

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 27 June 2012, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair).
Cllrs. R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. PA Cope, P Gordon, DJ Perkins, Mrs. P Roke, and R Shrive.
Four members of the public.

Prior to the commencement of business, and to complete the formalities of his appointment by co-option, Cllr. Perkins made the necessary declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk, and was duly welcomed to his first meeting as a parish councillor.

12/6708 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):
Cllr. JC Chester (on holiday)
Cllr. LA Manning (on holiday)
Cllr. C Taylor (babysitting difficulties)

12/6709 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** No declarations were made.

12/6710 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 May 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

12/6711 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The meeting was addressed by Mr. Aaron Turiccki of Glebe Avenue, who raised a number of concerns relating to the maintenance of the cemetery and to other areas in the village. Mr. Turiccki described that the railings and gate enclosing the cemetery were in need of repainting and that grass mowing was not occurring as frequently as it should with the result that the cemetery was looking unkempt. Mr. Turiccki felt this was disrespectful and had compiled a petition containing 57 signatures who agreed. Members heard that the mowing concerns extended to the war memorial, the Chapel and also to other open areas in the village.

In respect of the mowing, councillors noted that the exceptionally wet weather conditions recently would have resulted in unusually vigorous grass growth that may have exceeded the capacity of the grounds maintenance schedule to keep under control. This was a matter administered by the Borough Council (save in respect of the Chapel) but the concerns raised would be passed on.

Similarly, the cemetery actually belonged to the Borough Council, not the Parish Council, and maintenance of that facility was also a matter for the Borough. That said, the Parish had recently been attempting to secure redecoration of the railings although the volunteer who had originally offered to undertake the work had withdrawn that offer due to work commitments.

It was agreed to re-open discussions with the Borough in an effort to secure improvements but members did stress the necessity for a 'proper' refurbishment of the railings to be done and not just a re-coat, which would soon look untidy again.

The Meeting then heard from Mr Michael Marriott of Wellingborough Road who raised with councillors an issue concerning alleged unauthorised vehicle trading that was reportedly occurring from a private address near to his home. Members heard that this was impacting upon neighbouring amenity and agreed to pass on the concerns for investigation by the relevant authorities.

12/6712

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 12/6698, councillors noted that the Parish Path Warden, Mr. Collins, had pursued various path obstruction/reinstatement issues affecting GD1, GD2, GD11 and GD15 with the County Council highways contractor, MGWSP; and had been forceful in asserting his view as to where responsibilities for requiring such work should lie.

Arising from 12/6698, and the matter of the lighting provision in Brookhaven, councillors noted that the County Council had now indicated to the effect that authority would not be able to install or maintain any additional columns in that location. Accordingly, members agreed to pursue the matter with the Borough Council in the hope of securing some improvement before the darker months.

Arising from 12/6705, Cllr. Shrive asked whether any more detail was available in respect of the complaint raised on behalf of the Under 5s Group and the article said to have been omitted from Broughton News. Cllr. Shrive described that a search of relevant emails and correspondence had been undertaken that had not turned up any such submission.

Members noted this and then discussed the possibility of the electronic version of the publication being amended to include an article if that was thought helpful. It was decided against this however, as it was quite possible for a stand-alone piece to be carried on the Broughton Village website or in other publications if this coverage was still desired.

12/6713

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) An email exchange between Cllr. Shrive and Mr. N Gore of the County Council, concerning the condition of a highway crossover serving an address in Northampton Road, where the deterioration of the surface was impeding access for a resident with impaired mobility. Members noted this was being addressed.
- b) A letter received from provider of affordable housing, the Longhurst Group, enclosing a copy of that company's Annual Report for 2011/12, which was placed on circulation.

- c) A communication received from Northamptonshire Association for the Blind, providing publicity for impending visits to the area of the Mobile Sight Centre.
- d) A letter received from HM Courts & Tribunals Service, enclosing publicity material concerning events programmed to assist in the recruitment of magistrates.
- e) A letter received from John Martin and Associates, as agent for Redrow Homes South Midlands Limited, seeking to engage with the Parish Council in respect of development proposals affecting approximately 3.5ha of land off Cransley Hill. Members noted that survey and site assessment work had been conducted in respect of this site recently and also that pre-application discussions had occurred with the Local Planning Authority; hence the developer was now seeking to meet with the Parish Council. However, given the recent consultation submission made to the LPA in connection with the proposed Site Specific Options Local Development Document, members agreed that it would be premature to meet with any intending developer at the current time, given the Parish Council's policy preference to resist significant expansion of the village. Accordingly, and in order to preserve the ability for the Parish Council to be able to meaningfully respond in respect of any formal consultation that arose from this proposal, it was **RESOLVED** to ask the agent to outline their proposals and the matters parish views were being sought on in writing at the present time but not to agree to any meeting.
- f) A letter received by Cllr. Baxter, from Mr. and Mrs. Moring of Kettering Road, who were raising concerns in respect of perceived problems with increased traffic congestion (especially inconsiderate parking) and litter experienced in the vicinity of the High Street since the opening of the new fish and chip shop. It was agreed to pass these concerns on to the Borough and County Councils.

12/6714

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

Cllr. Shrive reported upon attendance by himself and Mrs. Shrive on behalf of the Parish Council at the Borough Council's civic service, held on 17 June. Members noted this was well attended despite poor weather and that the new Mayor had received approximately 40 attendees for refreshments afterwards.

The Chair then reported upon her attendance at the Annual General and ordinary meetings of the Village Hall Committee, held on 12 June 2012. Business considered by the Committee at the AGM first included consideration of a presentation concerning the QEII Fields initiative that resulted in it being resolved to proceed with the designation, and the election of a new management committee. Members noted that Mr. Clive Gresham had been returned as Chairman, Mr. Jim Durdin as Treasurer, and Ms. Carole Frost as Secretary.

The ordinary meeting identified a need for material to be provided by user groups for

inclusion on the new website, considered a draft budget for the forthcoming year, heard that the future of Broughton For Youth may be in doubt, heard that interest continued in the formation of a cricket team, and that significant events continued to be arranged with a disco scheduled for 27 July and a vintage fair for 7 October. An estimate had been received in respect of additional directional signage from the County Council, in the sum of £400, of which £200 was being sought from the Association. Members noted that the management committee had requested the Parish Council to meet some of this cost but, after consideration, it was agreed this request should be declined as the sum was small and this seemed to be capable of being met from hall coffers. A grant request was being made to Biffa in connection with the replacement of the heating system, and a letter of support from the parish Council was being sought in order to assist with this; members agreed this should be provided when needed. Finally, a request was made for information concerning the whereabouts of the keys and likely content of a locked metal cupboard presently located in Norman's Folly. Cllr. Mrs. Bull indicated she might be able to assist with this. The next meeting was scheduled for 10 July 2012.

The Chair also reported upon the meetings held on 11 June 2012 to review the Diamond Jubilee events. Members heard that well deserved thanks had been extended to all those who had assisted or facilitated the celebrations that had clearly been much enjoyed by all who attended; perhaps as many as 700 people. Photos of the day had been provided for the Broughton Website and a DVD had been prepared by Cllr. Manning; in addition, publicity had appeared in local journals. The meeting had noted only two very minor accidents at the event; a child being bitten by a dog and a collision between participants in one of the races held. Both had been satisfactorily dealt with by St John's Ambulance volunteers in attendance. If the final accounts were concluded as anticipated, a surplus of £82.45 would result and it had been agreed to fund a trophy for the village show from this, with the remainder being distributed to the Village Hall Committee and Village Show Committee after paying a gratuity to one particular volunteer to acknowledge his exceptional efforts on the day.

12/6715

POLICE REPORT. No officers were in attendance at this meeting but it was noted, via Neighbourhood Watch channels, that two further shed breaks had occurred in the Northampton Road area over the last month or so.

12/6716

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

In respect of the following application, councillors **RESOLVED** that whilst not warranting a formal objection, concern did exist at the potential for an adverse impact on neighbouring amenity through overlooking/loss of privacy if views of adjacent properties' living space were possible from any new roof lights. Accordingly, appropriate conditions were to be requested in any consent granted:

6 Gables Lane

Three rooflights in southwest elevation

Mr C-Browne

In respect of the following application, councillors **RESOLVED** that despite the amendments over the previously refused scheme. Concerns still remained at the potential for adverse impact on neighbouring residential amenity through noise generation and any consent given should include appropriate conditions to address this:

19A High Street Erection of external staircase/form door Mr Dainty

NB In respect of this item, Cllr. P Gordon declared a prejudicial interest as a neighbouring resident and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was considered.

In respect of the following application, councilors **RESOLVED** that the sole concern arising from the proposal related to the means of access proposed and the necessity to ensure this did not exacerbate the already congested and hazardous conditions that exist at this part of the High Street. Councillors desired to see secured, so far as is reasonably possible, adequate visibility of and for emerging traffic, and measures to ensure no reversing movements onto High Street:

58 High Street Dwelling and garage Mr & Mrs Hill

In respect of the following application, no observations were considered necessary:

62 Northampton Road Garden room/store Mr Smith

Planning Decisions reported:-

The following Decision Notices were reported, all being approvals with conditions:

Unit 3, 126 High Street	One dwelling	Timeline Ltd
Holly House, Brookhaven	Two storey side extension	Mr Van de Water
4 Meachem Close	Two storey rear extension	Mr M Hicks
39 Wellingborough Road	Change use of land to residential	Mr R Bailey
76 High Street	Telegraph pole (prior approval)	BT Wayleaves

Planning Appeals notified:-

Members noted that a planning appeal had been lodged in respect of the following refusal by the Local Planning Authority and that this was to be decided by a local public inquiry. It was agreed to make no further submissions on the matter:

Orton Road, Rothwell (off) Truck stop facility and diesel station Rothwell Land

12/6717

FINANCE.

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

Income

£

None was reported at this meeting.

Expenditure			£
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101508)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101509)	141.20
GA Duthie	Exps – no ball games sign	(101510)	16.00
HJ Bull	Exps- printing ink	(101511)	12.00

Members then received and considered Accounting Statements for the financial year to 31 March 2012 (copies appended) and, after opportunity for questions, **RESOLVED** to approve the same having specifically considered all of the questions raised in the annual governance statement at Section 2 of the pro-forma. The same were accordingly then signed by the Chair, and by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

12/6718

POCKET PARK. A report was submitted that advised a request had been made for certain fallen timber from a Yew tree to be used for making long bow staves by a local craftsman; members agreeing to support this provided the Borough Council was in agreement and provided that the finished articles could be seen in due course. Additionally, the meeting was informed that some minor damage had been caused to the new notice board but this could be repaired, and that a further clearance day would soon be necessary due to vegetation growing quickly in the present wet conditions.

12/6719

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS. Councillors considered the membership of the two standing committees for the consideration of consultation material and agreed the composition would be as follows for the remainder of the municipal year:

District matters

Cllrs. Baxter, Perkins and Shrive.

County matters

Cllrs. Mrs. Bull, Mrs. Chester and Manning.

12/6720

ST. ANDREWS COURT/CLOSE – SECURITY FOR RESIDENTS. Members heard that a letter had been received by the Chair, from the Neighbourhood watch co-ordinator for this area, that highlighted a series of incidents over recent months affecting the quality of life for residents of the flats and bungalows. These included damage to vehicles and other property, intrusion into gardens and even the flats complex itself. Whilst the flats are covered by CCTV, the close is not and councillors noted that the Borough Council was considering the proposed installation of two cameras here at a cost likely to be £2,150. £2,000 of this cost can be underwritten by the Neighbourhood Watch group but the shortfall is being requested from the parish Council.

After considering the issue, and particularly, the possibilities for more affordable measures to be achieved, it was agreed the request should be supported in principle and confirmation of this would be provided to the Borough Council.

12/6721

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS. Picking up on the issues raised by Mr. Turiccki concerning the cemetery, it was agreed to seek quotations for the repainting of the railings and gate. It was also agreed to query with the Borough Council whether appropriate weed killers were being used around verges and kerbing as treatments of these areas had left unsightly bare patches.

Cllr. Mrs. Roke mentioned the new wildflower area was very weedy once more and that grass was over-long around the High Street play area, with the effect users were being deterred from attempting to enter. The Chair agreed to pursue both.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull mentioned that although the Pytchley crossroad verges had been cut, they were quickly becoming overgrown again, such that visibility was obscured.

Cllr. Gordon mentioned that drains in the Knick Knack were obstructed, that the bank at the side of the Working Mens Club could benefit from bulb planting, and that there was offensive graffiti present on an item of play equipment at High Street.

Cllr. Mrs. Cope mentioned that the empty property at Grange Road was again becoming very overgrown.

Cllr. Baxter then asked that a request be made for footway edges to be uncovered around the village as verges were encroaching in many places.

Cllr. Shrive suggested that double yellow lines be requested to protect the junction to the development at 126 High Street, off Coxs Lane.

The Chair mentioned a complaint had been received by her concerning the perceived lack of seating in the High Street recreation ground.

The Chair reported that a letter had been received from Borough Cllr. Hakewill promoting his 'Bee in the Borough' initiative, and providing a packet of wildflower seed for sowing.

12/6722

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 18 July 2012, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

12/6723

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

18 July 2012

Signed.....