

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE  
HELD AT BRIERFIELD TOWN HALL  
ON 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2016**

*PRESENT*

*His Worship the Mayor Councillor N. Ahmed*

*Councillor N. Ashraf – Chairman (In the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*M. Arshad  
M. Hanif*

**Co-optees**

*A. Westwell*

**Officers in attendance**

*David Walker  
Lynne Rowland*

*Environmental Services Manager (Area Co-ordinator)  
Committee Administrator*

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Allen and Y Iqbal, P.V. Bates (Reedley Hallows Parish Council) and Inspector P. Goodall.)*



**139. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

**140. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr J. Hamilton of Clegg Street, Brierfield was concerned that emergency vehicles could not access Clegg Street, due to problems with parked cars. He asked that consideration be given to installing a bollard or creating a wider opening to the cul-de-sac.

The Committee agreed that a bollard may provide a solution to the problem and agreed to look into this further.

**141. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of this Committee, at a meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**142. PROGRESS REPORT**

A progress report following action arising from the minutes of the last meeting was submitted for information.

It was reported that the concerns over log cutting work being carried out at 308 Kings Causeway, Brierfield had been investigated, with no evidence of business/commercial use being found at this present time. The case had therefore been closed unless and until any further information came forward which supported the case and provided evidence of business use.

It had been agreed with the owner of the property that the log cutting would be restricted where possible to avoid potential impact on the neighbours.

**143. POLICE MATTERS**

In response to a request from this Committee, the Chairman reported on a meeting that had taken place with Inspector Goodall at which the Chairman received information on cuts/changes to police services in the area. He explained that, although the number of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the area would remain at two, the number of Community Beat Managers would be reduced from two to one. He also advised that the Regeneration Team, which in recent years had consisted of approximately 7 or 8 officers, would no longer be in place.

In addition to this, the Inspector would be sharing his time between Pendle and Ribble Valley.

The Committee was particularly concerned about the loss of the Regeneration Team, which had been successful in targeting crimes such as drugs etc. in areas of Brierfield and Nelson.

**RESOLVED**

That this Committee notes the loss of the Regeneration Team and requests that the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary be asked to reconsider this decision.

**REASON**

*In order to keep up the momentum in targeting crimes such as drug related issues in Brierfield.*

**144. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Planning appeals**

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager reported that, as at today's date, there were no new appeals and no appeals outstanding.

**145. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES**

**Enforcement Action**

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report on outstanding enforcement cases in the Brierfield and Reedley area. It was explained that the two different dates for compliance at 298 Kings Causeway, Brierfield related to two separate issues. The first was for the removal of the soil and the second for the re-seeding of the land.

**146. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND 2016/17**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which advised Members on the Committee's 2015/16 and 2016/17 capital budgets.

The following bids were also submitted for consideration –

- Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Community Celebration - £500
- Brierfield Town Centre Premises Improvement Grants - £6,000

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the underspend as detailed in the report be de-allocated.
- (2) That the overspend of £987 for resurfacing of Back Taylor Street, Brierfield be met from the highway allocation agreed at the last meeting.
- (3) That £500 be allocated for a community event in June 2016 in celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- (4) That, bearing in mind the allocation currently remaining for Brierfield town centre premises improvement grants, consideration of the new bid be deferred to the next meeting of this Committee.

**REASON**

***To ensure the most effective allocation of the Committee's capital resources.***

**147. LAND AT RICHARD STREET, BRIERFIELD – LAND IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP**

The Democratic and Legal Manager submitted a report which provided an update on the situation with the land in private ownership at Richard Street, Brierfield. As agreed at the last meeting, Liberata Property Services had been asked to provide their opinion of the open market value of the land. It was reported that, in their view, the potential values for the land were in the region of £285,000 to £385,000 (not accounting for fees, contamination remediation, ground conditions or onerous covenants).

In response to a request from this Committee, the solicitors acting for the owner of the land, the Duchy of Lancaster had stated that the Duchy would not consider granting a lease of the land.

**RESOLVED**

That the Executive be asked to recommend that the Council purchase the land at Richard Street, Brierfield.

**REASON**

***To address the issues arising from the present condition of the land.***

**148. ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report on environmental blight sites in Brierfield and Reedley.

**149. MISCELLANEOUS PIECES OF LAND**

Further to this item being deferred at the last meeting, the Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a list of miscellaneous pieces of land in Brierfield and Reedley that had previously been considered by the Transfer of Services and Facilities to Town and Parish Councils Committee, for possible transfer to the town and parish councils. Members were asked to make any comments on any of the sites prior to the town and parish councils being asked whether they would wish for any to be transferred to them.

**RESOLVED**

That the Neighbourhood Services Manager be advised that this Committee requests this Council to retain the miscellaneous pieces of land in Brierfield and Reedley as detailed in the report and that they not be made available for transfer to the town and parish councils.

**REASON**

*In order for the Council to retain these miscellaneous pieces of land.*

**150. EMPTY HOMES UPDATE**

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report on the management of vacant houses within Brierfield and Reedley. Members felt that further details were required and referred to specific concerns with properties on Cambridge Street and Sackville Street, Brierfield.

**RESOLVED**

That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be requested to submit further details on the current position with each vacant property in the Railway Street area of Brierfield to a future meeting of this Committee.

**REASON**

*To monitor progress on each individual property.*

**151. BRIERFIELD HEALTH CENTRE**

Members were reminded of the meeting that had taken place earlier this month to discuss concerns regarding the East Lancashire Medical Services (ELMS) Federated Practice based at Brierfield Health Centre. It was reported that the date of the requested meeting of senior officers of ELMS; East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and members of Brierfield and Reedley Committee was still to be confirmed.

**RESOLVED**

That the Head of Commissioning for Community Services and Primary Care at the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group be reminded of the urgent need for a meeting regarding the ELMS Federated Practice at Brierfield Health Centre.

**REASON**

*To address the concerns of the patients of this Practice.*

152.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**27 Railway Street, Brierfield**

It was reported that the property at 27 Railway Street, Brierfield was in a poor state of repair. It was understood that this was causing problems with damp in the neighbouring property.

The property had previously been included on a list of problem sites in the Brierfield and Reedley area but, following an inspection of the site, was removed from the list in July, 2015.

The Committee was asked to consider returning the property to the list of problem sites.

**RESOLVED**

That the Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of this Committee on the condition of 27 Railway Street, Brierfield.

**REASON**

*To consider whether the property should be added to the list of problem sites in Brierfield and Reedley.*

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_