

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 18 December 2013, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. JC Chester, Mrs. C Taylor, Rev. B Withington, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
Mr. C Gresham on behalf of Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association.
PC K McGregor of Northamptonshire Police and 2 members of the public.

13/6959 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):

Cllr. Mrs. PA Cope (unwell)
Cllr. Mrs. P Roke (unwell)
Cllr. R Shrive (working abroad)
County Cllr. Groome
Borough Cllr. Hakewill

13/6960 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

13/6961 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 December 2013, copies of each having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair after the location of a footpath referred to in 13/6951 was clarified.

13/6962 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** Not exercised.

13/6963 **POLICE REPORT.** Members received a verbal report from PC McGregor on complaints of crime affecting the parish for the preceding month, which comprised a sexual offence and one of violence. A cumulative update on reports for the year to date was also provided. Councillors heard that a focus of policing in the village currently was on issues of anti-social behaviour/nuisance affecting the St. Andrews Court vicinity. Members were asked to ensure residents passed on to officers all information concerning offences or those thought to be responsible.

In response to a question from Cllr. Mrs. Bull, it was indicated that, despite the appearance suggested by the reported figures recently, there probably was not any undue increase in violence related incidents occurring. The impression was most likely a function of the different reporting processes now being employed.

13/6964 **VILLAGE HALL PRECEPT ASSISTANCE REQUEST.** Those in attendance received a presentation from Mr. Clive Gresham, Chair of the management committee of the Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association.

Assisted by various slides, Mr. Gresham supported the Association's application for financial assistance by first describing the background and history of the Association being established, the extent of the assets managed by it, and the related interests of the Association, the Parish Council (as custodian trustee), and the Borough Council as the freeholder and owner of the larger playing fields complex.

Improvements successfully carried out over the last two years or so were outlined and members noted these had resulted in an increased level of usage of the facilities under control of the Association. A series of potential future improvements were under consideration, both to indoor facilities and to those offered outside. In addition to the enhanced revenue generated by the increasing usage being experienced, potential funding opportunities had been identified and would be explored.

In terms of the current financial position, a balance of approximately £29,000 was held although there were a number of capital commitments to meet from this. The estimated cost of the proposed future projects was thought to be in the order of £250,000 and it had been decided, so far as was possible, to maintain hire and usage charges at current rates in line with recent policy to ensure the present healthy booking take-up continued.

A feasibility study had been undertaken to facilitate future grant applications and this indicated a revenue to capital payment ratio of approximately 10% needed to be maintained in order to maximise prospects of securing potential grant funding. Accordingly, it could be seen that any assistance available from the Parish Council through the mechanism of the annual precept would be a very important ingredient in perpetuating momentum toward improving facilities (rather than simply maintaining).

Consequently, the Association was requesting assistance in the sum of £2,000 for 2014/15 and if this was secured, the grant would facilitate the Association being able to proceed with the refurbishment of the old committee room to enable this to be brought into a more beneficial use, so protecting income generation.

Mr. Gresham then advised that there were particular requirements associated with the regular use of facilities by the Under 5s Group, due to the regulatory framework related to such activities and the needs for security and separation. Works to underwrite these requirements had committed £20,000 of expenditure. An indicative design was displayed to show councillors the nature and scope of the revisions proposed.

After a series of questions were answered, with assistance from PC McGregor for some issues concerning the potential for designing so as to deter vandalism etc, it was agreed that the question of whether the requested assistance was possible to provide would have to be deferred until the Council's budget was settled in January. There were likely significant contingencies that might have priority.

13/6965

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 13/6948, it was reported that a decision had now been issued by the Administrative Court in connection with the judicial review sought by the Parish Council of the planning permission granted under reference KET/2012/0709, for residential development at Cransley Hill. Members noted that Mr. CMG Ockelton, sitting as a deputy Judge of the High Court had refused permission for the judicial review on 16 December 2013; being of the view that, notwithstanding the principles of the *Burkett* case advised to be relied upon by Counsel, the thrust of the challenge was narrowly the decision to extend time for completing the Section 106 Agreement and not the grant of planning permission

predicated upon that Agreement. Accordingly, he considered the claim was out of time given it had been brought more than three months following the April committee decision to extend time.

Further, the Judge had declared that, in his view, the minuting of reasons for the extension decision being taken as an urgent item was sufficient to make this sound notwithstanding any indication given subsequently by the committee chair that she did not actually know those reasons.

The Judge had considered whether the claim should benefit from the protections of the Aarhus Convention (as relating to an environmental matter) and had found it did not in the context of what was said about its perceived focus on the time limit issue as opposed to the wider planning permission.

Finally, an order had been made for the planning authority's costs of preparing an Acknowledgment of Service defending the claim to be paid by the Parish Council unless successfully objected to in accordance with directions contained in the Order. These costs had been claimed in the sum of £6,510.

After due consideration of the detail of the Judge's reasoning in the context of the facts, the potential for this finding on the paper application to be challenged at an oral renewal hearing, and given the increasing exposure to a costs risk that would extend also to any costs incurred by interested parties including the developer and any third-party land owner should such a challenge fail, it was agreed to seek the further advice of Counsel as a matter of urgency. If Counsel advised there was any merit in a challenge to the permission decision, then a special meeting would have to be held to consider this; but if realistic further action was limited to objecting to the costs claim in line with the directions of the deputy Judge, then this could proceed in consultation with members.

Arising from 13/6900, in connection with the proposed Conservation Area, members noted that an update had been secured from the Borough Council by Cllr. Shrive, which indicated the public consultation would commence from 2 December 2013 and run to 31 January 2014. Paper copies of the Appraisal document that had been prepared in support had been provided and circulated to members. It was agreed to consider the consultation material at a working party meeting to be held on 27 December.

Arising from 13/6956, councillors noted that Arboriculture Officer at the Borough Council had confirmed the avenue of Lime trees at the cemetery were due to receive pruning work over the next year that comprised dead-wooding and crown-lifting. It was hoped these works would remedy the problems occurring and being complained of. Further, it had been indicated that other tree works were planned for St Andrews Close, the High Street bungalows, and the two recreation areas at High Street and the village hall in the forthcoming year. Dead Elms would also be removed from the pocket park area.

Arising from 13/6950, and relating to the Local Development Framework Housing Allocations – Assessment of Additional Sites and Update Document, members had

been circulated on 15 December with a draft response that was thought to capture all the views made known to that point. This was agreed to be submitted in this form although it was noted that the Borough Council had indicated a closing date for the consultation of 9 December.

In respect of the various outstanding proposals previously discussed with the County Council for significant revisions to the layout and configuration of strategic road features in the village necessitated by current traffic congestion and future development pressures, Cllr. Shrive had now secured and circulated a series of feasibility drawings and costings for the proposed scheme elements as below, these having been separately circulated to councillors:

Wellingborough Road mini roundabout - £80,000
Northampton Road priority workings and VAS relocation - £35,000
Cransley Hill kerbing - £6,500
High Street layby revision - £6,500
Cox's Lane junction works - £7,500
High Street VAS relocation – 3,000

Members noted the County Council had indicated all elements would be subject to detailed designs having to be devised to include for necessary utilities relocation and road safety audits. It was agreed to also consider these proposals at the working party meeting to be held on 27 December.

Arising again from 13/6956, it was confirmed by Cllr. Baxter that the input of the County Council had also been received on how best to progress the issue of the notice board and plinth improvement at the Red Lion village sign site. This, however, should be deferred to the next meeting for better consideration.

Arising in connection with the issue of the fledgling Parish Council website, Cllr. Mrs. Taylor confirmed that the designer, Mr Sharman, had now indicated he was content to remain involved with the project and progress could, once again, be made. Some discussion occurred as to the potential for the rights to the former 'Broughton Village' website to be perhaps acquired given this presently was active and searchable but displaying material not actually associated with the village or relevant to the site URL or domain. However, it was agreed the current proprietor was most unlikely to release those rights presently and the most acute need was actually for a Council focused site rather than one more broadly dealing with 'village' matters. If a village or community site re-emerged, then the Parish Council site could certainly be linked from it but it was not considered appropriate for such to be hosted within a site controlled by others.

Arising from 13/6956, it had been proposed and there was unanimous approval for the making of the community award this year to Ms. Pippa Wiggins, the proprietor of The Red Lion public house, who members agreed had demonstrated much public spiritedness in her support for a variety of community events and initiatives through the year. A certificate had been produced, which it was resolved should be impressed with the Council seal to authenticate, and the customary financial award was also agreed to be paid.

13/6966

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. County Cllr. Groome had circulated his report by email, which touched upon meetings attended concerning various railway related matters, the impending budget round for the County Council (a 1.99% increase in Council Tax looking likely), initiatives to improve community access to school facilities and assist those struggling to deal with payday loan problems, and the likelihood of County suggestions being made shortly for improvements at the Pytchley crossroads junction.

13/6967

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 the civil engineers engaged on the current A14 Kettering Bypass scheme between junctions 7 and 9, providing information about the necessity to undertake night works under contra-flow conditions in the first half of January 2014. Members noted there was a likelihood of some noise being created such as from the use of reversing sounders on site traffic. A website link was provided for accessing updated information and more detail.
- b) A communication received from the County Council, providing a copy of the new Adult Learning Brochure for Spring 2014; this being placed on circulation.

13/6968

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES. Cllr. Mrs. Bull supplemented a report previously circulated by Cllr. Shrive arising from their attendance at the joint Forum meeting convened by Kettering Borough Council on 28 November, for the purpose of engaging with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr. Alan Simmonds. Councillors heard that this proved to be a very difficult meeting, with expressed plans for much greater reliance on increased numbers of special constables and cadets being negatively received by forum members; as was the strong emphasis on money saving.

The Chair then reported upon a meeting with highway representatives for the County Council, attended by herself and Cllrs. Shrive and Baxter; this being on 29 November 2013.

The meeting commenced outside The Red Lion public house where an immediate point arose concerning a missing post that was intended to prevent egress from the pub car park directly onto High Street. This needed to be reinstated as a safety risk arose.

In the same vicinity, the proposal for the new noticeboard was discussed and it was agreed there appeared to be no immediate difficulty with such provision assuming no buried utilities were prejudiced; a licence application form would be provided. Turning to the proposed waiting restrictions, some objections had been received following advertising but these were being dealt with and it was anticipated implementation would be likely in the New Year assuming resolution.

In respect of the works necessitated by any development at Cransley Hill and Glebe

Avenue, preliminary scheme drawings had been prepared and these were discussed; the detail as minuted at 13/6965 above.

The Chair then reported on the meeting of the Village Hall Committee, held on 10 December. This had decided the Meachem Room would be repainted during the Christmas holiday period; the scheme to possibly extend the hall building, provide a Multi-use Games Area and replace the skate ramp was also to be progressed, preceded by local consultation. The meeting had been advised that commemorative plaques were now in place marking the dedication of the recreation field as a Queen Elizabeth II Field. The next meeting was scheduled for 14 January 2014 and minutes of the 12 November meeting were placed on circulation.

Finally, the Chair reported the business from a meeting held between herself, Cllr. Baxter, Mr. C Gresham of the Playing Fields and Village Hall Association, with Mr David Lane of Kettering Borough Council. This meeting concerned the MUGA and skate ramp proposals detailed above and was held before the Village Hall Committee had met. Advice was given that the cost would be in the order of £60,000 or so depending on surface specification, with grant assistance available from various potential sources. If proceeded with, the project would likely take 15 to 18 months to deliver the completed facilities, which would then be maintained by the Borough Council as a public facility.

13/6969

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning Applications submitted for the Parish Council's observations:-

The following application had been notified and it was agreed that the significance and amount of information to be considered required the same to be looked at by the working party to be held on 27 December, with a draft response to be prepared thereafter. Members noted Mr. L Manning had kindly agreed to assist and advise if needs be:-

Land off Cransley Hill 65 houses (max) Reserved Matters Redrow Homes

In respect of this application, members heard that a partially sighted resident from Crane Close might appreciate some assistance in understanding the proposals and had particular concerns in respect of the proximity of some gardens to the A43 road, giving rise to a potential safety risk if boundaries were not secure. Councillors noted this and agreed to take on board for their considerations later.

Planning decisions notified:-

The following decision was reported, being an Approval subject to conditions:-
4 St Andrews Way Side and rear extensions Mr S Harris

The following decision was reported, being a Refusal with reasons:-
Millbank, Kettering Road Single new dwelling Mr P Hammond

13/6970

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

Income	£
None reported at this meeting.	

Expenditure			£
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	8.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101582)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101583)	141.20
GA Duthie	Telephone and Electric exps	(101584)	18.61
Ms P Wiggins	Community Award	(101585)	150.00

In respect of the precept for 2014/15 and the estimates for the same year, it was agreed these necessarily needed to be deferred until January in order for an indication on the costs position for the ongoing judicial review to be arrived at. Any decision as to support possible for the Village Hall would be contingent upon this.

13/6971 **BROUGHTON NEWS.** Given present uncertainties over calls upon finance, and the potential for making better use of web-based publication, the agreed deferment of a decision on future production of Broughton News until the January 2014 meeting was maintained.

13/6972 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.** Having considered the issues raised in the notification received from the Borough Council of its intention to undertake a review of the district (minute 13/6950), members discussed the various indicators of necessity suggested and agreed that, provided further and unanticipated significant housing development did not occur, there was no requirement for a review affecting Broughton parish; current arrangements being appropriate.

13/6973 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
 Leaf litter – High Street recreation ground paths and approaches.
 Defective street lamps – Bakehouse Lane and Gate Lane.
 Neighbour issue affecting a High Street business.
 Salt bin needed – top of Church Street.
 Accidents recently at northern end of village (A43 junction).
 Home for pocket park tools needed.

13/6974 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 15 January 2014, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

13/6975 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 9:07pm

15 January 2014

Signed.....