

BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Community Hall on the 11th January 2024

Present:

Councillor J Reid (Chairman)	D Lloyd (Clerk & RFO)
Councillor T Heenan	Councillor T Gillias (RBC)
Councillor I Currington	Councillor A Warwick (WCC)
Councillor S Brown	J Boonham (Cemetery Agent)
Councillor Karen Keene	32 Members of the public
Councillor Judith Brickwood	

1. Apologies.

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor H Timms (RBC)

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. **RESOLVED **That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th December 2023 were approved, signed and initialled by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.****

4. Comments, Questions or Suggestions made by Members of the Public.

• **Any items other than Planning Applications –**

Jeanette Lomas: gave thanks for cutting the Laurel hedge in Pocket Park; the gardening club is being opened up to older people so raised beds are needed - therefore looking for any grants available; thanks to the Parish Council and Events Committee for funding the Christmas lunches; enquired about setting a date for another litter pick – the date of March 16th meeting at the village hall at 10am was agreed.

The Parish Council were asked to cut the foliage on Green Lane back from the road.

• **Questions regarding recent Planning Application R23/0667 –**

Chairman J Reid, prior to questions from the public, gave an update on climate reasons for the Planning Application R23/0667 (see details of application in item 5 below) to point out some of the positives in the application.

Questions from members of the public and the responses given by Dale Aston –

Will this increase traffic in the village? – it should reduce this by 10 – 15%; Are electric tractors being considered for use? – Natural gas & hydrogen run tractors would be considered in the future but these are not currently available; Is this sustainable? – diesel emissions are offset by the gas produced so it is sustainable, not renewable; Are the drivers on piece work? – No; Why do the tractors speed through the village? – The drivers are asked to do 25mph (although they can legally do 30) and if they are caught speeding it is dealt with as gross misconduct; Is it necessary to go through the village rather than use other routes? – not all travel through the village but travelling further using different routes causes more emissions which is all taken into the calculation of the workings of the plant; Why is the slurry moved through the village in lorries rather than kept and utilised at the farm? – the slurry has to go back onto the land where the crops were grown as part of the whole process rather than using foreign fertilizer. Other issues mentioned were - When Aston's was a working farm there was not as much traffic through the village as there is now, the tractors are travelling through the village at unreasonable times of the day and night, the trailers are supposed to be covered instead they are leaving debris throughout the village and causing the drains to block, the

number of movements are already higher than originally promised so there is a general lack of trust in anything promised this time.

Councillor A Warwick (WCC) explained that any planning application has to be submitted along with a design and access statement which also has to be evidenced and suggested a change in the hours of operation could be requested by the Parish Council. Addressing a query about speed cameras not being approved for the village he mentioned ISA which is a GPS mechanism which is being fitted into all new cars to control speeding at source rather than using speed cameras in the future.

Dale Aston summarised the planning application – The new digester will not increase production, the gas production is already at capacity, it will re-digest the product from the first digester to produce the same amount of gas using less crops and therefore fewer tractor movements. This is an enhancement to the existing digester to help reduce the issues in the village to get to a position better for the village.

5. District and County Councillor Reports for Information.

Councillor T Gillias (RBC)

Tony has attended a town centre regeneration meeting where there were some great ideas for Rugby town centre, and he will be attending a meeting about the local plan on Monday. The general public can be included in responses regarding the Local Plan and all Parish Councils should respond.

Councillor A Warwick (WCC)

WCC are assessing the fire service and the timings and whereabouts of the highest risk – there is a consultation in Bedworth on 20th January 2024; trading standards are looking at the sale of vapes (20,000 illegal vapes); WCC are holding a consultation of public rights of way – to be responded to by 10th March 2024.

6. Report by Cemetery Agent.

Jennie read out her report to all present – An outstanding fee for a burial has now been received; a new request for a burial has been received and due to take place on 18th January; there are still some reservation posts to be installed which will take place once the weather improves with the help of the Lengthsmen.

7. An update on the RBC Local Plan.

There is a notice on Facebook and the noticeboards asking residents to respond to the Rugby BC Local Plan, to be reposted again as a reminder on Facebook. Councillors are attending a meeting on 20th February with Rugby BC for an update on the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

8. An Update on the rental agreement for Brinklow Football Club.

A few changes were added to the agreement by the football club without discussion. Their request for use of the field for their annual tournament was agreed, the additional days of use for training/matches leaves little availability for use of the field by any other groups for sporting activities if required and creates more parking issues for the village.

ACTION **J Reid to liaise back with the Football Club**

9. To discuss and agree a response to Planning Applications.

- **R23/0667** at ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT, HIGHWOOD FARM, COVENTRY ROAD, BRINKLOW, RUGBY, CV23 0NJ for Secondary Digester and Greenhouse, Electric Vehicle Charging, Shop and associated infrastructure, Pipework connection to and Cellar for Highwood Farm House. **ACTION** **The Councillors to consider the issues and feedback highlighted by members of the public at this meeting and produce a response on behalf of the whole village in line with the Neighbourhood Plan prior to 16th January 2024**

10. An Update on setting the budget and precept.

An advisory precept to be submitted at 2.4% **All Councillors in agreement**

11. To Approve the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2023/2024 accounts.

The Clerk asked the councillors to approve appointing the Internal Auditor used for last years accounts – Anifeed Ltd at a cost of £350.00.

APPROVED – CLERK TO ACTION To appoint Anifeed Ltd at the quoted price

12. To Approve the Accounts for Payment.

Date	Ch No /so	Details	Total Payments	Payment Particulars
11/01/24	EFT	J Boonham	286.94	salary & backpay
11/01/24	2395	D Lloyd	670.45	salary & backpay
11/01/24	EFT	SSE energy	218.47	Electricity for streetlighting 1 Nov - 30 Nov - first bill
11/01/24	EFT	GreenSponge IT Services	273.00	website maintenance & speed reduction imaging

APPROVED Proposed and Seconded by Chairman J Reid and Councillor S Brown

13. Progress Reports for Information.

- **Playing Field:** A grass re-enforcing matt is to be installed in the walk-through gap by the Armco barrier and between the hard standing and the exercise equipment.
- **Grant Funding:** WCC fund matching application form for the village speed reduction project has been received and its stipulations are being reviewed by the Parish Council as some of the works requested are deemed to be statutory maintenance work which is WCC’s responsibility and not the Parish Councils.

14. Correspondence received.

None received.

The Cashbook, Bank reconciliation and bank statements were checked, initialled and balance agreed.

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th February 2024 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

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CHAIRMAN