

PARISH OF BRIMINGTON
MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at the Brimington Community Centre, Heywood Street, Brimington
On Tuesday 16 May 2023 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, C Nicholls, S Perkins, S Sanderson S Yates, J A Williamson
6 members of the public
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 I Callan

2) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16 May 2022

Resolved: To accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 16 May 2022 as a true and accurate record.

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

There are a number of changes imminent to bus services in and around Chesterfield. X17 Sheffield to Matlock the frequency will be improved. The Comet serving Chesterfield, Clay Cross, Alfreton, Ripley, Little Eaton and Derby will have an hourly Sunday service from Chesterfield between 9.20am and 8.20pm and from Derby between 8.05am and 7.05pm. the 1/1A Chesterfield, Royal Hospital, Markham Vale, Bolsover, Shirebrook, Langwith is increasing to three buses per hour. 74/74A Chesterfield Brimington, Staveley, Duckmanton, Mastin Moor , only the 74 will now include Mastin Moor. The 90/90A Yew Tres Service that runs from Chesterfield, Barrow Hill, Staveley; the 90 service will now serve Duckmanton and Markham Vale every hour and there will be a service to the new housing development off Inkersall Road and direct links to Markham Vale and Clowne for the first time.

The County Council have committed to spend the following on highways around Derbyshire over the next year:

Road maintenance and pot hole repairs £12.5m

Pavements £2.8m

Signs, lines and signals £700k

Cycle routes (including Crow Lane) £290k

Greenways £405k

The Conservative run Council conducted a consultation of the Mayoral County Combined Authority. The results showed that over 85% objected to the elected mayor, however this result was ignored and the full proposal is going ahead.

The Chesterfield Canal Partnership have agreed to continue on with the good work on the canal and progress with restoration. Some work will take place on the mile long landlocked section.

Council Tax setting was an eventful meeting. There was point scoring at the rate being set and this will end up being detrimental to services. The Government had told the Council that they expected the rate to be set at the maximum of a 5% increase, which would then feed into the amount allocated for the following year. The rate was set at 3.75% and this will now have a knock on effect for years to come.

It has been a challenging year within the County Council and people are getting back to their daily routines.

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

Thank you to the electors of Brimington and Tapton for returning the following councillors to Chesterfield Borough Council. Brimington North Ward – Dave Culley and Suzie Perkins. Brimington South Ward Ian

Callan and Tricia Gilby. Chesterfield Borough Council continues to be controlled by Labour. People have appreciated that we stood with them during the pandemic, and we are still standing with them during the cost of living crisis. We have the lowest Council Tax in Derbyshire yet the council provides over 50 services to Brimington households. Congratulations to the Brimington Parish Councillors for being elected unopposed.

Last September our beautiful parks, colourful floral displays, and innovative community projects earned Chesterfield Borough the top accolade in the prestigious East Midlands in Bloom competition. We were officially crowned winner of the small city category. We are already working hard to build on this success. Over the next five years the council will be investing £1.32 million in the borough's parks and open spaces, children's play areas and outdoor sport facilities. This includes investment in Brimington at the Manor Road Recreation Ground and at the Damon Drive play space. The Friends of Thistle Park will work with the council on an improvement plan which will see the park gain Green Flag status by 2028.

I am also pleased to report that the council will be making a £19m investment in the Stephenson Memorial Hall. The enabling works are to commence this week ahead of the full construction contract, which will see the Pomegranate Theatre extended, Chesterfield Museum reconfigured and modernised and new gallery space, a café bar, education, and community facilities added.

In parallel to making these investments, the council also delivers a whole range of fully accessible activities which aim to improve people's health and help combat isolation and loneliness. Examples include encouraging the borough's children and young people to try out roller skating, develop circus skills, and attend forest schools in our parks and open spaces; there are then our Dementia friendly film screenings and signed pantomime performances at The Winding Wheel and our ever popular Chesterfield Get Together events which have already brought hundreds of residents into contact with local voluntary and community organisations; and finally, our award winning outswimming cancer programme, delivered in partnership with Weston Park Hospital.

The voluntary and community sector here in Chesterfield are key partners in helping the council to deliver on its priority to improve the quality of life of local people. In March we invited local community groups to start applying for grants from a new Fund that has been resourced through funding that the council has received from the Government's United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund. Over £260,000 is available over a two-year period. The council will also be launching a training and support programme for the sector to help build expertise and resilience. We have had huge interest already from many grassroots community groups from across the borough including several who deliver important support here in Brimington.

We also have an outstanding events programme planned for 2023/24 with artisan markets, record fairs, vegan markets, and old favourites like the medieval market and 1940s market. There is then Pride at Stand Road Park and the Chesterfield Festival of Cricket at Queen's Park. We also have two new festivals – the Chesterfield Food and Drink Festival in July and Eat in the Park in August, and we will also be welcoming one of the country's leading street food markets to Chesterfield, starting from next month.

High quality jobs and skills are crucial to our economy and future prosperity. We will be leading on two important Staveley Town Deal projects in the coming years to support this agenda. The Construction Skills Hub, which will be based at a live construction site at Mastin Moor and operated by Chesterfield College, will train up to 5,000 students in construction skills over the next ten years. At Barrow Hill Roundhouse, the council, again working with Chesterfield College and also with the Universities of Derby and Newcastle, will support the Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society to build DRIIVE – the Derbyshire Rail Industry Innovation Vehicle – a live laboratory to train the next generation of rail workers and take forward ground-breaking research and development.

Finally, I want to mention our plans to continue to invest in the council's housing stock. Over the last four years we have invested £82 million and in February the council resolved to invest a further £100 million over the next five years. Our block refurbishment programme continues apace as does our new build and acquisitions programme. Tenants' homes continue to meet the decent homes standard and our investments in external cladding, new doors and windows and loft insulation have helped cut costs at a time of rising energy bills.

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. Congratulations to the new term of Councillors following the uncontested election on the 4th May 2023. We look forward to working together for the people of Brimington.

Brimington 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 have ten Councillors, five representing Brimington North and five representing Brimington South. All Parish Councillors are volunteers, they receive no wages or expenses for the work they undertake for the community.

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. We have striven for the forthcoming year to ensure that during this cost of living crisis that we have kept this cost neutral for the Council Tax payers in Brimington. This is despite having our own rising costs. Therefore the cost for a Band A property is still just £15.28 per year, we use this money carefully and put services and events on for residents in the Parish.

Our accounts are scrutinised by an internal auditor and also by a government appointed external auditor. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 were found to be correct and no matters or concern or comment were raised by the auditors. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 have been scrutinised by the internal auditor and our finances and processes found to be working well. The accounts will be considered by the Council at the Annual meeting following this meeting and then submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP for the external audit.

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 four part-time members of staff. Two part-time caretakers Linda and Kevin look after the Community Centre and support the various groups and people who hire our facilities. Liz our part-time Clerk looks after all our administration, meetings and finance. And we are delighted to welcome Georgina in the new post of Community Centre and Events Organiser. This is now a brand new team and we are very much looking forward to working together and bringing the Parish Council and the Community Centre into a new era.

We are committed to making the area safer for residents and businesses. We liaise with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch on crime and anti-social behaviour issues. During the last year we funded the 24/7 monitoring of the CCTV on the High Street and we are now looking at extending the scheme to the carpark on Foljambe Road.

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. This advice is available to all residents.

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.

This year we trialled a Warm Hub, ensuring that residents had somewhere safe to go each Thursday afternoon. Although the take up was not what we had expected, we were able to help several residents by signposting to other services and providing emergency food to several people in immediate need.

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 provided grants to each of the schools to help with capital projects, we have provided financial assistance to the pre-school on Chapel Street, Brimington Bowls Club and helped Brimington Little Stars towards the cost of football kit and towards a defibrillator on Manor Road. We have funded a camp for first Brimington Brownies and financial help to Third Brimington Brownies and First Brimington Rainbows. We have further monies available to constituted community groups and applications can be made to the Clerk for financial assistance.

Each year in conjunction with the Church we organise the annual Remembrance Parade and Service. This year we understand that the Police will not provide help with Road closures and as a result we are currently lobbying Police and politicians to overturn this decision.

We also organise various Christmas events including the Tree on The Green, a Brass Band Carol Concert, Christmas Lunch and a Pantomime.

On learning of the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II we opened up a book of condolence in the Community Centre. In recognition of the Coronation of King Charles III we will be commissioning some benches in the Parish as a lasting legacy.

During the next twelve months we hope to be arranging some new events and we will keep the community notified 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.

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 two Civic Duty Awards.

The first is to Bernard Weston for many years service to the Parish Council and for volunteering at Brimington Lunch Club

The second is to Lee Brassington for his litter picking in the village and fund raising for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice

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

5) Any Other Matters

None

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 7.30pm