

PARISH OF BRIMINGTON
MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at the Brimington Community Centre, Heywood Street, Brimington
On Tuesday 11 May 2021 at 6.30pm

Attendance:

Parish Councillor Dave Culley (Chair of Brimington Parish Council),
Borough Councillor Ian Callan (Chesterfield Brimington South)
County Councillor Dean Collins (Derbyshire County Council)

Parish Councillors: P Cawthorne, S Sanderson and S Yates
Borough Councillor Tricia Gilby (Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council)
E Boswell – Clerk

Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Dave Culley opened the meeting.
Good Evening and welcome to everyone attending Brimington Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting.

1) Apologies for Absence

Councillors A Bellamy and J Haywood

2) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14 July 2020

Resolved: To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 14 July 2020 as a true and accurate record.

3a) Report of County Councillor Dean Collin representative of Derbyshire County Council

Dean Collins thanked the Brimington electorate for voting him in on the 6th May 2021. He has signed his acceptance of Office. The election was not good for Labour and they now only hold 14 seats on the County Council, with 45 Conservative, 4 Liberal Democrats and 1 Green representative.

3b) Report from Chesterfield Borough Council – presented by Councillor Ian Callan

During the past year our communities have faced unimaginable challenges. Chesterfield Borough Council has worked tirelessly to keep essential services running, sustain our businesses and support our residents. Our staff have been outstanding throughout – resolute, committed, flexible and above all else present for the communities we serve.

Hundreds of council staff have taken on new roles – working at vaccination centres and testing stations, making medicine and food deliveries, and working alongside the borough's community and voluntary sector organisations to connect residents in need with local volunteers. Council staff have also worked through weekends and over bank holidays to administer business rates reliefs and small business grant payments; over £60 million of reliefs and grants have been paid out to help sustain the borough's businesses and the vital jobs that they support.

Skills and employability initiatives for local people, in particular young people form one of the cornerstones of the council's Covid19 economic recovery plan. Believed to be the first of its kind in the UK, the My Future project represents a modern, innovative, and inclusive approach to connecting young people with employers and education and training providers. My Future has enabled thousands of young people from across Chesterfield and North Derbyshire to access high-quality careers advice, employment support, and a wide range of education and training programmes in a Covid-19 secure way.

In October we took this activity to the next level with the development of our 'women in construction' mentoring scheme. This gave school and college students from Chesterfield the opportunity to work with female leaders already operating in a broad range of disciplines within the construction sector. My thanks to Robert Woodhead Limited, Whittam Cox architects, D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Chesterfield Property and Construction Forum for their support with the mentoring scheme.

In October, Chesterfield Borough Council was named among the top 100 apprenticeship employers in England; the award recognises the council's commitment as a direct employer of over 40 apprentices and the success of our pioneering apprentice town initiative, which has seen thousands of young and working age people placed with local employers.

This year, more than ever, the borough's parks and green spaces have been a lifeline for residents, enabling them to meet family and friends, exercise or simply escape for a short time. Five of our parks and open spaces have again achieved the highest of international standards, recognition that is marked by the flying of green flags. In Brimington the newly upgraded Princess Street Play area was open by a "bubble" of children from Henry Bradley Infant School. Borough Councillors Terry and Tricia Gilby, County Councillor Stuart Brittain and Parish Councillor Dave Culley and Sylvia Sanderson were also there.

The council has continued to invest in its housing stock, including a £3.8 million programme to modernise three supported housing schemes, at Brocklehurst Court, Glebe Court and Catherine Court; an investment that further builds on the council's commitment to ensure that a supply of affordable, modern and attractive homes is available for local people at every stage of their life.

There is more to come with the council resolved to investing a further £23 million in 2021/22 on the provision of good quality, affordable and energy efficient council homes. There are also plans to build or acquire 53 new council homes in the coming year. In Brimington 3 town houses and a adapted bungalow were built and are now occupied on Manor Drive and we have also purchased off plan some of the houses currently being built in Brimington North.

Improving the energy efficiency of our 9,000 council homes remains one of the council's key climate change commitments but we are also keen to help home owners and private sector landlords to do the same through the priority allocation of £1 million in Government support that the council has secured for the provision of green home grants.

We knew that Christmas 2020 needed to be special. Following months of restrictions, the people of Chesterfield needed something to look forward to. It was also a key trading time for our high street retailers who had been hit hard by the pandemic. Working in partnership with Destination Chesterfield, the council's Christmas in Chesterfield campaign included the amazing magical Santa house, an Elf trail, illumination of the Crooked Spire and a cascade of social media promotions aimed at bringing shoppers back to Chesterfield town centre. 750 families went through the door of the Santa House and our social media posts attracted over 100,000 views.

Work started in the first week of the New Year on public realm improvements to Elder Way and Knifessmithgate. These improvements represent the final phase of the council's £20m Northern Gateway development. Over the past 18 months, we have seen the opening of the new town centre Premier Inn and the new Saltergate multi-storey car park. The council's new Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre is also set to open its doors to new start-up businesses this summer. It is hoped that this linked set of investments will breathe new life into Chesterfield town centre, improving the quality and attractiveness of the area for residents, businesses and visitors.

January also arrived with a big dose of hope for the country's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Winding Wheel Theatre became a key venue for the Government's vaccination programme, with the council working alongside local NHS and public health partners. Thousands of Chesterfield residents have already received their vaccinations with the Theatre set to continue to fulfil its pivotal role until late August.

Despite the risks and uncertainties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the council is determined to press ahead with its £1 billion growth programme – carving out a prosperous future for Chesterfield borough with lots of new jobs and homes for local people. In January, we encouraged people to have their say on ambitious plans to transform the area around Chesterfield Railway Station with a view to creating a refreshed and vibrant gateway to Chesterfield town centre and establishing a range of potential employment sites. Our innovative virtual exhibition set out the council's vision for the future regeneration of the area while also reflecting the once-in-a-generation opportunities provided by the proposed High-Speed Rail link to Chesterfield.

Supporting our residents through the pandemic remains a top priority for Chesterfield Borough Council and is at the heart of our Covid-19 community recovery plan. In February council staff helped to develop and promote Derbyshire Voluntary Action's 'Feeling Connected' project, which aims to raise awareness of the importance of being socially connected, the availability of key services, and the range of initiatives and activities on offer to reduce social isolation. The project's launch was accompanied by a big shout out for volunteers to help support what is now a large and vibrant community and voluntary sector in Chesterfield borough. It is truly humbling to learn of the many thousands of local people who are now offering their time, talents and life experiences to support others within their communities. They are making such a difference while also gaining so much in return including renewed confidence, new skills and lifelong friendships.

Spring really sprang to life in March when it was confirmed that over 3,000 trees had been planted across Chesterfield borough during 2020/21. This is very pleasing when measured against the 1,000 trees per annum planting target set within the council's Climate Change Action Plan. These trees will not only help make the borough a more attractive place; they will also improve biodiversity and over time absorb carbon to mitigate the impact of harmful emissions on the environment.

Government also signed off on the Staveley Town Deal in March. The council has worked alongside multiple partners as part of the Staveley Town Deal Board to attract £25.2 million in funding to invest in eleven projects and programmes, ranging from new site infrastructure to support commercial development to improvements to Staveley high street and from new events facilities at Staveley Hall to new classrooms for sports courses at the local football club. This truly golden opportunity has the potential to transform Staveley both for today's population and for future generations.

It is also very pleasing to see the excellent progress that is being made at the town's landmark Chesterfield Waterside development. The recent completion of the steel frame for One Waterside Place is a real milestone. Construction of the council's new seven-storey office block is on track to be completed this calendar year with tenants already lined up for the upper floors. This is just one of several key developments currently taking place across Chesterfield that will help ensure that the borough, its residents and businesses are in the strongest possible position to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the council's priorities as we move through the various stages of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown is to encourage more and more people to experience Chesterfield's great outdoors, to get out and about and boost one's physical and mental wellbeing. Building on the success of Beat the Streets which attracted more than 13,000 participants, the council has developed a packed year long programme of fun and imaginative activities to inspire people to make the most of the borough's parks and open spaces. Whether you are a history buff, a nature lover or just want to get out and exercise there will be something for you.

Looking forward. The council will be progressing its Covid-19 economic recovery plan with a real focus on taking forward the borough's many exciting regeneration projects – Chesterfield Waterside, Northern Gateway and Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield – while at the same time seizing the potential of the Staveley Town Deal and High-Speed Rail.

We will also be progressing a raft of activities to improve the quality of life for local people, focusing attention on the council's recently adopted Covid-19 community recovery plan with its priority interventions of reducing material insecurity, improving mental health and wellbeing and promoting social connectedness.

We must all remain cautious and take appropriate steps to keep ourselves and each other safe. But there is now hope. I have every confidence that by continuing to put our communities first the council will be there for its tenants, residents and businesses; supporting one and all to recover from what has been the toughest of times.

All Brimington's Borough Councillors look forward to representing Residents of Brimington Parish for another 12 months. Thank you.

3c) Report of Parish Councillor Dave Culley Chair of Brimington Parish Council

Thank you for attending the Parish Meeting for Brimington. This has been a difficult year for all in the Community and we hope soon to be able to get back up to full service. We are pleased that we are now able to hold meetings in person and the Community Centre is beginning to open to all hirers in conjunction with Government guidance.

Although the Community Centre has been closed for the majority of the year, lots of work has been taking place, the boiler has been replaced, the hall, bar room and foyer have been painted and the floor has been replaced in the bar room. The alterations have been well received by current and new hirers and we are positive for the future of the Community Centre.

We are delighted that a Parent and Toddler group has commenced in the Centre, and is being very well attended. Last month we granted £550.00 towards their equipment from an Awards for All grant for children in the Parish. From the same fund we were also able to fund some Leadership Sport Coach Training at Brimington Junior School.

Each Monday we give a room to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre to hold sessions helping residents with benefit claims and other issues. We also grant them £2,000 a year to help them fund the excellent service that is given to the community.

The Centre also houses a variety of exercise classes including karate, pilates, tap dancing, and interest groups such as Brimington and Tapton Local History, Womens Club, Indoor Bowling and is available for children's and family parties.

Due to the amount of development in the village we have been granted some funds from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund; this year we have been delighted to use these funds in the village and have granted £500.00 funds to Brimington Bowling Club, £1000.00 for repairs to the Nursery at Henry Bradley Infant School, we have also replaced planters on the Green, the Notice Board outside the Community Centre and set up a small book and DVD exchange.

Each November the Parish Council is responsible for organising the village Remembrance Parade. This year was a very much scaled back version, which comprised of a short service of remembrance and the laying of wreaths at the Remembrance Gates. Thank you to the Rev Daniel Cooke for conducting the service and for providing a live stream for members of the public unable to attend.

This year we were unable to provide our usual Christmas events, but still provided the lit tree on The Green. We look forward to being able to provide all the usual festivities for Christmas 2021.

Finally, I would like to thank our Caretakers Ian Smith and John Reddish for all their help and support, which is echoed by all the hirers of the Centre; and to our Clerk, Liz Boswell.

4) Long Service Award

The Parish Council Chairman presented Ian Smith with a thank you for his 25 years-service with the Parish Council.

5) Any Other Matters

None

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 6.55pm