

Minutes of the Meeting of
BROUGHTON AND BRETTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
held on
20 JUNE 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Keith Rogers (Chair)

Councillors: Penny Brett Roberts, Derek Butler, Chrissy Gee, Phil Griffiths, Ros Griffiths, Donna Lalek, Beth McFadden, Mike Lowe, Ryan McKeown and Billy Mullin

Officers: Mrs S G Jones, Clerk & Financial Officer
Fran Griffiths, Administrator

46/017 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

At the meeting held on 20th June Councillor Keith Rogers had appointed as Chair but was absent from the meeting. Councillor Derek Butler invited Keith to accept the role of Chair and asked him to complete his Declaration of Acceptance of Office form which he duly did.

47/017 ARRIVA BUS

Mr Keith Anglesea was welcomed to the meeting and outlined the situation relating to the recent withdrawal of bus services. He said that there had previously been 4 bus routes providing transport to Chester via Broughton namely the numbers 4, X4, 55 and a free service. Over the past few years, the 55 route had become less used and even with subsidies had become unsustainable. Passenger numbers had continued to decrease on the free bus service but instead accessed the 4 and X4 which had seen an increase in passenger numbers. As a result there had been a reduction in the passenger numbers on the number 3 bus and after careful monitoring for a period of 18 months, a decision had been made to reduce the service from half hourly to hourly.

In response to a question about demand for bus services from Councillor Ryan McKeown, Mr Anglesea said that the No 3 service was more commercially viable now that it had moved to an hourly service. In September, he would look at the viability of the 4 and X4 bus passing through Broughton village.

Councillor Derek Butler commented that the top end of Broughton had not been catered for as residents found it difficult to return home from Chester and the X4 only passed around the village.

Councillor Ros Griffiths said that the buses that travelled through Broughton were full after pick-ups from the new estate and Councillor Donna Lalek said that buses frequently did not arrive on time which resulted in residents arriving late to work or at appointments. She also commented that the bus timetables were out of date and not updated often enough to which Mr Anglesea apologised for the errors but said that the timetables were the responsibility of the County Council. Councillor Lalek responded that the information on the Arriva website was also out of date.

Mr Anglesea mentioned that in the past the local authority had been able to use S106 monies for public transport but that this had now been diverted to education sector together with a reduction in subsidies from Flintshire County Council.

Councillor Derek Butler appreciated that Arriva was a commercial business but that he, along with other members and members of the public had been disappointed at the lack of consultation on the withdrawal of the service. Mr Anglesea apologised that communications had been limited which was partly due to his absence from work following a family bereavement. He assured members that he would seek to improve consultation in the future.

Councillor Billy Mullin expressed his disappointment with the bus services.

Mr Anglesea asked Members for assistance with cars parked in roads blocking the route which was endorsed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Anglesea for attending the meeting and responding to member concerns.

48/017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Klaus Armstrong-Braun and Sue Stevens.

49/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were none.

50/017 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th May 2017 be approved as a correct record.

51/017 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

52/017 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES:

IT WAS RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meetings of the following Committees held on 16th May 2017 be received:

Planning & General Purposes Committee
Lighting & Amenities Committee
Finance & Staffing Committee

53/017 VACANCY IN NORTH EAST WARD

The Clerk advised that she had received five applications for consideration onto the vacant seat and had previously circulated the letters received from applicants outlining why they wished to be considered and what they would bring to the local community. The Clerk had prepared a ballot paper which was circulated. Members duly completed the ballot papers and returned them to the Clerk for counting.

IT WAS RESOLVED: that Lindsay Jones be co-opted to the Community Council.

54/017 INTERNAL AUDIT

A copy of the internal audit report for the year ending 31st March 2017 had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

The Clerk went on to outline the two recommendations and the follow up actions that would be required.

IT WAS RESOLVED:

- (i) to receive the 2016/17 Internal Audit report and note the follow up actions; and
- (ii) to appoint JDH Business Services to conduct the Internal Audit for 2017/18.

55/017 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

The Annual Return had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting for approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED: to approve the Annual Return for submission to the External Auditor following which the Chair duly signed the Return.

56/017 CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked the Clerk and Administrative Assistant for the speedy action that they had initiated in the removal of the recent encampment of itinerants at the Country Park.

He said that he attended a service in the chapel in Bretton and the twinning reception for the visitors from France that he had thoroughly enjoyed. Regrettably he had been unable to attend the leaving service in St. Mary's Church and apologised.

He was pleased to report that McDonalds had sponsored a waste bin in Broughton Park, that would need to be added to the refuse collection cycle and that the attendance at the recent Broughton Carnival had been positive with a very successful parade and carnival.

Councillor Billy Mullin commented that the Carnival had been a great success.