

BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Brinklow Annual Parish Meeting
Held in the Community Hall on 11th May 2023

Present:	Councillor J Reid (Chairman)	D Lloyd (Clerk)
	Councillor T Heenan	J Boonham
	Councillor I Currington	Councillor A Warwick (WCC)
	Councillor S Brown	Councillor T Gillias (RBC)
	Councillor D Forman	Councillor H Timms (RBC)
		5 Members of the public

1. To Accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor K Keene, who was unable to attend, and accepted by the council.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record for the proceedings.

3. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The 2022/23 period has not seen as many projects completed as last year mainly due to administrative difficulties.

- Pocket park, started last year, has continued receiving support from the Council with provision of equipment and help with the costs of making and filling raised beds for the Children to plant vegetables.
- The Brinklow Plaque which was in storage for a long time has now been installed on the Coventry Road green, thanks to Dave Williams for making the oak frame.
- The Sunday Lengthsmen Group continue to clear fallen trees in the Tump moat and mow and trim the ramparts. A contractor with a specialist mower is being sought to mow the Tump slopes. Work was also undertaken to tidy and re-sign the overgrown entrance on to Ell Lane.
- Legal work is under way to transfer the ownership of a boundary strip of land in Ell Lane, from joint resident ownership to the Parish Council without charge, for us to maintain.
- CCTV was installed at the Broad Street junction by a recommended contractor but testing proved that it failed to operate as promised and has now been removed without cost to the council. Quotes are being obtained for an alternative system.
- In the cemetery several working parties have repaired the tarmac paths, cut the trees and maintained the gravestones to ensure it remains a safe and pleasant place for relatives. An increasing number of enquiries, some going back over 100 years, are being received and Jennie Boonham, our employed Cemetery Agent, has worked with Councillors to ensure the records are accurate.
- A start has been made on modifying the speed limit signs on the approaches to the village, more work is scheduled. Communication with Warwickshire CC and the police has been difficult due to them not having any budget for road safety improvements, except where fatal accidents have occurred. The Parish are now expected to cut back hedges to improve visibility and wash and clean road signs, care has to be taken as some are on roads with speed limits higher than 30mph. We are in the process of writing a comprehensive paper with a full set of ideas for speed control within the village. Warwickshire CC advise us there will be a chance to apply for a fund matching finance package so with that intention in mind we will shortly walk the village with our local police officer, who we are looking to support our report, to help us press for financial support. It was agreed that we would be better to meet with the police traffic expert before we prepared the paper outlining what controls we want to put in place. By having the expert input initially will save wasted effort investigating traffic measures which may not be suitable to the roads of Brinklow.

- A lot of time has been spent clearing the roadside gullies and kerbs, and weedkilling the kerb edges, as these are no longer funded by Warwickshire CC. The volume of tractor movements increases the amount of debris left at the roadside. The whole length of the Lutterworth Road pavement has been cut back to make it easier for walkers.
- Our Neighbourhood Plan was accepted and 'made' by RBC. It had involved a lot of research and compilation and, whilst it is dated 2022, it needs constant monitoring to ensure it remains relevant and up to date as legislation changes.
- We undertook a new Housing Needs Survey which, together with the Neighbourhood Plan, enable us to have some control on the number of new houses imposed on us by RBC.
- The suggested Lutterworth Road site for a number of retirement bungalows and affordable houses continues to progress with the support of the 2 documents already in place.
- Vandalism at the childrens play area is being monitored, various repairs have been carried out by the Lengthsmen at a saving of approx. £700 in costs. We inspect and report on the play equipment condition at intervals to meet a condition of our insurance.
- A contract is in place to replace the wooden posts, on the boundary of the field by the surgery car park, with a green Armco barrier – installation is expected in June 2023. Other wooden posts at the Crescent have been replaced due to vehicle damage.
- General litter and fly tipping continue to be an issue across the Parish but thanks must go to RBC for their prompt assistance in the clear up. Large Nitrous oxide cannisters being left in our hedgerows is becoming more common, legislation is coming to prosecute users. Collaborative work with the Canal & Rivers Trust, a Rugby litterpicking group and Easenhall Parish has meant that cleaning the Canal car park is not as bad as it used to be. The stability of some trees in the area are under observation.
- We continue to monitor dog fouling, although we provide free bags at 4 locations in the village this still appears to be a problem.
- Some contribution towards rebuilding an unstable wall, on the playing field boundary, will be negotiated with the owner when building work is completed as the damage has also been accentuated by years of ivy growth from the field side.
- Following a spate of car thefts the Council arranged a meeting with the responsible Police officers, there was a good village attendance and we feel that we will get more action should the situation occur again.
- We gave support to the Events Committee with the Coronation Picnic and were pleased to present either a mug or flask to commemorate the event to all children in the Parish under 12 years of age. Also in commemoration we have planted a mature flowering cherry tree on the Crescent, to replace a dead tree, and a plaque will be added shortly.
- We monitor road and pavement failures, providing safety barriers when necessary, due to the slow response time from Warwickshire CC.

4. Report by Brinklow Parish Council regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

This was a big year for the Neighbourhood Plan – with some changes we got the plan accepted by the planning inspector, then we got it through the referendum and RBC adopted it so that it became law. Hoping that was it for the next 20 years, following its adoption, RBC started preparing a new Local Plan which in theory could override the Neighbourhood Plan being a later and higher level document. Concerned that RBC may try to build a lot more houses in Brinklow, as their last local plan tried to do until we persuaded the planning inspector to over rule it, we ran another Housing Needs Survey. Our last survey was four years old and their acceptable life in planning terms is five years so we can now use the new one as evidence against any possible housing allocation in the new Local Plan.

As the Neighbourhood Plan makes reference to many other documents as these get updated we need to update the Neighbourhood Plan so this will become a continuous process – eg. Local data from the results of the 2021 census will become available over the next two years for us to update the plan. Progress is being made with our preferred site for affordable and elderly persons housing. Midlands Rural Housing have engaged a developer, Linfoot Country Homes, and we will join them in a meeting with

Rugby Planning to push for implementation of our planning policy H04 Lutterworth Road, Brinklow which says –

‘The development of land at Lutterworth Road as a rural exception site for the development of up to twelve affordable houses and up to 7 elderly persons dwellings will be supported subject to it being demonstrated that the development meets the identified housing needs. Proposals must demonstrate how development will retain and enhance the significant landscape features that have been identified’

5. To Receive reports from local Community Organisations.

No Local community organisation reports were given.

6. Report by member of Warwickshire County Council representing Brinklow.

Councillor A Warwick reported that the advantages of the Lengthsmen scheme is incredibly helpful for working partnerships. There are financial pressures therefore budgets and funding are being looked at carefully. The full increase available in Council Tax was not taken due to financial pressures on residents. The Councillor Grant pot is now available for Parish Councils or village organisations to apply for although only £7000 in total is available across the whole area. Yesterday WCC were nominated for a development award for a deal made to develop the councils own land for housing for residents in Warwickshire. A fund matching scheme is up and running for road safety projects.

7. Report by members of Rugby Borough Council representing Brinklow.

Councillor T Gillias reported that RBC have set up their own development group, Caldecott Development Group, to look at the safety of high rise flats following the Grenfell tragedy. Nicola Smith is head of growth and development of Rugby town centre where residential accommodation will be built above the shops. The Gypsies and travellers unauthorised development in greenbelt is hot on the agenda at Rugby Town Hall. The development of Magna Park has caused increased traffic, the government are now allowing longer trailers therefore roundabouts and junctions need reviewing to accommodate. The proposed lorry park at Cross-in-Hand have re-applied after being rejected – Tony advised the Parish Council and individuals to respond to the new application to get it rejected. The best way to deal with speeding is to restrict the vehicles – ISA will be fitted to new vehicles over the next 10 years which uses GPS data to limit the car to the speed of the area it is travelling in.

Councillor H Timms reported that the elections went well, including the new voter ID. 2 seats were lost leaving RBC with no overall control. Conservatives are the largest party still but the Mayor who has the casting vote is Labour. Derek Poole from Wolston is being appointed Council Leader. Discussions are ongoing regarding the re-development of Rugby. Market value has to be achieved for assets (council land to be developed for housing) but dividends and profit are to be used for affordability.

8. Other Matters raised by any elector of the Parish.

It was brought to our attention that some of the contact details on the Parish Council website are either no longer valid or not up to date which will be addressed by the Councillors and our website maintenance company.

The Meeting Closed at 8 pm

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CHAIRMAN