

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 16 May 2012, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair).
Cllrs. R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. J Chester, Mrs. PA Cope, Mrs. P Roke, and Mrs. C Taylor.
PCSO S Gell of Northamptonshire Police.
Seven members of the public.

12/6692 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):
Cllr. P Gordon (on holiday)
Cllr. LA Manning (attending long-standing alternative engagement)
Cllr. Shrive (abroad for work)

12/6693 **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.** This being the annual meeting of the Parish Council, consideration of business was preceded by the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The following nominations were confirmed after being duly seconded without competing nominations being made:-

Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust was re-appointed as Chair.
Cllr. R Shrive was re-appointed Vice-Chairman.

It was agreed that the membership of committees would be deferred until the June meeting and it was noted that the four Parish Council nominated trustees of the Broughton Charities were able to continue in office (minute 11/6512 refers).

12/6694 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** No declarations were made.

12/6695 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 April 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

12/6696 **POLICE REPORT.** Members heard from PCSO Gell, who first advised that 6 reports of crime had been received during April; these comprising one burglary (dwelling), one burglary (other), two criminal damage, one robbery (minor), and one complaint of violence. Although the figures for Broughton were broadly consistent month on month, the number of reports was considered low in comparison to other similar communities.

Councillors then heard that there continued to be a focus on traffic issues associated with the school, and that a small number of fixed penalty notices had been issued recently in order to deter offending.

In response to Cllr. Taylor mentioning that a Facebook page had apparently been set up to 'name and shame' drivers seen parking unlawfully on the High Street in the vicinity of the new takeaway, PCSO Gell confirmed that police policy was to discourage the use of social media for such purposes and to request that offending was reported using more traditional methods.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Mrs. Bull, concerning any ongoing initiatives concentrating on more senior members of the community, it was confirmed that no specific dedicated projects were presently in hand but that general contact does routinely occur with awareness of relevant issues being high amongst officers.

The Chair then mentioned that fires continued to be a concern at the Pocket Park, and it was confirmed that there was awareness of this, with patrols continuing.
PCSO Gell left the meeting at 7:15pm.

12/6697

RIGHT TO SPEAK. The meeting was addressed by a member of the public who, given the recent amount of local consultation occurring in respect of the Site Specific Options proposals, asked for clarification as what might be meant by the phrase 'Community Service Centre' as had been referred to in connection with this. Advice was offered that unless this was specifically defined in some other manner in any document where the phrase appeared, the wording was most likely describing the area within a settlement or part of a settlement where local services (typically shops, schooling, post office, medical facilities etc) might be concentrated. It was further offered that this might well be significant in terms of assessing the sustainability of particular sites if brought forward for proposed development where minimisation of vehicle usage was especially desired in policy terms.

12/6698

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 12/6681, those present heard the Chair describe the process followed by councillors in settling the form of responses to the Site Specific Proposals Local Development Document Options consultation. The meeting was informed that several working group meetings had been undertaken to fully consider the background papers and that the significant input gratefully received from parishioners had been weighed in that process.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council response indicated a preference for the option of 'no growth outside the village boundary', and that only very small-scale infill within the boundary would be supported (ie a maximum of 10 units on any site, and preferably only single figures).

A fully reasoned and detailed issue-by-issue response had been formulated, based upon the work and principles described by the Chair and as informed by the views communicated. This draft response, having been seen by all members, was unanimously **RESOLVED** to be adopted for submission to the Borough Council and it was agreed that, following submission, a full copy of this would be posted on the Broughton Village website for the information of those who might be interested or concerned.

In addition, and arising from the same issue, the meeting heard that the Borough Council was being advised that the Parish Council wished to pursue the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan and also the implementation of the proposed Conservation Area.

Arising from 11/6683, and the matter of the casual vacancy on the Parish Council, members heard that the Borough Electoral Services Manager had now confirmed that the period within which an election could be claimed had now passed with no such claim being made. Accordingly, the Parish Council was free to co-opt to the vacancy once a suitable candidate was identified.

In this respect, councillors noted that interest in the vacancy had been expressed by Mr. David John Perkins of High Street, who had submitted a personal profile and resume for consideration. In addition, Mr. Perkins was in attendance and, at the invitation of the Chair, spoke in support of his candidacy. Members noted that Mr. Perkins had relatively recently moved to the village, that he had pursued careers in the Merchant Navy and as a consultant in Business Analysis after completing a degree in maths and computing. After answering councillors' questions, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr. Perkins to the vacant seat on the Council, such appointment to be subject to the usual declarations etc that could be completed prior to the June meeting.

Arising from 12/6689, the Chair reminded the meeting that an organisations and information day was being hosted by the Church on Saturday, 19 May 2012. It was agreed that the Council would participate and this would be an opportunity to raise awareness of the consultation response agreed in respect of the Site Specific Options proposals.

Arising from 12/6682, a communication had been received from Mr. Stephen Collins of Northampton Road, mentioning that the opportunity had arisen for him to be reinstated as Parish Path Warden should this accord with the Council's wishes notwithstanding that he was no longer a parish councillor. Where it was also advised that the County Council had recently lost the Rights of Way Officer with responsibility for the local network, with no immediate plans for the resulting vacancy to be filled, it was agreed to gratefully accept Mr. Collins' kind offer.

Arising from 12/6681, a response received from the County Council was reported that explained the possible reasons for the current lack of street lighting in Brookhaven; purportedly rooted in acquiescence by the lighting authority that no lighting was required when the development had originally been laid out. Members questioned this as there was no recollection or record of such an indication ever having been given by the Parish Council, and noted that the timing of the development being completed broadly coincided with the period when damage was routinely being caused to lamp columns by those engaged in anti-social behaviour locally. It was therefore suggested and agreed that the Borough be asked to consider the provision of a column or columns in Brookhaven, to which the Parish Council could contribute part of the cost from the relevant budget for lighting improvements.

Arising again from 12/6682, and in connection with the road closure order needed to facilitate the proposed Diamond Jubilee event on 4 June 2012, members heard that there had seemingly been a delay in the application material being forwarded to the relevant County Council officer for consideration. As a consequence, representations had been made clarifying exactly when the application had been lodged and assurances had been sought that the process would not be jeopardised as a result. The County had indicated that the application would be determined and the decision advised by 18 May 2012.

12/6699

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 note received from County Cllr. Harker, advising of the existence of a vacancy on the Governing Body of the school. Accompanying information was placed on circulation.
- b) A letter received from the County Council, formally advising that Rights of Way Officer, Mr. C Garvey, had now left the employ of that authority and providing details of alternative cover with contact details.
- c) A letter received from the Playing Fields and Village Hall Association, notifying that a further Village Show and Fun Day is to be held on Saturday 8 September 2012. Members noted this was the fourth such event and copy schedules for the day were provided for circulation.

12/6700

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported upon her attendance at the meeting of the Village Hall Committee, held on 8 May 2012. Business considered by the Committee at this meeting included consideration of the perceived need for directional signage to the village hall, the award of a grant of £5,000 from the Borough Council, the possible resurrection of the Cricket Club (likely necessitating reorganisation of the football pitches), and liaison with the police over the broadband connection. Members noted that the Annual General Meeting of the Association was scheduled for 12 June 2012, at which a presentation concerning the QEII Fields initiative would be made. Finally, it had been agreed that a charge of £20 would be made to cover basic costs only in the event the hall was used for the Jubilee Picnic event. Minutes of the April meeting were placed on circulation.

The Chair then reported on the various working group meetings that considered the Site Specific Options consultation, in terms that were consistent with the actions and outcomes recorded at minute 12/6698 above.

The Chair also reported upon the meetings held on 23 April and 14 May 2012 in

connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Members heard that the road closure application was under consideration, that plans were in hand for a civic service, that a tug-of-war competition was being organised, that the Guides and Scouts had sadly withdrawn from the planned entertainment, and that publicity material, bunting and banners were in hand.

The Chair then reported upon a meeting held with the Chairman of the Playing Fields and Village Hall Committee and representatives of the Borough Council and Fields in Trust; the latter being the custodians of the historic King George V Fields and implementing the current initiative to create QEII Fields. Members noted that grounds in Broughton, Mawsley and Desborough had all been nominated under this initiative; the Village Hall Playing Fields being the Broughton site.

Benefits of nomination included the ability to apply for a variety of assistances, including material and grants. Dedication does not serve to change ownership or management arrangements for subject fields but the covenants imposed by the dedication Deed are to some extent negotiable. Dedication would not serve to protect against compulsory purchase under statutory powers, but any such future dispossession would require alternative replacement facilities to be provided as a consequence. Fields in Trust would become an additional custodian trustee in addition to the Parish Council (in the case of Broughton), and would accordingly require to have input on any future plans for expansion or reorganisation of the facilities within the scope of the dedication (including the Village Hall).

Assuming it is decided to proceed, the timetable envisaged the sight of draft deeds by the third week of May, with the process being legally complete by the end of July whereupon appropriate publicity would be given, including by plaque.

The Chair concluded her reports by updating members on the village walkabout held with representatives of the Borough Council and MGWSP on 20 April. A number of matters were flagged for attention including the timings for the street light at Podmore Way where nuisance had been occurring, the possibility of the Parish Council obtaining a 'no ball games' sign, further litter bin provision, the continuing need for enforcement at the top of Northampton Road where unauthorised development had not yet been fully remedied, the removal of redundant bus stop posts and a post box, the replacement and dedication of a street tree, the further investigation of ownership of the Kettering Road bund.

12/6701

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

In respect of the following application, councillors **RESOLVED** to maintain their objection to the proposed development on the basis that proposal still represents over-development of an already tight and congested site to the detriment of the established rural character of this cluster of buildings, and further diminishing the already minimal amenity area associated with the dwelling. It was also considered

that the continuing failure to provide adequate car-parking space will inevitably exacerbate an already congested on-street parking situation in this part of the High Street, impacting negatively on amenity for neighbours and highway safety.

Furthermore, councillors wished to remind the LPA that this area is likely to be within the bounds of the proposed Conservation Area that is presently subject to pre-appraisal work and the over-intense development of this site, as envisaged by this application, is counter to the aims of such emergent Conservation Area protection, neither preserving nor enhancing the vicinity:

126 High Street (unit 3) Single dwelling Timeline Ltd

In respect of the following application, councillors agreed that no objection was warranted due to the distance of the proposal from the village, resulting potential views of it thereby being thought likely to be fleeting and no other direct detrimental impacts for Broughton residents being indicated. However, more general concerns were raised that councillors wished to be communicated to the LPA as weighing against the application, including the cumulative visual impact on the predominantly rural character of the North Northamptonshire countryside arising from over-proliferation of such developments. The LPA to be reminded that it has previously indicated the Burton Wold windfarm was considered to be the preferred site for such development in order to avoid or lessen this impact.

In addition, the proximity of the site to the A14 was considered to give rise to the potential for drivers to be distracted by the turbine blades with a resulting increased risk of accident on a busy and congested major route that already suffers an abnormally high number of collisions. When accidents occur on this road, traffic is displaced to minor routes with little capacity to absorb such vehicle numbers, including through Broughton and surrounding villages, resulting in disturbance and inconvenience for residents and rural businesses:

Aspenfield, Orton Wind turbine and infrastructure Ecotricity

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

Holly House, Brookhaven Side extension and rear doors Mr Van de Water
4 Meachem Close Two storey rear extension Mr Hicks

Planning Decisions reported:-

The following Decision Notice was reported, being an approval with conditions:

Kettering west services, A14 ATM and bollards BP Oil UK Ltd

12/6702

FINANCE.

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

Income		£
Kettering BC	Grant and precept 2012/13	10,830.00

Expenditure		£
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission (Direct debit)	4.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP (101503)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax (101504)	141.20
Broker Network Ltd	Insurance premium (101505)	695.73
GA Duthie	Telephone Expenses (101507)	49.34

NB Cheque 101506 was spoiled and not issued.

During consideration of this item, members heard that a competitive renewal quotation for the Council's insurance had been received from Aviva, via brokers Came & Co, with discount being allowed for a commitment of three years business. Accordingly, it was agreed to proceed on this basis, the annual premium being £695.73.

12/6703

GENERIC PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL ACCOUNT. Cllr. Mrs. Taylor confirmed she was looking into potential ways forward with this and would report further to a future meeting. Members agreed that whilst an email account for the Parish Council as an entity was thought beneficial, there was no necessity (and, indeed, potential drawbacks around information management) for individual members to have dedicated parish council accounts.

12/6704

POCKET PARK. Councillors were provided with a report submitted by the Pocket Park Co-ordinator that sadly comprised mainly items of bad news. First, members noted that a Horse Chestnut tree had suffered a failure resulting in a branch splitting off from the trunk. This appeared to be a further incidence of wind damage. Secondly, the meeting heard that a bird box and the repaired 'bug hotel' had been stolen. Members were also advised that a further fire had been set in the spinney, affecting a Yew tree. On a more positive note, councillors were pleased to learn that volunteer workdays continued to be supported with work having been completed to clear pathways of overgrowth, further work being planned to address non-native vegetation. Members asked that the minutes reflect the Council's appreciation of this continued enthusiasm for maintaining and improving the park, especially in the face of the disappointing set backs represented by deliberate damage and theft.

12/6705

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS. Cllr. Mrs. Taylor raised a complaint that had been received from organisers of the Under 5s Group, who were disappointed that an article submitted by the Group had been omitted from Broughton News. The Group wanted to know why this was and what could be done to remedy. It was confirmed that there had been no deliberate omission and it could only be supposed that the article had been overlooked or mislaid; if publicity was desired in the period before next year's edition, then this might be secured through the Four Spires newsletter or perhaps the Down Your Way feature in the Evening Telegraph.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull mentioned that the Pytchley crossroad was quite overgrown currently, such that visibility was obscured.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull then mentioned that horse riders and motorcycles were once again using the various footways around Podmore Way, which was a danger.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull drew members' attention to one particular consultation response on the Site Specific Options portal, which contained a surprising level of detailed traffic data. It was wondered what the source of this might have been.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull then asked that the draft meeting minutes be circulated earlier if at all possible.

Cllr. Mrs. Chester mentioned that speeding was again an issue on Northampton Road, with a particular resident appearing to be a regular offender.

Cllr. Baxter advised that the newly planted tree at the High Street recreation ground thought to be distressed might actually be establishing. Closer examination had revealed this to be a Walnut, a variety that was notoriously late into leaf so the tree would be monitored.

Cllr. Baxter then proposed and it was agreed that a vote of thanks to Cllr. Manning be recorded for the councillor's work and guidance in connection with the consultation response on the Site Specific Options proposal. This had been an involved and technical exercise, where Cllr. Manning's knowledge and experience had proved invaluable in facilitating the Parish Council's response.

The Chair asked whether there was any update on the new code of conduct, or any other changes arising from the revised standards arrangements resulting from the Localism Act 2011. It was confirmed that no further advice had been received from the Monitoring Officer but no doubt this would follow once the new regulations had been issued and considered. Publication of these was imminent.

12/6706

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 20 June 2012, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

12/6707

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

27 June 2012

Signed.....