members of the Parish Council to discuss the next steps. A formal planning application is needed and the progress is being followed by the Parish Council.

A litter pick date confirmation was requested; it was decided to wait for better weather conditions unless it becomes really necessary. The Lengthsmen are clearing anything from the ditches.

The throughway by the scout hut to the field is very muddy; plastic matting could be considered but the height of the manhole is an issue which STWA needs to sort first.

Jennie Boonham mentioned that additional help is needed with the planting and watering of the flowerbeds; Round the Revel and Facebook to be used to ask for volunteers.

5. District and County Councillor Reports for Information.

Councillor T Gillias (RBC)

Tony asked for the footpath at Walkers Terrace to be cleared, confirmed by John Reid that this has been done; Bill Woolliscroft from Monks Kirby PC is retiring after 40 years; The new owner of Clifton Lakes has had issues with undesirables, planning has been approved for improvements to help resolve this.

6. Report by Cemetery Agent.

Jennie read out her report to all present. A payment has been received for the gravedigger from a family who changed their minds about a planned interment after his work had been completed; enquiries have been received from families trying to locate graves, requests to erect memorials and confirmations of plot reservations; reserved posts have been installed, some repaired and re-installed, and families have been notified; an interment and memorial installation are pending; further progress has been made on checking the records and tying them up with the map with the help of Councillor Sue Brown for which Jennie gave her thanks. A broken lock on the gate needs fixing.

7. An update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Tim Heenan attended a meeting with RBC planning who are assessing sites, plans may change if there is a change of government after elections but more housing is always needed. A minor change is needed to our Neighbourhood Plan which should take a couple of months. The Local Plan is due for submission in 2025. There is no one on the Rugby Housing Register requesting affordable housing in Brinklow, we need to get numbers on the list to justify building affordable housing. A member of the public said that the criteria you have to meet to go onto the list makes it very difficult to be accepted. A link to the form will be published on facebook and the councillors are prepared to help with completing the forms if needed.

8. An update on the 2024 Election.

Brinklow has an uncontested election, all councillors have applied to stand again for another term and are the only applicants., so a vote is not necessary. Dates for the completion of paperwork was read out to all present.

9. An update on the Grass Cutting.

The contract has continued into its second year with the contractor asking for the payment of £13,327.51 to be paid over 8 months at £1655.94 per month. The contractor is in communication with Councillor K Keene as it is still too wet for the equipment to cut the playing field. If dry enough it will be double cut on the next scheduled day.

APPROVED

Chairman J Reid proposed we make the monthly payments as requested, Seconded by Councillor S Brown.

10. To discuss the grass damage on Yew Tree Hill.

Parking posts have been put in to prevent further damage by trucks turning, to be monitored.

11. To discuss necessary work needed in the Cemetery.

The Bothy in the cemetery has been taken down, the bricks cleaned and roof tiles salvaged, ready to rebuild it as a quiet seating area. A stained glass window has been offered, re-placing of the bier is still to be decided. Councillor I Currington suggested applying for some festival funding to help towards the costs. Scaffolding is needed for this project.

12. To discuss the Hedgehog Highway Project.

A Hedgehog highway is a 5" gap in a fence or wall allowing access for hedgehogs and are essential to help prevent their extinction. A box of 50, made from recycled (and recyclable) plastic costs £150 (£3 each) for the Parish Council to consider purchasing. Hedgehog house kits to be looked into as a project for the children of the village. Costings needed before decision.

Councillor K Keene to Action

13. Feedback on the Police Liaison drop-in Evening.

Councillors T Heenan, H Timms and Chairman J Reid all attended. PCSO Tony Winters' update following the evening; a report that some carers attending residents are driving erratically in the village, the standard of driving and parking is appalling, they have new driver 'P Plates' – tony is approaching the agency they are employed by; the speed reduction project was asked about.

14. An update on the proposal for new Benches.

Councillor J Brickwood has researched the prices for memorial benches, a 3 seat teak bench already assembled was sourced, offering a slight discount on the purchase of 4 or more. The discounted price would be £399 each, fixings and installation by the lengthsman and a plaque would make the price £475 each. If residents wish to share the cost of a bench multiple plaques could be fixed (the cost of a plaque being £25 each) and preferred locations can be considered. Easy access benches and picnic tables for the playing field to be costed – these would also be good for the social prescribing project to use as pocket park is not considered the best location due to the lack of facilities.

Councillor J Brickwood to Action

15. To discuss and approve future Electricity Payments via Direct Debit.

The Clerk requested the councillors to consider paying the electricity via direct debit due to the timings of the requested payments.

APPROVED Proposed by J Reid, Seconded by S Brown

16. To minute the response submitted for Planning Applications required between meetings.

- R24/0100 White Lion 32 Broad Street – Change of use of land at front of property from Highway land to outdoor seating area of public house & installation of wooden edging & fence posts (retrospective) – The Parish Council response submitted was: Brinklow Parish Council note the objection from WCC dated 13th March 2024 which highlights their dispute over the ownership of the land. As Brinklow Parish Council have no jurisdiction over land ownership disputes we are unable to comment or respond further to the planning application until this is concluded. We do hope that the matter is resolved promptly to the satisfaction of both parties and remain open to assist where appropriate.

17. To discuss and agree a response to Planning Application received.

- R24/0222 Maple Down, Rugby Road – for proposed extensions and alterations to property – it was agreed by all councillors to respond that we have no objection.

RESOLVED Clerk to send the response to RBC

18. Approve the Accounts for Payment.

| Date | Ch No /so | Details | Total Payments | Payment Particulars |
|----------|-----------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| 11/04/24 | EFT | J Boonham | 177.09 | salary |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | D Lloyd | 411.70 | salary |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | GreenSponge Media & IT | 432.00 | setting up new .GOV domain and emails M:Mar24/8 |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | SSE Energy | 211.18 | streetlight electricity 01.02.24 - 29.02.24 |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | J Brickwood | 11.25 | expenses |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | J Reid | 81.77 | expenses - van expenses M:Mar24/11 |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | Soldo | 126.66 | top up card for March/April transactions |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | JRB Enterprise Ltd | 145.56 | dog waste bags |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | R Quinney | 100.00 | tfr of payment to grave digger ref: payment rec'd 26.03.24 |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | WALC | 485.20 | membership renewal |
| 11/04/24 | EFT | Leicestershire Gardens | 1665.94 | 1st payment for grasscutting contract |

APPROVED Proposed by Councillor K Keene Seconded by Councillor I Currington

The Cashbook, Bank reconciliation and bank statements were checked, initialled and balance agreed.

19. Progress Reports for Information.

- **Brinklow Castle & Playing Field** – Its currently too wet to work on the Tump and playing field and causing a delay with the mowing; the composter in the spinney is being filled; the tennis court net had been unwound but not damaged; a fallen tree on the pathway at the Tump is to be looked at.
- **Speed Reduction Project** – A teams meeting with WCC recently held; provisional site approvals drawn up for 3x speed control gates but the price could be over ridden by 15% by the contractor who fits them; a footpath at the start of the Rugby road (in the direction of Easenhall) is being priced; all schools are to be assessed for parking which can be legally enforced; a white line survey to take place to establish what is regarded maintenance rather than new work – only new work is to be paid for by the Parish Council at 50% of the cost.
- **CCTV Project** – When the weather improves the councillors will be given a demonstration of what the system is capable of doing prior to a decision.

20. Correspondence received.

Repair needed for the lamp at Walkers Terrace originally quoted as £801.75 exc VAT was requoted as £485.25 exc VAT –agreed to accept the work order at the new price – work already approved at a previous meeting - December 23 item 14

Clerk to Action

A meeting to be held by WALC for councillors – to be looked into by Councillor S Brown.

Key code for the gate to the playing field was requested by Brinklow Football Club but no reason given – waiting for a response.

21. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th May 2024 in the Village Hall commencing straight after the Annual parish Meeting and Annual meeting of the Parish Council which are scheduled to start at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

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CHAIRMAN