

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRANSTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2016,
6.30 P.M. AT CLAYS LANE PARK PAVILION, CLAYS LANE, BRANSTON**

**OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014 HAS BEEN ADOPTED
The press and members of the public were cordially invited**

Present: Cllrs M Ackroyd, F Smith, P Ackroyd, P Palmer, G Dennis, N Slater, N Hussain, Kay Lear

Public question time: Residents attended the meeting wanting to know if the surveys have been carried out on the crossing. The parish council made the residents aware that as far as they knew they had not been carried out yet.

The chairman informed residents that the proposed Network Rail bridge decision will be with the residents. The research into both projects has not been carried out.

Residents asked if Mark Parkinson could attend the meeting in February with an update and if some visible milestones could be produced. Residents would be able to attend appropriate parish council meetings going forward. Members asked the clerk to make enquiries.

339/13-12-16 Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr J Pike, M Hussain and A Sirrell.

340/13-12-16 Declarations of interest for agenda items – none submitted to clerk prior.

341/13-12-16 Minutes of the last meeting for approval. Draft minutes were circulated to members prior to the meeting. These were approved as an accurate and factual record. It was resolved that the chairman signed them according.

342/13-12-16 Treasurers report

EXPENDITURE

Cheque no	Cheque Amount	Payee	Explanation for expenditure
002457	£549.00 (£91.50 VAT)	Kay Lear	Lap top for chairman
002458	£310.00	P Gould Gardening services	Grass cutting annual contract
002459	£112.80	South Staffs Water	Water consumption Clays Lane Park Pavilion/Remaining bill in dispute with Seven Trent
002460	£324.00	Complete shutter services	Repair of shutter/Clays Lane Park – September 2016
002461	£379.83	ESBC	Sports activities during 6 weeks summer holiday 2016 (PCC grant received)
002462	£105.00	Viking direct	Stationery
002463	Cheque cancelled		
002464	£867.24	Kay Lear	Salary
002465	£128.53	Kay Lear	Ladders, travelling expenses, telephone, key cut, gutter clips – damaged and requires repairing, paint for changing rooms
002466	£300.00	DL Services	Handyman/lengthsman activities – Branston Village and Henhurst.
002467	£90.00	Kay Lear	Christmas tree for St Saviours church (approved by chairman)
002468	£450.00	T Atkinson Tree Services	Trees pollarding/Clays Lane
002469	Cheque cancelled		
002470	£100.00	Mike Ackroyd	Software for lap top
002471	£379.33	HMRC	HMRC Clerk
002472	£324.01	Staffordshire pension fund	Pension scheme for clerk/committee January 2017 ie contributions will be taken January 2017

NOTE: The additional cost for lap top software was approved by members via email.

INCOME

No income received. Payments outstanding for Branston FC and Branston Arms. Clerk to chase.

Treasurers report:

Bank reconciliation reported current account

Direct debits approved

Cllr Mrs Ackroyd proposed that £25K be transferred to the savings account where interest will be paid.

Staffordshire County Council Grant applications approved for an additional litter bin and tree pollarding in the parish. – Cllr Fraser and Corbett. Formal thanks submitted to both county councillors for their continued support by the clerk.

Another application has been submitted to Cllr Fraser for additional bins – Postern Rd/Aviation Lane – still awaiting outcome.

Council to consider grass cutting contract for 2017/18. Clerk obtained quotations in line with financial regulations. Contractor 1 was selected by members for the business. Strimming by Clays Lane was not included in the quotation. Parish council are happy that a contractor be paid for this work as required.

Council to consider handy man contract for 2017/18 (lengthsman grant to cease March 2017). Clerk obtained costings.

Members felt that current contractor has worked above and beyond contract requirements demonstrating value for money. The work requested in the last 18 months reflects the increased costs for works ie painting of street furniture, grass cutting, cleaning of pavilion, strimming of paths

It was resolved by members that the current contractor be considered for work for the next 12 months.

343/13-12-16 Precept 2017/18

Cllr Mrs Ackroyd and clerk discussed budget predictions for the next 12 months, along with reserves required. This information was discussed with members. Whilst the current financial status was healthy, expenditure for the last 5 years has been significantly higher than the annual precept and no increase to the elector in the last 5 years.

Due to the reduction of ESBC grant and in line with possible expenditure increases, it was resolved that a small increase would be submitted for 7.15%. Everyone present was in favour of the increase.

344/13-12-16 Lead councillor reports/updates/matters outstanding

Speed watch update – Cllr Pat Palmer - Risk assessments have been carried out with the Neighbourhood watch coordinator and the PCSO. Speed watches will be carried out along Burton Road, Postern Road and Clays Lane.

Trees – Cllr Nigel Slater – Resident is very happy with the pollarding of the trees which the parish council has actioned.

Allotments - Cllr Slater informed members that to try and encourage more residents to hire plots, they are now offering smaller plots.

345/13-12-16 Items discussed.

Council to discuss future for Tuesday coffee mornings/residents drop in/opportunities to voice concerns in Branston Village and Henhurst.

It was resolved that the monthly drop ins would continue for the moment. Due to the festive break, 10th January will be organised. From February, the drop ins will be the 1st Tuesday of every month. This to be reviewed again in a few months.

346/13-12-16 Planning applications/matters

Planning applications were circulated to the planning committee prior to the meeting.

Outline planning application – Howards Transport –It was resolved that the application would be approved.

Planning application - Land to the South of, Forest Road, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire Plots 1, 3-5, 10,15, 24, 30-32, 54, 55, 58,60, 83, 90, 97, 109, 131, 132, 136, 137 139, 140, repositioning of Plots2, 6, 9, 14, 52, 53, 56,110,111,133-135,138 and 2 additional plots. It was resolved that an objection would be submitted.

347/13-12-16 Clerks report

The chairman asked members present they had read the clerks report and whether they had any questions or comments. Attendees confirmed that they had read the report and no matters were raised.

Branston in Bloom – It was resolved that the clerk made enquiries as to whether local residents were interested in supporting the community project.

National forest project – It was resolved that the clerk could complete any grant applications to support any projects/initiatives which would benefit the parish.

Mobile library - The Pavilion, Clays Lane Park, is still being considered by SCC as a possible 'stop' for the mobile library.

Residents had complained about the wild flower display at the junction of Postern Road. Clerk to action strimming of the area.

348/13-12-16 Borough and county councillor reports – None received.

349/13-12-16 Date/time/venue for next meeting – Tuesday, 31st January, Business Centre, Paget High School, 7.30 p.m.

Members agreed that where possible meetings would take place in the Business centre, Paget High School. Every 4th meeting where possible will be held at the Pavilion, Clays Lane Park.

MIKE ACKROYD
CHAIRMAN – BRANSTON PARISH COUNCIL

DUE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE DISCUSSION

350/13-12-16 Grant application St Saviours Church plus end of year accounts ie Branston parish council debtors for cemetery maintenance

In the agenda pack, the clerk had circulated information to members confirming that the parish council did not own the land along with other information. The clerk gave advice on what was outstanding/unclear from the grant application. She raised a concern in relation to the statement in the church end of year accounts which was inaccurate.

The clerk informed members that power 137 could be executed in the event of wishing to make any financial contribution if the council wished to make a financial contribution to the church. It was resolved that a contribution of £200 would be made without prejudice to St Saviours Church.

**CLLR MIKE ACKROYD
CHAIRMAN – BRANSTON PARISH COUNCIL**