

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 19 December 2012, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair).
Cllrs. R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. JC Chester, P Gordon, Mrs. P Roke, R Shrive, and Mrs. C. Taylor.
Two members of the public

12/6788 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):
Cllr. PA Cope
Cllr. LA Manning (prior commitment)
Cllr. D Perkins (family commitment)

12/6789 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

12/6790 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 November 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair after it was agreed that minute 12/6772 should be amended by deleting the words 'Cllr. Baxter' from the eighth paragraph, and replacing with 'it was'.

The draft minutes of the Special Parish Council meeting held on 28 November 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

12/6791 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of the facility was made at this meeting.

12/6792 **MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from 12/6779, councillors heard that the Borough Council had now confirmed that the replacement litter bin for the junction of Northampton and Wellingborough Roads was to be installed soon after the Christmas break. A delivery of bins was being awaited.

Arising from 12/6773, members noted that the Borough Council had now commented upon the Parish Council's request for assistance with the preparation and pursuit of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. This effectively questioned the basis of the request on grounds of purpose and cost; given the points raised, members agreed the same should be circulated in order that a properly considered response could be formulated.

Arising from 12/6758, and in response to additional input from the Borough Council, councillors gave consideration to the format that any housing needs survey to be undertaken in the village should have. It was agreed that the actual questions to be asked of recipient householders should be revised in liaison with the Parish Council in case those draft questions previously seen had become stale; and that council members would be prepared to deliver the questionnaire, when produced.

Arising from 12/6772, the meeting noted that notes informing a proposed response to the prospective Broughton Conservation Area had been prepared by Cllr. Mrs. Bull. Given the imminent closure of the consultation period, it was agreed these notes be circulated and form the basis of the Parish Council's response assuming no issues arose.

Arising from 12/6778, members heard that a quantity of spring bulbs had been received for planting in the pocket park and these would be forwarded to the new co-ordinator when he was able to take up the reins. Councillors also heard that bulb planting generally had occurred in the village with many parts benefiting.

The discussion above then led to the issue of the village gateway planters being raised. Upon it being confirmed that the Kettering Road planters could no longer be maintained by the village Womens Institute group, Cllr. Mrs. Taylor offered to take over the task for the coming season. Cllr. Shrive offered to undertake any minor repairs needed to facilitate this.

Arising also from 12/6778, the Chair mentioned that a suggestion had been made that it might be possible to install a tool store for the pocket park in the paddock adjacent to the park. A number of different possibilities for accommodating this were under discussion with the leaseholder of the paddock concerned and Cllr. Shrive agreed to lead on pursuing this.

12/6793

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported and action, as detailed, was agreed to be taken, with other general items being placed on circulation:-

- a) A letter received from Northamptonshire Police, advising of the details for the Community Speedwatch initiative for the forthcoming year. Councillors noted that 10 volunteers would be needed, including a co-ordinator, and that the cost of participation would be £450 plus VAT. The closing date for joining the programme was to be 28 January 2013. Members agreed there was interest in participating but there may be difficulty in identifying a sufficient number of volunteers by the closing date; consequently it was resolved to ask whether this could be extended at all whist soundings were taken, including by means of a Broughton News article.
- b) A letter received from the Borough Council, advising of that authority's annual budget consultation meeting, to be held on 24 January 2013, commencing at 7:00pm at Municipal Offices. The Chair and Cllr. Shrive agreed to represent the Parish Council at this.
- c) A letter received from a resident of Donaldson Avenue, again seeking support for the turning-off of a particular street lamp outside his property so as to minimise the use of the location (in the vicinity of an area of amenity land) as a meeting place for young people and so reduce problems with litter and nuisance etc. Members noted the concerns raised and empathised with the difficulties

apparently being experienced but agreed that, on balance, the light did provide a wider public benefit that merited retention in an otherwise dark area that was well used by local people. In view of comments also made about light pollution, it was agreed to enquire whether a diffuser or reflector could be installed to limit the overspill of light into the residential curtilage.

- d) A communication received from Victim Support Northamptonshire, seeking support for the activities of that charity.
- e) A letter received from the Post Office confirming the outcome of the service relocation consultation. Members noted that the service will relocate to the Co-operative Store on High Street as previously proposed from a date to be confirmed, for the extended hours that the council had been notified of.

12/6794

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported her attendance at the meeting of the Village Hall Committee held on 11 December. Business considered had included a request for additional volunteers to assist with organising and running the 2013 Village Show, an update on the designation of the village hall playing field as a Queen Elizabeth II Field, confirmation that broadband was now available in the hall, a new cleaner had been engaged, the provision of rubbish bins has been placed in abeyance for the time being, a priority project for the new year was to upgrade toilet facilities, and also that the Meachem Room was to be updated to widen its potential for business meetings etc. members also noted that the formation of a cricket team was being looked into locally. The next meeting was due to be held on 8 January 2013 and the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2012 were placed on circulation.

The Chair then reported upon her attendance at an exhibition on 30 November, held to publicise and provide information concerning improvement works to be undertaken on the A14 Kettering Bypass, between junctions 7 and 9. Councillors heard that rights of way and watercourses would both be affected by these works but no additional land take was necessitated; additionally, two lanes each direction would be kept in use during daytime hours.

A report was then provided by the Chair arising from her attendance of a meeting with County Council representative, Mr. Richard Hall, on 22 November 2012. Members noted that Mr. Hall is a Development Officer and the meeting was concerned with various highway issues affecting the village.

In connection with the Redrow Homes proposal at Cransley Hill, the County position was that the entrance in Cransley Hill was inadequate due to approaching vehicle speeds from Cransley direction. Additionally, there would need to be extra footpath provision on Coxs Lane where none exist.

The submitted traffic survey was being reviewed, and the County was concerned that there should be in place a construction traffic plan (requiring Cransley Hill to be avoided), together with on-site parking for contractors' vehicles.

In connection with the proposed redevelopment of the Bellamy's Store site, the County did not believe the pedestrian crossing was adversely affected but did confirm that permission did not exist for pavement cross-overs to serve the suggested parking area.

In respect of the Kettering Road junction with the A43, the County view was that this was now at capacity and further development would impact on this.

Turning to the issues arising from the former Sun Inn site, the County was of the view the pavement on Kettering Road needed to be extended to take in the lay-by area and bollards may be needed to protect visibility for those emerging from Coxs Lane.

The Chair then reported her attendance of the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 29 November, accompanied by Cllrs. Shrive, Baxter, and Mrs. Bull. That meeting had heard that reports of anti-social behaviour appeared to be reducing due to the increased police focus on the issue and the dedicated resources being applied.

Broughton had experienced a spate of break-ins affecting outbuildings; this was thought to be largely due to individuals from outside the village although intelligence indicated one or two locals may be involved.

Details were provided to the Forum of the winter gritting programme; attendees noting that no reduction of routes had occurred and gritting activities would be informed by weather forecasts. However, a review of self-service grit-bins was in hand unused facilities or those on gritting routes would be withdrawn. The Forum asked that parish councils be consulted before village bins were removed.

The Forum had received a presentation on youth development work and current funding opportunities.

An update was provided on the Town and Parish Funding review; the Forum being advised that a call-in had been sought and the documentation related to this was to be circulated.

Attendees had then heard that, in connection with the major East Kettering development site, delays with bringing this forward had meant that only a small number of the new dwellings consented would count toward the committed five year housing land supply for the district. The main factor in this was apparently the A14 access arrangements; a dedicated junction previously proposed now being suggested for replacement by improvements so as to increase the capacity of existing junction 10. This issue is to be considered by a future Planning Committee meeting.

The Forum received a plea for town centre shops to be used over Christmas, and a request for a specific planning policy to be formulated to address the cumulative impacts of renewable energy developments. Finally, the Forum had been informed that the final consultation on Site Specific Options for development would be undertaken in March 2013.

In respect of the call-in of the Town and Parish Funding decision, the Chair reported upon her attendance, with others, at the meeting of the Borough Research and Development Committee held on 5 December. Members noted this had proved to be a controversial meeting with various Borough councillors declaring interests that, after legal advice was considered, had resulted in their withdrawal such that the effective composition of the committee was dramatically reduced. The net outcome had been that the decision under scrutiny (to withdraw revenue support grants for local councils in Kettering Borough) was to stand notwithstanding the strong opposition from affected stakeholders.

12/6795 **POLICE REPORT.** No report was made to this meeting.

12/6796 **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**
Planning Applications submitted for the Parish Council’s observations:-
 In respect of the following applications, it was **RESOLVED** that no observations need be made:

Spinney Lodge	Rooflight and window changes	Mr Brigstock
West Hill (Kettering)	Renotification – amended plans	BQ Farms Ltd

12/6797 **FINANCE.**
 The following items of income and expenditure were noted/agreed:-

Income			£
None was reported to this meeting.			
Expenditure			£
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(Direct debit)	4.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101530)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101531)	141.20
GA Duthie	Telephone and Electric exps	(101532)	7.59

In respect of estimated income and expenditure for financial year 2013/14, the ongoing uncertainty over the level of grant support to be made available from the Borough Council again indicated against consideration at this meeting. It was accordingly agreed to defer this element of this item.

12/6798 **BROUGHTON NEWS.** Members noted that, as at the meeting date, one quotation had been submitted, from Admiral Design and Print, in the sum of £590, no VAT. This was agreed to be acceptable if no better alternative was received.

12/6799 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.** Cllr. Baxter confirmed that a sweet chestnut had now been planted in the High Street recreation ground as a replacement for the failed sapling.

Cllr. Shrive mentioned that the Down Your Way column for Broughton in the Evening Telegraph could benefit from additional material being provided.

Cllr. Shrive suggested there may be benefit in adding information concerning the dates/route of the Tin Can Band tradition to the Broughton Village website.

12/6800 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 16 January 2013, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

12/6801 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 8:35pm

16 January 2013

Signed.....