

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BREASTON PARISH, HELD
AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 11TH APRIL 2016 IN THE PCMR, BLIND LANE,
BREASTON**

Present: Councillors Miller, McCaig, Mounsey, Elliott, Cockle,
Wrigglesworth, Pepios, Luke, Toon, Parkinson & Ronan

Councillor Miller in the Chair

3 members of the Public as per attached sheet.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Wiggins, Breaston Park FC,
Breaston Flower Circle & Mrs Fearn.

**2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
13th APRIL 2015**

It was RESOLVED to CONFIRM the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held on 13th April 2015.

3. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

3.1 ENVIRONMENT REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COCKLE

The committee meets on the morning of every full Parish Council
meeting and the recommendations are presented at the meeting that
night.

The following is a summary of the main business of the Committee
carried out during the past 12 months:

Localism Act 2011

We have reviewed the Localism Act and considered how it benefit the
village. The Act is intended to create a shift away from Whitehall and
empower local communities, giving them more opportunities to take
control of matters that directly affect them. The Act gives us the power
to challenge and submit expressions of interest in providing services
directly where they affect us. The Act is drafted in very general terms
and we have had difficulty in establishing a clear procedure and
guidance from both DCC and EBC and we have yet not been able to
find a way forward. One of the critical aspects of the Act is how money
will follow this entitlement and any local activity is funded.

We will continue to review how the Act can be exploited for the benefit of the village.

Neighbourhood Planning

A very significant aspect of the Localism Act is the issue of neighbourhood planning.

We can

- Decide where and what type of development should happen in the neighbourhood.
- Promote more development than is set out in the EBC Core Strategy.
- Include policies, for example regarding design standards that take precedence over existing policies in the Core Strategy for the neighbourhood – provided the Neighbourhood Development Plan policies do not conflict with the strategic policies in the Core Strategy.

The village may be able to determine the development of housing, including affordable housing (affordable housing is housing that is not normally for sale on the open market), and bringing vacant or derelict housing back into use.

As EBC define Breaston as part of the rural community and don't set separate housing targets for the village, we have felt there is little benefit in developing our own Neighbourhood Plan at this stage.

Tidying up the village or removing 'clutter'

We believe the village suffers from excessive signage and road marking which lead to a very cluttered and confusing village green. Many of the highway signs we believe are redundant. There are numerous verge advertising boards which have been erected without approval. We have had meetings with DCC Conservation advisors, EBC enforcement officers and the EBC conservation advisors. We have had some limited success in removing excess advertising from the verges on Wilsthorpe and Draycott Road and the pavements on the Green. We continue to have discussions with DCC and EBC.

As part of this tidying up exercise we are examining the range of street furniture in the village to see if this can be rationalised.

Planning Applications

One of the key roles of the committee is reviewing EBC planning applications. We are a consultee but we have no power of veto. However, the EBC Planning Authority must consider the Parish view before they decide to grant or refuse permission for development.

During the past year we have considered 62 applications. We have recommended all but six for approval. EBC have approved all but six but not the same six! A number of applications we consider are poorly drafted and considered also in a number of cases we believe applicants are advised to withdraw applications in order that proposals can be reconsidered.

In this role, we have and will continue to fight to protect the village and surrounding Green Belt from inappropriate development.

I would like to thank the committee members for their help and support and in particular Councillor Elliott who has done much of the detailed work. Nicola has been central to the preparation for the meetings and ensuring that the collection, collation and presentation of applications has been smooth running.

R A Cockle April 2016

3.2 PARK & CEMETERIES REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MRS McCAIG

Committee Consists of Cllrs Wiggins and Miller, McCaig (Chairman) Mounsey (Vice Chair) Wigglesworth and Pepios

The Committee have worked hard over the past year to maintain and improve the facilities and appearance of our village, meeting monthly, plus site meetings.

Perks Park is well used by the Football Clubs and others, and the MUGA is very popular.

The pavilion has had many repairs to keep it up to a high standard and is regularly checked for Legionella.

The Windmill has given us many headaches, and we are moving forward in the direction of keeping it as a unique feature of Breaston, but without it actually working.

The play scheme has been superseded by the First Grade Coaching Scheme, and is very successful.

Paths, gates and signage have been upgraded and improved. Seats have been checked, and replaced or repaired where necessary.

The Cemetery is well tended, with increased cutting of grass, and improvements have been made to the paths in and around the Ashes Plots. The Chapel continues to be well used, and valued for smaller services. Seats are provided throughout the cemetery for visitors to use and a new flower arranging bench is in the process of being installed.

Duffield Close and the Sensory Garden are enjoyed by us all, and is well used for our functions, such as the May Day Gala, the Summer Band Concert and the Carol Concert.

Johnson Meadow – The Lease has been renewed, so hopefully the Meadow can be enjoyed by the Residents for, at least, the next few years.

The Jubilee, Memorial and Centenary Gardens are looking very nice, with lovely floral displays, especially the Daffodils, which are looking stunning throughout the village.

Our main difficulty has been in trying to find land, suitable for Allotments. Great effort has been put in, but no definite results as yet.

Overall a successful year, and much of the credit goes to Jean Davis, for her outstanding work, to Mr & Mrs Harvey for their work in the Sensory Garden, and to our Clerk for her powers of organisation and advice.

My thanks to my colleagues on the Parks and Cemeteries Committee for their support.

3.3 HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MRS TOON

The Highways and Lighting Committee comprises of myself, Cllr Toon, as Chairman, Cllr Ronan as Vice Chairman and Cllrs Elliot and Pepios.

One of the major problems facing us this year has been the state of the roads. As soon as potholes have been repaired, new ones appear almost immediately and even worse, the standard of repairs leaves much to be desired. Many of the same holes reappear and are often even larger and deeper than before. This is clearly an ongoing problem.

Bulbs have been planted on the verges along Draycott Road and are currently providing a magnificent display of spring colour. There are plans to obtain a cultivation licence for Longmoor Lane to extend the bulb planting but the verges there are in dreadful state because of inconsiderate parking. Letters have been sent to residents asking for support to improve conditions but there has been a mixed response. It is hoped that planting might help to reduce the problem.

The Draycott Road bulb planting is part of an ongoing effort to improve the Western Gateway to the village. It is hoped that a new bus shelter will be erected on the Derby bound side at Hills Road very shortly and we are trying to persuade local firms to get involved in a general tidy up of the area. Cllr Elliott has been very busy with this project and we hope to make further improvements in the coming year.

M1 noise remains a priority and the clerk has been pressing Highways England for information. The contractors for the Smart Motorway work have been named and we hope to be kept informed as soon as any work begins.

Footpaths have taken up a lot of discussion time this year, particularly because of the wet weather. There has been a lot of flooding on the footpath from Johnson Meadow to the canal path and no solution has yet been found. A replacement plaque was purchased for the Coffin Walk and was installed by Cllr Elliott.

A bench was recently placed in the Jubilee Garden in memory of the late Cllr. Margaret Orchard.

There was much relief late last year when the decision was announced that HS2 would not be sited at Breaston.

Pavements and buildings in the village centre continue to be damaged by large delivery lorries but continual pressure by the Clerk has led to a marked improvement.

I would like to end my report by thanking my colleagues on this committee for their support and the parish clerk, Nicala O'Leary for all her hard work on our behalf.

3.4 FINANCE REPORT SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LUKE

The Finance Committee consists of the Parish Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairmen of the various Committees, the Chairman of the Finance Committee; Councillor J Luke and Councillor Parkinson.

The Committee has met regularly during the past year; in January the current year's budgets were reviewed and we were able to forecast spend for the remaining 3 months of the 2015/2016 financial year. I am pleased to report the Council achieved a balanced budget at year end.

It should be noted that in line with recommendations from the external auditor (Grant Thornton) we have utilised reserves to make further improvements to the Parish such as:

New path on Perks Park

Improvements to the kissing gate, Perks Park

New signage on all open spaces

Worn out benches have been replaced

Provided a community defibrillator

Improved drainage to the pavilion

Improved the ashes plots at the Cemetery

Increased grass cutting

Planted new hedge on Duffield Close

Planted commemorative trees and named a footpath

Installed new safety lighting in pavilion and pcmr

Improved security at Johnson Meadow and installed new handrails to access bridge,

Repairs to entrances on Duffield Close

Improved the Christmas Lights in the Green

Made repairs to Centenary Garden fence

Replaced fencing to Windmill compound

Carried out safety checks on the Windmill

Improved CCTV system

Installation of commemorative bench for Cllr Orchard

Bulb planting along Draycott Road

And plans to improve the PCMR

For a number of years, the Concurrent Functions grant has decreased. The Parish Council was informed in January that the Concurrent Functions grant was to be cut by a further 10% for 2016/17 from £59,582.00 to £53,624.00.

Therefore, when looking at budgets for the new financial year we had to make decisions on whether to cut services or to increase the precept budget to provide the shortfall in overall budget for 2016/17.

We have also been investigating ways to communicate with residents and have introduced the new parish newsletter – it was resolved to continue with this new service as it was considered important that residents know what the Parish Council is doing.

Due to Government legislation we have also implemented a staff pension scheme and Legionella testing in Parish Council buildings. These services were an additional cost to previous years and had to be accounted for.

The projected spend for 2016/17 on Concurrent Function is £64,527.00 and on Precept is £16,963.00 totalling £81,490.00.

With the current known levels of income £53,624.00 and £14,524.00 that leaves a shortfall of £13,341.63

The small increase in the precept does still not cover the budget put forward by Breaston Parish Council for the 2016/17 financial year despite savings made in other areas to accommodate the decrease in concurrent funding.

The increase of the precept from £13,840 to £21,840 brings the annual cost of the Parish Council, on a band D property up to £13.15 per year, that's £1.10 per month, 25p per week.

The Parish remains one of the lowest in the borough in relation to similar sized Parishes.

The Parish Council continues to operate a strict budgetary control with monthly reports from the Clerk and analyses of all spend.

To conclude, I should like to thank my Committee Members for their support and good prudence with regards to spending. I thank our Clerk Nicala O'Leary for her work throughout the year as Responsible Financial Officer.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MILLER

Unfortunately, the Chairman is still unable to attend meetings due to ill health however the Parish Council continues to attend to day to day running of Parish facilities, services and open spaces.

Sadly, we lost Cllr Margaret Orchard recently, she gave many, many years of distinguished service to Breaston. I would like to thank Residents for attending meetings and Councillors for all of their hard work for the Parish over the last year, with particular thanks to Cllr Elliott and Cockle for their professionalism. I think we have the dream team in Mrs Davis and Nicala they do a lot of incredible hard work for the Parish.

In the last year we have completed the following works in the Parish

New path on Perks Park
Improvements to the kissing gate, Perks Park
New signage on all open spaces
Worn out benches have been replaced
Provided a community defibrillator
Improved drainage to the pavilion
Improved the ashes plots at the Cemetery
Increased grass cutting
Planted new hedge on Duffield Close
Planted commemorative trees and named a footpath
Installed new safety lighting in pavilion and pcmr
Improved security at Johnson Meadow and installed new handrails to access bridge,
Repairs to entrances on Duffield Close
Improved the Christmas Lights in the Green
Made repairs to Centenary Garden fence
Replaced fencing to Windmill compound
Carried out safety checks on the Windmill
Improved CCTV system
Installation of commemorative bench for Cllr Orchard
Bulb planting along Draycott Road
And plans to improve the PCMR

5. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PARKINSON

We are entering the final year of the County Council which was elected on in 2013 with 43 Labour, 18 Conservative and 3 Liberal members, an overall Labour majority of 22.

Council Chairman is Cllr. Steve Freeborn (Ripley East & Codnor); Vice-Chairman is Cllr. Janet Hill (Dronfield). The Leader is Cllr. Anne Western (Barlborough & Clowne) with Cllr. Paul Smith (Alfreton & Somercotes) as her Deputy.

I serve as a member of the Licensing & Appeals Committee, the Planning Committee and the Pensions Committee.

DCC Budget proposals for 2016-2017

Areas for Savings

Austerity continues at Derbyshire County Council whose proposals to save almost £70m over two years were approved by the Council on 10th February on the recommendation of the Council's Cabinet.

These approved proposals include:

- Carrying out a review of children's centres which could result in the closure of up to 32.
- Reducing funding for community transport services from July 2016 and using the council's reserves for Dial-a-Bus and Active Travel in the short term while proposals for a new 'demand responsive' transport service are consulted on and considered.
- Cutting the money available for home to school transport for pupils over 16 with learning difficulties or disabilities, under-fives and some eight to 11 year olds.
- Restructuring staffing in the countryside service.
- Reducing the money available for Aiming High short breaks for disabled children and young people, with a further proposal to consult on cutting all funding for these breaks from October 2016.

Council Tax

The Council's annual budget for 2016/2017 of £483 million includes generating £10.6 million to help deal with the shortfall by asking residents to pay an extra 3.99% in Council Tax.

This year councils with responsibility for providing adult care services were for the first time given Government permission to raise Council Tax by up to 2% in addition to the maximum 2% ordinarily permitted.

The 3.99% increase means an increase of £44.71 a year – or 86p a week – for a Band D property. (£1120.46 to £1165.17 pa).

In Derbyshire the extra 2% for adult care would raise £5m a year. The Council proposes to spend the 2% charge specifically to help pay for the following adult social care-related services:

- Voluntary and community groups that provide the most benefit in helping older and vulnerable people to live safely and well in their own homes without relying on social care services
- Protecting the council's home care service which provides support to people at home so they can stay living independently for as long as possible. This service can help to reduce or prevent hospital admissions and also speed up hospital discharges
- Services that support people with dementia and their carers
- More use of assistive technology and specialist equipment, for example pressure pads and alarms
- Support services for younger adults with mental health issues and learning disabilities to help them to prepare for independent

living or a move to supported accommodation and help them learn new skills including support into employment where appropriate.

Consultations

Local people will get the chance to have their say about many of the proposals and all comments will be taken into account before any decisions are made. A great deal more information can be found on the DCC website.

Usually with suggestions for change, there can be much adverse publicity, often misrepresenting actual suggestions and likely outcomes. I would urge people to read any draft proposals carefully and to submit appropriate responses. Alternative suggestions can then be carefully considered before final decisions are made. The message is not to listen to rumour, but to look at the facts.

Roads and Pavements

Work has been done to pavements in Borrowash, Breaston and Draycott, although not always to those considered locally to be priorities with resulting frustration for us all! I am assured that regular inspection and monitoring is carried out and work scheduled as the professionals consider necessary. In the end, it may be that the only way to pressure the Highways Department further will be by individual letters (perhaps plus petitions) from people affected by local problems.

Following local consultation, I have submitted my annual list of road and pavement work considered necessary. I fear however that budget considerations may result in less work next year, but we must continue to press for further traffic calming on Sawley Road, Draycott, together with pavements or some means of safeguarding pedestrians on the rural section of Sawley Road in both Draycott and Breaston.

Elvaston Castle

Derbyshire County Council has continued discussions with the National Trust about how the Trust might be able to assist the Council in finding a

way forward that achieves an acceptable solution for the Council, Elvaston Castle & Country Park and the community. The National Trust has provided advice and guidance whilst they and the Council worked with a range of other local stakeholders to develop a vision for the Estate.

A new Advisory Development Board has been appointed from volunteers with expertise in business planning and finance, fundraising, built and cultural heritage, partnership working or other relevant areas. Tony Palmer was appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Board.

Details can be found at:

<http://www.futureelvaston.co.uk/development-board/>

In order to help secure the future of the Castle and Estate, the Board will work with the County Council to develop a proposed managing body, possibly a charitable trust, to deliver the 10-year vision and plan which was adopted following extensive community engagement.

I continue to hold the view that the Council ought ultimately to “grasp the nettle”, find the money and restore the Castle itself! However, the current national and local economic situation virtually rules out such action!

Appreciation

Finally, but by no means least, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the Clerks and Members of Breaston, Draycott and Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Councils for their continued help and support in my work as a County Councillor.

6. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PARKINSON

As you know Erewash Borough Council had frozen Council Tax for 6 years however this year they have had to make an increase of 3% which makes an increase of £5 on a band D property.

Car parking in town centres will remain with one hour free however in order to continue this service other areas of the Borough will now have to be charged for parking.

Improvements have been made to the dry side facilities in all of the Borough Sport Centres.

The new Corporate Plan is in the process of being produced where the Council's priorities will be set for the next 3 – 4 years.

Devolution between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire continues to be investigated and shared services including Building Control and Revenues and Benefits are to be shared with Broxtowe Borough Council.

7. REPORTS OF THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS GIVEN BY MRS O'LEARY

Mrs O'Leary presented the audited accounts for the Matilda and George Abbott Charity, and the Charlton and Jerram Charity, the trustees of both are Mr K Smedley, Mrs C Penny and Mrs R Wallace. The accounts are detailed on separate pages.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO PARISHIONERS

a) Breaston Flower Circle – Kay Lees (report read by the Clerk)

We are Breaston Flower Circle and we meet in the Methodist Centre on Blind Lane on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. We are a successful and thriving group with a full membership. We meet every month and have either a practice evening or a demonstration. Twice a year we hold an "Open Meeting", usually at the Duchess Theatre, where we have a National Demonstrator and this enables us to invite the general public, as we are limited to numbers in the Methodist Centre. We take part in flower festivals in the village. We also have a visit to a local garden once a year and visits to Flower arranging events around the country.

b) Breaston Community Forum – given by Mrs Jean Lupton

Objects: -

1. The main purpose and object of the association is to be an open forum which engages with and listens to the hopes, dreams, aspirations and concerns of the Breaston Village Community.
2. To actively help build and promote lively community activity and a sense of togetherness in the village of Breaston.
3. To encourage and support people who share the same ideas to get together in order to develop their projects.
4. To help and encourage individuals and groups with advice about project planning and funding.

Officers: -

- Chairman – Revd Chris Smedley
- Vice Chairman – Tony Prior

- Secretary – Corrine Poland
- Treasurer – Jean Lupton
- Committee Members – Emma Thomas – Heather Wrigglesworth – Mike Ronan

We have so far achieved the following:

- Co-ordination of the Big Lunch Party for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012
- Set up a community website (Breaston.info)
- Set up a Breaston Community Forum Facebook page
- Produce the bi-annual village newsletter
- Have a stall at the May Day Gala annually to showcase the work of the BCF
- Monthly litter pick around the village
- Fund raising (Book sales)
- Advertised and encouraged stars to be displayed on three Christmas trees on the Memorial Garden with messages for loved ones.
- Planted bulbs on grass verges thanks to the generosity of the Farm Shop
- Liaised with the County Council and Parish Council over various issues raised by the public
- Worked with the Parish Council to provide more Christmas tree lights
- Arrange annual Pumpkin Parties on Duffield Close
- Helped maintain the Sensory garden on Duffield Close
- Yarn Bombing on Duffield Close
- Successfully applied for funding for a 'community animators training day', which is about training people to listen to the community and engage and excite people about what can be achieved
- Joined together with the Draycott Village Fund to share ideas and support each other
- Planned events for 2016 are: - 'It's your neighbourhood' (Britain in Bloom)
- Queens 90th birthday picnic – Sunday 12th June on Duffield Close with the Silver Prize Band

c) Good Neighbour Scheme – given by Mr Jonathan Lupton

The Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme (BGNS) aims to help make life easier for people in Breaston who need help with day

to day problems. We have a team of volunteers who are willing to help others in their community in a number of ways, including:

- giving lifts to hospitals or doctors' surgeries
- collecting pensions and prescriptions
- one-off tidy up of a garden
- help with filling forms
- minor household repairs such as checking smoke alarms and replacing batteries if needed
- help with shopping

Volunteers can choose in which way or ways they would like to help so they don't feel over-burdened. The only service for which there is a charge is giving lifts, for which the driver is compensated directly by the client at 35 pence a mile as compensation for fuel and running costs.

The scheme opened for business in November 2009.

Initial funding was from a discretionary grant from Erewash Borough Council via Cllr Robert Parkinson; this enabled the scheme to purchase a mobile phone and obtain the necessary Public Liability Insurance. It also covered the cost of the CRB checks and badges courtesy of Erewash CVS.

The scheme has benefited from further funding from the Erewash Voluntary Action Small Grants Scheme (which in turn is funded by Derbyshire County Council Social Services, Erewash Borough Council, Erewash CVS and Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust) and the Breaston Women's Institute.

How it works

Anyone in the village can ring the mobile phone number (07821 657 684) to ask for a service (for example, transport to a doctor's appointment). The number of the phone is publicised on noticeboards throughout the parish and in the 6-monthly newsletter. The volunteer manning the phone then assigns a suitable volunteer.

Most requests are for transport to local appointments – we do go as far as the Royal Derby Hospital.

Note that all the volunteers are CRB/DBS checked.

d) Breaston May Day Gala – given by Mrs Jean Lupton

Breaston Gala is run by a sub-committee of the Parish Council, along with volunteers from the community. The chairman is Jean Lupton, and Jonathan Lupton is the secretary and site manager. The Parish Clerk does a terrific job as the treasurer. The Gala takes place on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, and is held on

Duffield Close. It started in 2002 to celebrate HM the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Within the relatively confined space of Duffield Close we manage to fit in a wide variety of stalls, and arena in which bands, dancers and other attractions can perform, food stalls, children's entertainments and a dog show. The money raised by the gala is used to fund other events run by the parish council, such as the summer band concert and the carols concert.

e) Village News Magazine – given by Mrs Jean Lupton

Originally the church magazine for St. Michael's, this monthly magazine expanded a few years ago to take the Draycott & Wilne churches (who share their vicar with Breaston). More recently, the focus has expanded to encompass a wide range of village life in both Breaston and Draycott. The magazine is available on subscription, or for purchase from a variety of shops in the villages.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm