

PARISH OF BRIMINGTON
MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at the Brimington Community Centre, Heywood Street, Brimington
On Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 7.00pm

Attendance:

Parish Councillor Dave Culley (Chair of Brimington Parish Council),
Borough Councillor Ian Callan (Chesterfield Borough Council) (Brimington South)
Parish Councillors: P Cawthorne, I Christian, L Collins, S Sanderson S Yates, J A Williamson
23 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

County Councillor Dean Collins (Derbyshire County Council)
Councillor C Nicholls Leave of Absence

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 2023 as a true and accurate record.

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

The report was presented by Parish Councillor Lisa Collins.

2023-2024 has been a challenging year due to the conservative run council being forced by their own government to make cuts by starving local authorities of much needed funding. The council is very close to going bankrupt with a section 114 notice served. This is due to the authority failing to implement the cuts needed and cabinet burying their heads in the hope that more funding will come over the hill. Where they are doing cuts to services, they are doing this to the neediest for example closing care homes, children centres and cuts to disabled services and hundreds of jobs loses, especially to those who work in the previously mentioned areas.

The budget that the council sets is what the cabinet wants to happen and it is quite clear what their priorities are, they are certainly not our community or residents within our community's priorities. You only have to look at the state of the roads in Brimington, Hollingwood and Tapton to see that we are getting shortchanged by the controlling group whilst at the same time Calow with a Conservative Councillor are having lots of potholes repaired properly and in a timely manner. I am fighting for our community at the council and every single day I am reporting the issues that I see and those that the residents are passing on to me and I don't take "sorry no money" as a good enough reason to ignore our community. I have regularly challenged the decisions being made by the controlling group at county hall and had some wins whether it is on bus services or home care for the elderly, where I can challenge I will and do.

The next 12 months will not get any easier for the Council but rest assured I will continue to challenge decisions and I will fight for this community -to get some resources poured into it and I vow that I will not let our community to be overlooked. I have used my community funding wisely and across all the division, funding projects that support groups operating in Brimington, Hollingwood and Tapton and if you are a community group in need of funding, please reach out to me as i still have a pot of money to tap into.

Sorry I cannot be here tonight but I am working away for a couple of days, please feel free to contact me by phone or email as I am very happy to help wherever I can.

Thank you -County Councillor Dean Collins
07918653700

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

The report was presented by Borough Councillor Ian Callan

Like local authorities across the country, Chesterfield Borough Council is facing unprecedented pressures in terms of demand for its services and rising costs. Difficult decisions have been made and

more challenges lie ahead but as a council, we remain committed to doing all we can to protect essential services and put our communities first.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the celebration event that the Council convened here at the Town Hall for Chesterfield Football Club to mark their amazing achievement in winning the National Football League and gaining promotion back to the English Football League. Thousands of football fans attended the event, giving the Club and town a real boost. A successful football team makes for a successful town and economy.

The Council works with a range of partners to deliver top class events and speciality markets, which animate the town for residents and visitors to enjoy. Our 1940s Market during the Easter holidays brought music from that era, live entertainment, classic cars, and military vehicles to Chesterfield town centre. The weather was unusually kind, and everyone had a great time.

Our partnership with Peddlers markets was so successful in 2023 that four new dates were announced for this year so we can keep the party going. Peddlers offers a unique combination of live music, outstanding street food, craft beer and cocktails helping to create a unique and unrivalled social setting for those wanting to mingle, socialise and soak up the atmosphere. These and other events bring much needed revenue to Chesterfield's bars, restaurants, hotels, and shops.

Visitors to Chesterfield town centre over the last year, will have noticed the council's investments in some striking new buildings including the Northern Gateway Enterprise Centre. The Centre operates on similar lines to the council's two other innovation centres at Tupton and Dunston, all high-quality bases offering supportive environments for new and growing businesses. Our latest tenant is none other than the new East Midlands Mayor. We look forward to working closely with the Mayor and the newly established East Midlands Combined County Authority to ensure that Chesterfield borough's residents and businesses benefit fully from the Combined Authority's £1.14 billion devolution deal.

I'm also pleased to advise that less than 12 months after completion the council's other new office development – One Waterside Place is fully let. Its proximity to the town centre and train station has been a major draw with a mix of new businesses to Chesterfield and established local businesses occupying the seven floors. The success of these investments demonstrates how we can compete with the cities around us in attracting new investment and creating new jobs.

Our exciting £22 million refurbishment of the Stephenson Memorial Hall – home to the Pomegranate Theatre and Chesterfield Museum – is also well underway. When completed, we will all benefit from a state-of-the-art cultural venue in the heart of Chesterfield town centre. Our contractors will be reinstating the original entrance to create a single route of access to both facilities, expanding the theatre, reconfiguring and modernising the museum, and adding new community spaces and a café bar.

The Memorial Hall's refurbishment forms part of the council's Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield project. We have already installed high quality paving, and new street furniture to uplift the street scene at Elder Way and Packers Row. But this is just the start. This summer we will start to re-imagine our historic market grounds. The main square will benefit from a new layout to make it easier to walk around the market, new stalls with modern facilities for our valued traders, and vibrant new stall canopies in heritage colours. We will also be making a feature of the Town Pump.

Preserving the heritage of our borough is incredibly important and I am so pleased that Brimington Parish Council and Chesterfield Borough Council were able to work together so successfully to enable the restoration of the Brimington Cemetery Bell. The Bell, which was first cast in 1878 is back to its original condition and place and remains an important part of Brimington's heritage.

The council believes very much in ensuring that when growth happens within Chesterfield borough that local people benefit. An example of just one of the skills programmes that the council is currently involved with is 'Careers made in Chesterfield', an innovative careers programme which links schools with leading property and construction firms. The objective is to inspire young people to pursue fulfilling careers in the construction industry here in Chesterfield borough.

Linked to this programme is the new Construction Skills Hub in Staveley. A council-led project in collaboration with Chesterfield College and the Devonshire Group, the Construction Skills Hub will provide specialist training and career insights for thousands of learners on a live construction site in Staveley – creating opportunities for people to start, stay and grow in the town. The first learners started their courses at Chesterfield College in September and will begin to gain practical experience on site at the Hub in the coming months.

As further evidence of the council's commitment to delivering inclusive growth I was delighted to learn of the recent decision taken by Chesterfield Borough Council and the University of Derby to enter into a strategic partnership agreement. This agreement sets out a joint ambition to establish Chesterfield as a

University town. Strengthening higher level skills and education provision within the borough will benefit both our residents and businesses.

Additional to green shoots in our economy there are plenty of green shoots in the borough's parks and open spaces. Brimington is blessed with some truly wonderful parks and open spaces and I know how important they are to people's health and wellbeing and to making Chesterfield borough a fantastic place to live. Thistle Park in Brimington and nearby Ringwood Park were two of our key venues for free activities throughout the school holidays in 2023/24 including multi-sport sessions, circus skills workshops and forest schools initiatives. These sessions funded via the holiday activities fund and prioritised children on free school meals.

In 2023, Chesterfield won the title of best small city for the second year in a row in the prestigious East Midlands in Bloom awards. We also added to our haul of green flags with King George V Park in Staveley our sixth park to achieve this important accolade – as you know, the Chesterfield and District Crematorium grounds have held this accolade for many years. Chesterfield and District Crematorium have been taking part in a very special initiative – 'Letters from Heaven'. This scheme was launched to support grieving families in the borough. Letters to heaven post boxes have been installed to enable people to write messages to loved ones who have passed away, which is something that can help many people who are working through grief. These initiatives demonstrate how important our parks and open spaces are for all in our communities.

To further our ambitions to be a carbon neutral council by 2030 and a carbon neutral borough by 2050 we have recently refreshed our Climate Change Strategy and produced a new Delivery Plan. Building on the substantive actions already undertaken, our new Delivery Plan will focus on decarbonisation of the council's operational and commercial estate, taking forward further measures to green the council's fleet, reducing our energy consumption, implementing sustainable land management practices, and progressing other carbon offsetting measures. The council is also supporting the borough's residents to make greener choices. We have secured £440k to help homeowners with no mains gas supply make energy efficient improvements to their homes, and via our community grants programme supported Transition Chesterfield to develop an Eco Hub in the town centre which has helped residents learn more about how to reduce their carbon footprint and energy bills and make more sustainable choices in their home and working lives.

Finally, I want to mention our housing stock. Between 2019 and 2023 the council invested £82 million in its housing stock. Over the next four years, this investment will rise to £117 million. The refurbishment and modernisation of the council's housing stock remains a key priority. Additional to improvements to the external and internal fabric of tenants' homes such as new roofs, new kitchens, new bathrooms and electrical rewires, we will also be investing in new footpaths, fencing and gates to help improve the look and feel of our housing estates, and in a range of measures to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock. Nearly £0.5 million was invested in Council housing stock in Brimington in 2023/24, with a similar amount planned for 2024/25.

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

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 forth coming year to ensure that during this cost of living crisis that we have kept this cost minimal for the Council Tax payers in Brimington. This is despite having our own rising costs. Therefore the cost for a Band A property is £15.63 per year, a rise of just 35pence 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 2023 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 2024 have been scrutinised by the internal auditor and our finances and processes found to be working well. The

accounts been approved by Council at the May meeting and 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. We rarely comment on small household applications, but when it is felt that an application would not be of benefit to Brimington 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 Sally 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 have had the first year of Georgina in post in the new role of Community Centre and Events Organiser. This is a new team and we are all working hard to ensure that the Parish Council and the Community Centre are serving Brimington residents.

The Parish Council run Brimington Community Centre which delivers a wide range of activities for the people within the village. We try to keep our rates affordable to hirers and the rates have not risen since 2016.

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 have funded First Aid and Food Hygiene training for the volunteers and purchased various items of equipment.

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.

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 have been fortunate to receive Community Infrastructure Levy monies and as well as funding some works in the Community Centre and Events for the community, we have also been able to provide grants to the schools and various groups. This year we have funded a defibrillator at Manor Infant School, a school outing for families at Henry Bradshaw School, An event hosted by First Brimington Brownies, restoration of the Cemetery Chapel Bell and the holding of an exhibition to commemorate forty years since the Miner's Strike. 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. We have also purchased flags to commemorate eighty years since the D Day landings.

Events have been varied this year commencing with a Puppet Show and Games afternoon, a table top sale and last year we held the first Brim Fest, which was well received. Brim Fest this year will be held on the 27 July on Thistle Park and will be a much larger event, with lots to entertain all the family.

The Christmas Tree Switch On Event was also larger last year, with a Christmas Market being held during the day, an opportunity for Lantern Making for a parade from the Community Centre to the Tree. We also organised the annual Brass Band Carol Concert and a professional pantomime at subsidised rates for families in the village.

We have been undertaking monthly litter picks to help clean up the village, requesting increased grass cutting and the filling of potholes and other matters. We will continue to build on the work that we have been undertaking to serve the people of Brimington.

4) Civic Duty Awards

We were really pleased to have had a number of applicants to choose from this year, and those that nominated but were not successful should not feel discouraged and are welcome to re-nominate in future years.

Our first presentation this evening is to Angela Bottom who has served as a leader of the 1st Brimington Brownies for 24 years. She has made a difference in the lives of so many young people in our community and works for many community projects.

Our second presentation is to Peter Thompson for his many years service for Brimington Luncheon Club, he comes in early each Tuesday to prepare all the veg, takes home all the waste to sort for recycling and is always there to help everyone.

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

5) Any Other Matters

There being no further matters the meeting closed at 7.33pm