

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
BRIERFIELD AND REEDLEY COMMITTEE
HELD AT BRIERFIELD TOWN HALL
ON 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2017**

PRESENT

Councillor P. McCormick – Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
M. Arshad
M. R. Arshad
N. Ashraf
Y. Iqbal*

Co-optees

Constabulary Representative

Inspector Andy Winter

Officers in attendance

*David Walker
Lynne Rowland*

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

(Apologies for absence were received from M. Hanif (Brierfield Town Council) and P. V. Bates (Reedley Hallows Parish Council).)



58. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

59. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

60. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at a meeting held on 8th August, 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

61. PROGRESS REPORT

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

62. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES AND POLICE MATTERS

Inspector Andy Winter provided an update on ongoing police activity in the Brierfield and Reedley area. He also reported on current staffing levels, and explained that for a length of time there had been only one sergeant instead of two, and a shortage of three constables. They had been unable

to fill the posts until recently due to the extra resources needed in relation to recent terrorist activity in Manchester and fracking demonstrations in Fylde. However, all positions had now been filled and the appointed officers were expected to be in post by the end of the month.

A list of current officers, with contact details, would be sent to members of the Committee for information.

Inspector Winter also answered a number of questions in relation to issues raised around anti-social behaviour, Class A drugs, speeding vehicles and late night fireworks.

63. 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.

64. ENFORCEMENT/UNAUTHORISED USES

Enforcement Action

The Head of Legal Services reported that there were no outstanding enforcement cases in the Brierfield and Reedley area.

65. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that £16,054 of the Committee's capital budget remained unallocated. Only £4,952 of this could be allocated before the meeting on 7th November, without the unanimous approval of the Committee.

A request was made for a grit bin to be located at the junction of Limefield Avenue and Chapel Street, Brierfield. The cost, including first fill, would be £160. If agreed, this would be funded from the balance of money already allocated for the provision and maintenance of red grit bins, which currently stood at £978.

RESOLVED

That this Committee approves funding of £160 for the provision of a grit bin at the junction of Limefield Avenue and Chapel Street, Brierfield.

REASON

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

66. PROBLEM SITES

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report on problem sites in Brierfield and Reedley. A verbal update was given on the following –

27 Railway Street, Brierfield - Members were advised that, further to a report of squatters at the property, a further site visit had taken place. It was reported that there had been no evidence of squatters or that access had been obtained into the property.

Marsden Cross, 30 Higher Reedley Road, Brierfield – it was reported that the owner’s solicitor had lodged an appeal in regard to the Section 215 Notice. This was due to be heard by the Court on 29th September, 2017. No work had been carried out in respect of the Notice, however unauthorised work had commenced on an access road to the side of the building. A meeting was to be held with the owner and his planning agent later in the week to discuss the matter.

A request was also made for an update on what action was to be taken with the old Railway Tavern building in Brierfield, as it was becoming an eyesore.

67. PARKS, RECREATION AND GREEN SPACES UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted a report which informed Members of current parks, recreation and green spaces work and upcoming plans/developments for Brierfield and Reedley.

68. VACANT HOUSES

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager submitted a report which informed the Committee on the position regarding the management of vacant houses in Brierfield and Reedley.

Reference was made to a site visit that had taken place earlier this year to view the empty properties on Cambridge Street, Brierfield. An update on a proposed course of action was awaited.

RESOLVED

That the Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager be requested to submit an update on the proposed course of action to remedy the problems associated with the empty properties at 6-12 Cambridge Street, Brierfield.

REASON

In the interests of public safety.

69. BRIERFIELD TOWN CENTRE PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Housing, Health and Economic Development Services Manager reported that there were no Brierfield Town Centre Premises Improvement Grant applications for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN _____