

**PARISH OF BRIMINGTON**  
**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held at the Brimington Community Centre, Heywood Street, Brimington**  
**On Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 7.00pm**

Attendance:

Parish Councillor Dave Culley (Chair of Brimington Parish Council),  
Borough Councillor Tricia Gilby (Leader of Chesterfield Borough Council) (Brimington South)  
County Councillor Dean Collins (Derbyshire County Council)

Parish Councillors: I Christian, L Collins, 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 P Cawthorne and D Rutherford  
Councillors A Bellamy and I Callan on leave of absence.

**2) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11 May 2021**

**Resolved:** To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11 May 2021 as a true and accurate record.

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

It has been a challenging 12 months at County Hall. With election promises being broken by the Tories, including the promise not to close the Council run Care Homes. The Labour group carried out a lot of work proving that the figures for the proposed maintenance were greatly inflated and that the works to the electrics were not required as reported. The consultation took place and then the results ignored, the Care Homes are being closed.

It has been almost impossible to meet with officers as many are still working from home.

Services are being commissioned from the public sector to the private sector. Property Services which includes school caretakers and cleaners has been commissioned out to Surrey County Council and it is obvious that the results of this have not been either cost saving or improved service.

There was a decision to cancel the role of Chief Executive, however this course of action was soon overturned with a new role of Chief Officer being created and a salary costing the tax payer an additional £40 to £50,000 per annum.

There have been a lot of road works within Brimington, Tapton and Hollingwood, and there is more to come, calls for better notification, signage and diversions have been made.

**3b) Report of Borough Councillor Tricia Gilby representative of Brimington South Ward and Leader of the Council**

Last autumn the council took part in the latest national residents' satisfaction survey. This just confirmed what many of us already know – this borough is a great place to live – with 85% of our residents agreeing. There were also high levels of resident satisfaction with council facilities and services, and with the council as a whole.

The availability of quality, affordable housing is key to making somewhere a great place to live. Several developments were completed during 2021/22, adding to our much in demand housing stock. It was truly wonderful news to

hear of local families moving into their new homes after work on our biggest council housing scheme since the 1980s was completed earlier this year. The council's £4.1 million scheme has seen 21 brand new properties constructed on the former Brockwell Court site in Loundsley Green. We are on track to

build or acquire 100 new Council homes between 2019 and 2023. With new council ones being built on Manor Avenue and others being acquired at Ringwood Meadows.

A thriving economy is also key to making somewhere a great place to live. This time last year, we were slowly moving out of lockdown, which had presented unprecedented challenges to the borough's high streets.

In response, we launched with Destination Chesterfield the innovative Love Chesterfield campaign to help residents and visitors alike rediscover everything that is great about Chesterfield including our thriving independent retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.

We also organised the Love Chesterfield Community Market to celebrate the achievements of the borough's community and voluntary organisations which provided a lifeline to so many during the pandemic. The fun-filled family-friendly day gave these organisations a chance to promote their work and raise much-needed funds.

In October, over 250 people attended the first ever Love Chesterfield Awards which recognised the entrepreneurial and community spirit of the borough's businesses. It was fantastic to see the business community once again come together in person, connect and share in each other's successes.

The Covid-19 pandemic has created massive challenges but also opportunities. With our partner, East Midlands Chamber, the council launched the Digital High Street initiative. To date, the initiative has helped 93 retailers in Chesterfield and Staveley town centres to establish or improve their on-line presence. This initiative is open to Brimington Retailers.

In July, the council completed the purchase of the Pavements Shopping Centre, securing the future of this critical town centre site. The purchase ensures that the council can lead and control the site's re-development and ensure alignment with our ambitious plans to put the beat back into the heart of our town centre.

In October, the council received the news that all our hard work had paid off with the Government allocating almost £20 million in Levelling Up funding for our 'Connecting Chesterfield' project. We will be using the funding to remodel and refurbish the Stephenson Memorial Hall – extending the Pomegranate Theatre, reconfiguring and modernising Chesterfield Museum, and introducing new gallery space, a café bar, education, and community facilities. The rest of the funding will be used to transform Chesterfield town centre, with investment centred on four key public spaces – Corporation Street, Rykneld Square, Market Square and New Square – and the connections between them.

Last year, I highlighted a real boon for the east of the borough – the council's success in securing over £25 million for Staveley through the Government's Town Deal Programme. The council has now established a fantastic partnership in Staveley to take forward the Staveley Town Deal. Eleven projects are to be delivered by a variety of organisations including three by Chesterfield Borough Council. One of these is the Construction Skills Hub. The Hub will enable Staveley area residents to gain the skills they need to secure employment in the construction industry through the provision of training, careers advice and work experience on a live construction site in Mastin Moor. Over ten years, the Hub aims to engage with over 5,000 learners. Springwell School which most of Brimington's teenagers attend has benefitted from a new undercover outdoor performance space and also the school leads on the involving other young people in the Town Deal projects

The borough's parks and open spaces have played a vital role during the pandemic. They became places to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely.

Our continued success in East Midlands in Bloom, where we won Gold, and the Green Flags that we have again secured for Queen's Park, Holmebrook Valley Country Park, Poolsbrook Country Park, Eastwood Park and Chesterfield and District Crematorium reflects the hard work and dedication of the council's staff and different community groups in making our green spaces, great spaces that everyone can enjoy. The appreciation of our residents for these efforts was also evident in the results of the national residents' satisfaction survey where 87% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the borough's parks and open spaces.

Chesterfield Borough was chosen to represent the East Midlands in Britain in Bloom and gained national recognition in the Royal Horticultural Society Community awards. Planting with a Purpose at Brimington Island won an achievement award. Overall Brimington had a fantastic display as part of In Bloom and a Brimington resident won the best overall and also the best container garden.

The planting of trees is one of many commitments that the council has made in its Climate Change Action Plan. In the past year, we have planted over 3,000 trees with more to come as part of the 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' initiative. To help deliver on this commitment, the council has also launched a successful volunteering programme encouraging the borough's residents to plant and care for trees and influence where trees are planted in the future.

We believe it important that everyone feels able to pursue a healthy lifestyle. The council's 'Year of Outdoors' project helped over 8,000 people, many of them children and young people to enjoy the borough's parks and open spaces. These free and accessible opportunities helped highlight the importance of being active and through connecting communities with the natural environment the value of exercise to improving residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing. Tapton Peace Gardens and Ringwood Park played a key role in year of outdoors hosting a variety of free sessions including nature quest, mindful walks, mini beast safari, plants and their uses, BMX, tribal games and several wonderful forest bathing sessions. Almost 450 local people took part in these sessions alone.

Towards the end of 2021 we lost Parish Councillor John Heywood. John as you know was also a Borough Councillor. His family approached Alderman John Burrows to ask if it would be possible to have a bench alongside the footpath that John Haywood asked to be put in to make it easier for Everett Close residents to reach the bus stop on Hall Road. I'm pleased to say that I have got the agreement of CBC to place a bench with a plaque as a memorial to John.

We couldn't have achieved all that the council does without the hard work and diligence of our staff.

We continue to keep our pledge that no one who works for us earns less than the Living Wage Foundations Living Wage where Tory councils have ditched it.

In October, the council was presented with a 'Silver' award, as part of the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Awards for our support of the Armed Forces. As a major employer, we benefit greatly from the unique skills, experience, and attributes that members of staff who are also part of the armed forces community bring to our workplace.

In January, we also received the fantastic news that the council had achieved 'Gold' in our latest Investors in People assessment. This is a prestigious accolade and fitting recognition of the hard work and 'can do' attitude shown by the council's staff through the trials and tribulations of the past two years.

There is so much more to come, with the opening of two brand new council-funded buildings – the Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre and One Waterside Place – further examples of the council delivering against its priorities to make Chesterfield a thriving borough and improve the quality of life of local people. With regard to the opening of the enterprise Centre I'm please to announce that Cllr Terry Gilby will be officially opening it on 13 June. Terry as we all know has been a councillor for Brimington North for 35 years during which he has been Deputy Leader and lead on planning economic regeneration.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for attending the Annual Meeting of Parish Electors in Brimington. First I am going to give a brief outline of the role of the Parish Council, then the work that we have been undertaking and finishing with our plans for the future.

The Parish Council is the local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the village of Brimington and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community. It is the level of government closest to the community with Chesterfield Borough above it in the hierarchy.

We currently have nine Councillors and one vacancy and elections are held on a quadrennial basis. All members of the public on the electoral roll have the opportunity to take part in the election. All

Councillors are volunteers and they receive no wages or expenses for the work they undertake for the community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their service over the last year; and to report the sad loss of John Haywood who had served on the Parish Council for many years.

As Parish Councils are the authority closest to the people we are invariably the first place people will go to with concerns or ideas; and for this reason we are a vital part of the community. Our work falls within three main categories; including representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs and striving to improve the quality of life in the Parish.

Each year we get a small precept via the Council Tax collected by Chesterfield Borough Council; for a Band A property this is just £15.28 per year, we use this money carefully and put services and events on for residents in the Parish.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning matters within the village; at each meeting we consider all planning applications that fall within our boundary and when it is felt that an application would not be of benefit to Brimington then we submit those concerns to the Planning Department at Chesterfield Borough Council.

To help us carry out our work we employ three part-time members of staff. Two part-time caretakers look after the Community Centre and support the various groups and people who hire our facilities. A part-time Clerk looks after all our administration, meetings, finance, events and projects. Our thanks go to all the staff for keeping the Community Centre and the Parish Council running.

We regularly liaise with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch on crime and anti-social behaviour issues. We have recently been successful in a funding bid with the Police and Crime Commissioner, and this will improve the CCTV on the High Street, thus making the area safer for the residents and businesses in the area.

The Parish Council run Brimington Community Centre which delivers a wide range of activities for the people within the village. We obtained a grant fund to provide play equipment for parent and toddler provision and this has allowed Mucky Pups to open and provide much needed play and support for families in the Parish.

Each year we give a grant to the Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre and this pays for a worker to come up to the Centre each week and give free advice on benefits and welfare issues to people in the village.

We also support Tuesday Lunch which provides a home cooked dinner for people this is open to all and is a valuable meeting place for parishioners.

Other groups that use the Centre include exercise and dance groups, an art class, bingo, indoor bowls and a history group. As well as hosting many children's and family party events. New groups are always welcome.

Over the last couple of years we have worked with Brimington Junior School to obtain grant funding to provide children's holiday clubs in the village. We have worked with Chesterfield Borough to provide fencing around the play area in Thistle Park to ensure that dogs cannot access the playground area. Also work has been undertaken with Schools to produce anti dog fouling posters to raise awareness.

Each year in conjunction with the Church we organise the annual Remembrance Parade and Service. We also organise various Christmas events including the Tree on The Green, a Brass Band Carol Concert, Christmas Lunch and for the first time this year hosted a Pantomime. To celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we offered help and small grants for residents to organise street parties; we are hosting a craft and refreshment event and will plant a tree as part of the Green Canopy Scheme.

We try to keep residents in Brimington aware of what is happening via our notice board, website and Facebook pages and a couple of times a year we issue a newsletter which is delivered free of charge to all households in the village.

This year we have carried out an initial survey of what parishioners in Brimington want in their local area, this was advertised on our notice boards, website and Facebook pages. Some interesting initial ideas have come forward and we will work on these in the coming months and years. The project Big Picture for Brimington is a long-term project and it ensures that the Parish Council is working to what people in the village want and need in their area.

Finally we will continue to build on the work that we have been undertaking to serve the people of Brimington; and welcome ideas that that can be fed into our long term plans for the village.

#### **4) Civic Duty Awards**

This year there are three Civic Duty Awards.

The first is to Carol Hormell for over 20 years of volunteering at Brimington Lunch Club

The second is to David Slater for his many years service at Mount Tabor Chapel.

Their names will be added to the Civic Duty Award Board in Brimington Community Centre

The third is a special award to all those key workers in the village that service the community throughout the pandemic. To commemorate and thank all these people a plaque will be put up in the foyer to their service will be remembered to generations

**5) Any Other Matters**

None

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 7.46pm