

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT BURNTWOOD LIBRARY, SANKEYS CORNER
ON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2014 COMMENCING AT 6.35 P.M.

PRESENT

Councillor Willis-Croft (in the Chair)

Councillors Ms Brettell, Brown, Campbell, Mrs Fisher, Heath (from 6.55 pm), Isaacs (from 6.50 pm), James, Mosson (from 6.40 pm), Norman, Mrs Rigby, Mrs Stokes (from 6.55 pm), Mrs Tranter, Walker MBE and Mrs Woodward.

In attendance

S Lightfoot, Interim Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Administrative Assistant

Ms N Davidson, Rural Access Manager, Staffordshire County Council

Ms J Lees, Chasewater Development Officer, Staffordshire County Council

4 members of the public (3 from 6.55 pm)

**PRESENTATION BY NOREEN DAVIDSON, RURAL ACCESS MANAGER,
STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CHASEWATER**

Councillor Willis-Croft welcomed Noreen Davidson and Jane Lees to the meeting. Ms Davidson introduced herself and Ms Lees. Ms Davidson explained that she was in charge of all of the country parks across the county, rangers' services and rights of way. Ms Davidson confirmed that Staffordshire County Council had taken over the responsibility for Chasewater since April this year but that they already managed the Innovation Centre. Ms Davidson stated that financial challenges lay ahead, that the operational costs needed to be reduced and that they needed to 'tap into' local knowledge i.e. from the Town Council who knows about the local community. Ms Davidson confirmed that quite a lot of infrastructure had taken place already for example with the assistance of County Councillor Sheriff and County Councillor Mrs Woodward swings had been purchased and installed.

Councillor Mrs Woodward confirmed that a lot of good work was going on/exciting ideas but a lack of easy access to Chasewater needed to be pushed. Councillor Norman mentioned the environmental problems and did not know how to resolve the problems for example litter. Councillor Norman confirmed that there was a car park owned by Lichfield District Council at the end of Church Street which was rarely open.

Councillor Walker asked what was the staff involvement at Chasewater. Ms Davidson confirmed that there was two full time Rangers, three Estate Workers, a Biodiversity Officer, staff in the Innovation Centre, two Information Assistants and Management.

Ms Davidson stated that the County Council were seeking to remove the public pressure off Cannock Chase and move it to Chasewater.

Councillor Campbell mentioned lack of signage for Chasewater and asked if the Town Council could be approached/engaged on a regular basis relating to outdoor events and if any plans were in hand for the Canada Geese.

Ms Davidson stated that the County Council were looking at signage on the A5, that they were keen to undertake events but did not have the capacity to run all events but were currently holding events for example Chasewater Strollers and the Farmers Market. Ms Davidson confirmed that they would not be feeding the Canada Geese in the future.

Councillor Norman confirmed that the Ironman Event was going to be held at Chasewater and asked a question relating to the closure of the road over the dam.

Ms Davidson confirmed that the road would not be reopened as it would not take the weight.

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked if the County Council could facilitate some easy way to find out about events being held at Chasewater as the Ironman Event will raise the profile of Chasewater and the Town.

Ms Lees confirmed that the Lantern Parade would be held at Chasewater.

Councillor Mrs Tranter asked if the paddling pool was to be reopened. Ms Davidson confirmed that the County Council were unsure at the moment and that more details were needed.

Councillor Willis-Croft thanked Noreen and Jane for their attendance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mrs P Palmer, Thistledown Avenue

Mrs Palmer thanked Councillor Norman for the work he had undertaken to resolve the parking problems in Thistledown Avenue, however, the white lines had not been added. Councillor Mrs Woodward confirmed that it does take some weeks for the road to settle and then the white lines will be installed.

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Councillor Walker MBE.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Mrs Banevicius, Bradbury, Constable, Drinkwater, Mrs Evans, Humphreys and Taylor.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

None declared.

54. MINUTES

RESOLVED That Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 July 2014 (Minute Nos. 26 - 51) be received and approved as a correct record.

55. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

56. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2014 (Minute Nos. 18 - 22), and 21 August 2014 (Minute Nos. 23 - 28) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

57. BURNTWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan Committee held on 23 July 2014 (Minute Nos. 10 - 16) and 21 August 2014 (Minute Nos. 17 - 21) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

58. BURNTWOOD WAKES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Councillor Norman asked if the Town Council had received complains re the cancellation of the event and if so how many. Councillor Mrs Woodward confirmed that she had received no complaints and that all Members be asked to nominate Members for the Working Group tasked with liaising with schools, Rotary etc. Councillor Mrs Fisher asked if the budget had been set for the 2015 Wakes. Mr Lightfoot confirmed that they were waiting for the recommendations from the Wakes Committee meeting to be held on 24 September 2014 before any decisions were made.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Burntwood Wakes Review Committee (Minute Nos. 1 - 6) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

59. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

None raised.

60. STEPHEN SUTTON MBE

Councillor Campbell outlined the paper prepared by Mr Lightfoot listing suggestions that had been made to the Town Council since the last Committee Meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that suggestions numbered 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, a modified 17 and musical instruments be submitted to Mrs Sutton for her comments prior to final costing. Councillor Isaacs stated that the agreed suggestions should

not be a one off but should be phased in over a couple of years. Councillor Norman stated that guidance from Mrs Jane Sutton must be obtained and the suggestions must reflect what is right for the Town to keep Stephen's memory going. Councillor Mrs Woodward in the absence of Councillor Mrs Evans, asked if a fund could be set up to benefit children who could not afford to play a musical instrument in light of Stephen's interest in music.

RESOLVED THAT

a) Costings and timescales etc for the below be sought:

- Item 3 - Tree planting and brass plate
- Item 4 - A memorial garden with seating
- Item 5 - A commemorative plaque in the heart of Burntwood
- Item 8 - Bronze plaque in relief
- Item 12 - Engraving of some of Stephen's comments/sayings on paving stones
- Item 14 - A bursary
- Item 15 - Plant a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas
- Item 17 - A large "thumbs up" sculpture

b) A letter be sent to Mrs Sutton asking for her thoughts and observations relating to (a) above.

c) A budget be agreed in order that a fund be set up in order to assist a child who cannot fund a musical instrument them self. All schools in the Burntwood area be invited to apply to the fund for a musical instrument and that one application would be successful each year.

61. 2013/14 YEAR END ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED Councillor Campbell proposed adoption of the signed off 2013/14 Year End accounts which were agreed by all present.

62. COMMONWEALTH FLAG

Councillor Campbell asked if the flag pole was suitable to withhold the proposed Commonwealth flag. Mr Lightfoot confirmed that as far as he was concerned the flag pole was suitable.

RESOLVED That the Commonwealth Flag be purchased at a cost of £58 including delivery plus VAT.

63. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS MADE BETWEEN 11 JULY AND 15 SEPTEMBER 2014 INCLUSIVE

Councillor Mrs Woodward asked what was the significance of purchasing the Express and Stars newspaper to the Town Council. Mr Lightfoot explained that this was a historic archive and that he would provide a monthly email to all Members relating to headlines affecting Burntwood.

RESOLVED The Chairman moved adoption of the Schedule of Payments totalling £85,262.85 made between 11 July and 15 September 2014 which were approved by all present.

64. 2014/15 BUDGET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2014

RESOLVED Councillor Campbell moved adoption of the 2014/15 budget reports which were agreed by all present.

65. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

66. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES: PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED That the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 20 August 2014 (Minute Nos. 6 - 11) be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

67. OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE

Councillor Campbell introduced the confidential report outlining the discussions held with Lichfield District Council relating to the transfer of lease from LDC to BTC. The benefits of concluding the negotiations on terms to be agreed were outlined and after full discussion it was **AGREED** by all present that the negotiations be concluded as speedily as possible and within a two to three month period. Option C in the paper was seen to be the most desirable option to achieve.

(The Meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.)

Signed

Date