

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**RUGELEY AND BRERETON COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 9 MARCH, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RUGELEY TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, TAYLOR'S**  
**LANE, RUGELEY**

PRESENT: Councillors:

Grocott, M.R. (Chairman)

Allt, Mrs. A.  
Jones, R.

Lovell, A.

Cannock Chase Council Officers:

T. McGovern

Managing Director

S. Partridge

Democratic Services Manager

Representatives from the following organisations:

Rugeley Town Council

Various

Brereton and Ravenhill Parish  
Council

Various

Police

PCSO Sean Nicholls;

PCSO Dave Hughes

Cannock Chase CCG

Lynn Millar

Local Residents

Approximately 8

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from CCDC Councillors B. Bottomer; A. Dudson\*; P.A. Fisher; J.P. Johnson; G.N. Molineux; and Miss S. Whitehouse.

Apologies were also submitted on behalf of SCC Councillors A. Dudson\* and G. Martin; the Ven. Simon Baker; the Rev. Preb. Michael Newman; Mrs. M. Kettle, Landor Society; Mrs. Travers-Brookes, Friends of Etching Hill; and a number of Town / Parish Councillors.

## **2. Declarations of Interest (CCDC Councillors)**

None.

## **3. Notes**

The notes of the meeting held on 8 December, 2014 were accepted as a correct record, subject to correction of the following:

- Cllr. Miss S. Whitehouse had submitted apologies and had not been in attendance;
- Mrs M. Kettle (Landor Society) and Mr and Mrs G. Brookes (Friends of Etching Hill) were listed as being both in attendance and having submitted apologies. As they were all in attendance, the listing under the apologies was incorrect.
- The Police representatives had been PC Lee Turner and PCSO Laura Sandy, as per the notes, not PC Nick Smith and Special Sgt. Kevin Lee as per the attendance list.

## **4. Matters Arising (Not Otherwise Covered on the Agenda)**

None at this point, but matters were raised under Item 5. "Questions for Staffordshire Police"

## **5. Questions for Staffordshire Police**

The Police representatives, PCSO Sean Nicholls and PCSO Dave Hughes, advised that they were happy to take questions from the floor, but asked the Forum to be mindful that a serious incident was in progress, and they would need to excuse themselves as soon as they had finished.

No questions had been submitted in advance, but the following matters were raised from the floor.

Church Street On Street Parking / Speeding Issues (refer to notes of previous meeting) – Cllr. Allt and Mr. Vukmirovic (resident of no. 32A) advised that nothing substantial appeared to have been done following promises made at the last forum. The Police promised to look into the matter further, including the possibility of using a handheld speed gun and increased visible patrolling, as previously mentioned. They would raise the issue again with the County Highways department, though it was understood that the residents had received responses to individual enquiries.

Parking Outside John Bamford School – Cllr. R. Jones advised that following recent changes to road markings outside the school, inconsiderate / dangerous parking had reduced considerably. However, he was aware of one particular van driver who ignored the road markings and parked there all day. Mr. McGovern advised that it was a civil parking enforcement matter that he would raise with the Council's CPR contractor, APCOA.

Parking Outside Western Springs School – Cllr. Allt advised that parents dropping off and collecting children were, by their inconsiderate parking, causing both a nuisance to local residents and a danger to others, including parents and children. PCSO Nicholls confirmed that they were aware of the problem and it was being addressed through the Safer Schools Initiative. Unfortunately, it was one of those situations whereby when the Police turn up to give a visible presence, the problem disappeared. If any residents were prepared to note offending vehicle registration numbers the Police would try and deal with the matter.

RTC Cllr Gaye advised that he was a governor of the school and would also raise the matter with the head teacher.

Stile Cop Road Lay-by – Cllr. Lovell raised concerns about the excessive number of vehicles using the layby and, in particular, overlapping the ends of it, especially on Sundays. The Police confirmed they were aware of the situation and were monitoring it.

Other matters raised included motorists undertaking u-turns on Horsefair, and littering issues (predominantly by youngsters) in several locations, including Etchinghill.

**6. Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group** (The Chair agreed to this matter being brought forward on the agenda.)

Lynn Millar, Director of Primary Care, gave an overview of the role of Cannock Chase CCG, which was responsible for the 27 GP practices across Cannock Chase. In particular, feedback was sought from residents on their experiences of the GP practices in Rugeley, both historically and currently. Questions were taken from the floor, with the majority of the discussion concerning the Sandy Lane medical centre, which housed 2 similarly list-sized practices.

The forum was advised that the CCG had a budget of £160m for the provision of healthcare services across the district and these could be commissioned from a number of hospitals in the region, and NHS England currently paid for the local GP surgeries.

It was confirmed that the Cannock Chase district was ‘under-doctored’ by 6 permanent doctors. An initiative was being developed with Keele University whereby newly qualified doctors trained in Staffordshire would be encouraged to spend a minimum of their first 12 months post qualification working in the county.

**7. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Services**

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting for the Fire and Rescue Services, consequently no representative had been sent to the meeting.

No matters were raised from the floor to be fed back.

**8. Staffordshire County Council Highways**

The following matter had been submitted by Cllr. J. Rowley, Chairman of Rugeley Town Council, for inclusion on the agenda:

“Grass areas on Central Reservation on Horsefair Parking

The damaged area where cars are cutting across the grass to park is becoming more and more progressively damaged. Staffordshire County Council have contacted regarding the matter and it has been suggested by Councillor J. Rowley that the area is tarmacked in full.”

Mark Keeling, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, SCC, had previously provided the following response to the Town Council, which the Chairman read out:

*“We have agreed with the weather not being very conducive to establishing grass it wouldn’t be particularly cost effective to try and do something with this at the moment.*

*The grass rings were put in lower as we wanted the grass to sit level with the kerbs rather than above, which is why now we have a ‘step’ between the kerb and the grass rings. We can lift these up and re-seed, then temporarily fence this area off so it can establish, but this will probably have to wait a few months until we get more agreeable weather.*

*There is a concern that this will happen again due to the nature of the plastic rings, and it maybe that we consider some grasscrete as a solution rather than the plastic rings, at least for a 500mm over run section.*

*Another option is to look at purchasing some street furniture which could be placed strategically to prevent this over riding in the future.”*

There was general discontent from the forum on the County’s handling of the consultation, management and implementation of the Horsefair public realm works. RTC Cllr. Rowley said he would follow up the matter further with Mr. Keeling / the County.

An information sheet prepared by the highways Department was also attached to the agenda in respect of who deals with various highways issues.

**9. Partial Collapse of Bridge over Brook, Adjacent to Western Springs Road**

Mr. G. Grant, Rugeley Town Councillor and Local Resident, had requested an update in respect of this matter. The following update had been provided by Mr. Bob Phillips, Cannock Chase Council and was included on the agenda:

*“We reported to the last Forum that the District Council had submitted bids for funding for the flood relief scheme to both the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and to the Stoke and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership. These bids are for funding to sit alongside Environment Agency (EA) flood alleviation funds.*

*We have received offers of funding from both LEPs. The offer from the Stoke*

*and Staffs LEP is of particular interest because it is an 'in principle' offer of grant from the Government's Local Growth Fund. Members of the Forum may have seen local press reports about the project being supported through the Stoke and Staffs Growth Deal with Government. The District Council is currently discussing the details of the offers with the LEPs and with the County Council bearing in mind their role as the local authority responsible for flood relief matters in Staffordshire and that they own the land on which the scheme will sit.*

*Regarding the development of the flood relief scheme, the EA have made good progress with their outline design work. By the time the Forum meets there will have been two local public consultation sessions at the leisure centre on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March. This provided a first impression of the location and look of the scheme and invited comments from the public and stakeholders. The consultation will inform the detailed design. Subject to the EA and match funding being secured, the EA aims to complete the final design in mid 2015 and to start construction in 2016.*

*Regarding the repairs to the bridge, the position remains as reported to the last meeting of the Forum. The District Council will want to see the implications of the emerging design of the flood storage scheme for the bridge. It will also want to consider the merits of dealing with the bridge in parallel with the flood storage scheme. This will be considered further once the consultation responses to the outline scheme have been assessed.*

*As the project gains momentum the EA will require a project board to be established. We will keep the Forum advised of progress."*

Mr. McGovern confirmed that, further to the information contained in the feedback to Mr. Grant, while the bridge was the responsibility of CCDC, other related matters were the responsibility of the County and the Environment Agency, respectively. Consequently, no one matter could be dealt with in isolation, though everybody was together towards a permanent resolution.

#### **10. The Old Chancel, St. Augustine's Church, Rugeley (Standing Item)**

The Venerable Simon Baker, Archdeacon of Lichfield, and The Reverend Prebendary Michael Newman had both submitted apologies; however, the following short update had been provided for the forum, which was read out by the Chairman:

*"(1) Meeting of potential Trustees - took place on 19th February.*

*(a) Those present talked through the issues related to setting up a Trust with limited liability and agreed to review the Draft Trust Deed which would be circulated in the near future.*

*(b) The Archdeacon reported that the Trust would begin life with approximately £10,000 in the bank account including donations from the County Council and the Diocese.*

*(c) It was agreed that Greenwoods, a firm of Heritage Consultants, who had been standing by for while, should begin a survey to identify what is required structurally to make the Old Chancel safe and also to make suggestions as to*

*appropriate and viable alternative uses for the building in the future.*

*(d) It was reported that the legal process for the closure of the Old Chancel for public worship was nearing completion.*

*(e) It was agreed that a public meeting be called in July to explain progress and hopefully to persuade more people to express an interest in becoming a Trustee.*

*(2) The Old Chancel closed officially for public worship on 1st March. Until the Trust is formed the Diocese will be responsible for the safety of the building and will pay insurance costs.*

*After a slow start some significant progress has been made in recent weeks but mostly depends on setting up the Trust without which the Old Chancel will slide ever more into gentile decline.*

*On a positive note Greenwoods are prepared to act professionally on behalf of the Trust to ensure that the best possible response is obtained from grant making bodies and their costs can of course be written into the applications that they submit.*

*The Parish and Diocese have done their best to resolve an issue which was first raised in 1954 but it is now up to those in the community who value the Old Chancel to step forward and assume responsibility for its upkeep.*

*I trust that this information will be helpful to those present.*

*With best wishes.*

*Yours sincerely  
Michael J Newman"*

Reverend Newman also advised that he would be retiring in April and, therefore, would not be available for future meetings, and that it may be up to a year before a successor was appointed. In the intervening period, the Venerable Simon Baker, Archdeacon of Lichfield, would keep the forum informed of progress.

## **11. Cannock and Stafford Hospitals**

Management of the Cannock Chase and Stafford Hospitals had transferred with effect from 1 November, 2014 to, respectively, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Foundation Trust ("RWT") and University Hospitals North Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust ("UHNS").

Sultan Mahmud, Integration Programme Director, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust had provided a written statement in respect of current and future management of services at Cannock Chase Hospital, which was attached to the agenda.

Concerns were raised from the floor about the shuttle bus service between New Cross and Cannock Hospitals, following newspaper reports about its possible cessation, and the lack of any provision for Rugeley and Brereton residents who

might previously have attended Stafford Hospital. Mr. McGovern advised that the newspaper reports were speculative and ill-timed, coming just after the start of a six month trial of the service. He further advised that, without wishing to defend the RWNHST's position on shuttle bus provision, including the extent of the service(s), the Trust was under no obligation to provide such a service, and it was reported to be costing it in the region of £200K for the initial six month trial.

**12. Any Other Business**

None.

**13. Forward Agenda for Future Meetings**

None.

**14. Next Meeting**

(Subject to confirmation) Monday, 22 June, 2015. Venue: Rugeley Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

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CHAIRMAN