

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 20 November 2013, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair).
Cllrs. R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. PA Cope, R Shrive, Mrs. C Taylor, Rev. B Withington, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr. C Groome.
Borough Cllr. J Hakewill.
Two PCSOs of Northamptonshire Police.

13/6942 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):

Cllr. Mrs. JC Chester (unexpected work commitment)
Cllr. Mrs. P Roke (unwell)

County Cllr. Groome apologised on grounds of likely lateness in arriving.

13/6943 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

13/6944 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 November 2013, copies of each having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

13/6945 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of the Right to Speak facility was made at this meeting.

13/6946 **POLICE REPORT.** Members welcomed PCSO Lucy Tomlinson to her first parish council meeting and noted her verbal report on complaints of crime affecting the parish for the preceding month. These complaints included three affecting property in High Street, comprising a burglary, a report of criminal damage, and a theft of tools from a motor vehicle. In addition, one incident of domestic violence had been complained of. Councillors heard that from the beginning of November to the date of the meeting, only one complaint had been made, also a violence related incident.

13/6947 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS (part 1).** Borough Cllr. Hakewill reported upon recent matters engaging him, including government pressure upon the Borough Council to avoid any increase in Council Tax levels for 2014/15 and the fact that the Council was now actively encouraging parish participation in neighbourhood planning exercises. In this latter respect, Cllr. Hakewill enquired whether it might be possible for him to sit-in on a neighbourhood planning meeting; him being advised that he was welcome to and that such meetings were scheduled for the first Monday each month, commencing at 6:30pm.

This item was then suspended pending the arrival of County Cllr. C Groome.

13/6948 **MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from 13/6934, the meeting heard that a permission decision on the Judicial Review application challenging planning permission KET/2012/0709 was still awaited. Councillors noted that enquiry of the Administrative Court had established that the court file had now been allocated to a

High Court judge ‘for reading’, and it would be for the judge to decide when to make his or her order as to permission.

Arising from 13/6939, in connection with the Housing Needs Survey Report, members heard that the Housing Policy officer with conduct had now amended the draft report to correct an arithmetical error and the finalised report would shortly be published.

Arising from 13/6934, councillors noted that the Parish Council’s observations in respect of the Strategic Housing and Employment Sites Consultation had been lodged with the Joint Planning Unit, had now been reported to the Joint Planning Committee, and would inform the assessment exercise.

Arising from 13/6935, it was confirmed that an amended consultation response, in the modified form agreed, had now been acknowledged and registered in respect of the Borough Council’s Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options Consultation. This would accordingly be taken into account in the forthcoming assessment exercise.

Arising also from 13/6934, Cllr. Mrs. Taylor confirmed that options for refurbishing/rebuilding the failing flower boxes were under consideration, including the possibility of heavier reconstruction involving sleepers or similar.

Arising finally from 13/6934, Cllr. Baxter queried the accuracy of the proposed waiting/parking restrictions in the vicinity of the former Sun Inn. Specifically, the recently advertised changes did not seem to reflect the agreed necessity to build out the path adjacent to the Coxs Lane junction so as to prevent obstructive parking there. Members heard that a meeting was to occur on 29 November, which would be attended by Mr Ian Boyes of MGWSP, and at which this issue would be considered.

Members then heard from the Chair and other members in attendance at the act of remembrance held on Armistice Day. The meeting noted the event was, once again, very well attended despite inclement weather and had been led by Reverend Withington, with the customary reading of names being performed by Mr AJP Stamper. In addition to these two, thanks were also due Mr. C Clarke for the loan of a public address system that proved very effective.

Cllr, C Taylor apologised and left the meeting at this point, at approximately 8:00pm. County Cllr. C Groome arrived during consideration of the item.

13/6949

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS (part 2). County Cllr. Groome presented his report, as circulated by email, which included confirmation, following the recent member walkabout, that he would be acting especially upon the issue of safety at the Pytchley crossroads and upon the improvement of the car park at the village hall. In respect of the crossroads issue, members discussed at some length the various contributors to visibility difficulties in this location; all agreeing that the presence of a particular high hedge was a key factor, although another, belonging to a different owner, had helpfully been cut recently and thanks were extended for this improvement.

In respect of the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Options Consultation, members noted that more and better background information was now to hand concerning Highcroft Farm, and a joint meeting also involving neighbouring parishes affected by that proposal might soon be beneficial. Councillors heard that the Borough Council Planning Policy Committee would be considering the issue on 22 January 2014, and material would be before this meeting that emphasised the habitat/ecology value of the site.

Cllr. Groome's report concluded with him describing further work being undertaken in respect of the on-going Children's Services review and scrutiny of the 2014/15 budget, which was thought to be tough.

13/6950

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 Electoral Services Manager, advising that the requisite period had now passed following public notice of the two casual vacancies on the Parish Council being given. As no election had been claimed in response, the vacancies did now need to be filled as soon as possible by co-option. Members were asked to give consideration to any potential candidates known to them and it was also agreed to publicise the vacancies in the Four Spires newsletter; the Clerk to draft and submit suitable wording to Cllr. Rev. Withington.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council, notifying of a consultation in respect of the Local Development Framework Housing Allocations – Assessment of Additional Sites and Update Document. Members noted this commenced from 28 October and was to run until 9 December 2013.
- c) A letter received from the Borough Council, publicising a Special Joint Forum Meeting to be held on 28 November, to be attended by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and to focus upon policing and criminal justice matters only. Cllrs. Shrive and Mrs. Bull agreed to represent the Parish Council at this.
- d) A letter from the legal services provider to the County Council, supplying a copy of the adoption certificate for the roads and ways at the Charles Church Developments Ltd site at 40/62 Northampton Road.
- e) A letter received from the Borough Council, advising that a Community Governance Review in respect of the District was to be undertaken and canvassing views of parish and town councils of any relevant issues that should be taken into account. Guiding principles were set out that would determine which areas should be subject to review and information was supplied as to how government guidance on the process might be accessed on-line.
- f) A note received from Mr & Mrs L Manning of Church Street, advising that a planning application was about to be made by them in respect of a site adjacent to 56 Church Street, and offering to attend the next council meeting in order to explain the proposal. Members agreed to accept this offer, which could be

accommodated under the 'right to speak' facility.

13/6951

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair gave a report arising from attendance at the meeting of the Rural Forum on 19 September. Business there included the offering of parish training on planning and development control, including the possibility of an evening session in addition to the daytime programme suggested.

The forum had been advised there were no current plans to commemorate the anniversary of the start of hostilities comprising World War 1 but this might be reviewed.

Policing had been discussed, particularly the efforts being made and progress in securing cadet and special constable recruitment to supplement a guaranteed establishment of 1,220 full time police officers going forward. The forum had also heard there was a local spate of wheel trim theft happening, especially affecting trims displaying makers' logos, and that PCSOs (using new powers) were only being tasked with fixed penalty notice issuing where safety was at issue.

In respect of street lighting, an exercise was being undertaken to identify 'ownership' of columns given the local confusion under agency arrangements that applied.

On the matter of the pending Community Governance Review, the proposal was only to review those parishes that identified a need for review.

The Chair then reported upon her participation in the planning and development control training event mentioned above, with it being noted that the ground covered included neighbourhood planning (and the equal relative weights to be afforded competing policies), the robustness of established and planned settlement boundaries (presumption being that development outside will only be permitted where local need proven), the five year housing land supply (this now being considered as assured given delivery obstacles affecting major were being overcome), and an explanation of 'sustainability' (a subjective assessment of a multiplicity of factors around services and accessibility).

The Chair then reported upon her attendance, with Cllrs. Baxter and Rev. Withington, at the recent village walkabout organised by County Cllr Groome. Also attended by Pytchley PC members, this had considered the Pytchley crossroads issue (preference to 'stop' sign over 'give way', perhaps with rumble strips and reduction of vegetation that was obscuring views of approaches to the junction).

Those attending had discussed the Highcroft Farm proposal in the G&TAOC, and particularly the likely continuing need for at least part of the site for any future dualling of the A43.

The meeting had then looked at a footpath at Glebe Avenue, which was suffering due to weather and nearby construction work; it being agreed to try and import some hard-core to help the surface.

In respect of the proposed extension to car parking facilities at the village hall, Cllr. Groome had kindly offered financial assistance from his division initiatives fund to facilitate overflow provision.

The Chair then reported on the meeting of the Village Hall Committee, held on 12 November. Key issues included receipt of confirmation that unused lottery funding might be vired for an alternative future use to that it had been sought for, that consideration continued of options to provide enhanced facilities for the Under 5s group, that works soon to commence on overflow car park provision, that website maintenance remained an issue, and that assistance from the Parish Council should be sought for funding to improve the small committee room.

In respect of the latter, councillors agreed to invite Mr Clive Gresham of the committee to the December meeting in order to explore the basis of this request given the relatively healthy balance sheet of the association currently.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull then reported upon a meeting held recently with Mr. Andrew Longley of the Joint Planning Unit, which had been very helpful in understanding the current and emerging policy picture, especially in connection with potential housing sites. Members heard that the 'new' site identified as 'site 50' was apparently not likely to be favoured but would still be considered as part of the on-going assessment exercises. Notes of the most recent neighbourhood planning meeting were placed on circulation.

13/6952

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

The following application was considered and it was agreed that no observations need be made to the planning authority:-

Kettering West Connect Replacement u/ground tanks BP Oil UK Ltd

13/6953

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

Income			£
None reported at this meeting.			
Expenditure			£
Zen Internet	Web hosting fee	(direct debit)	4.79
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101576)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101577)	141.20
GA Duthie	Telephone and Electric exps	(101578)	12.05
Mr SA Bedford	Bus shelter rent	(101579)	65.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	(101580)	17.00
Mrs. MC Rust	Exps – Nick Boles visit	(101581)	50.00

Councillors then heard that notification had been received from the Borough Council that, following the withdrawal of revenue support grants, if a precept was required to be raised, this needed to be served by 31 January 2014. Information was provided that modelled the impact on Council Tax payers of precepts at various levels. Given

current uncertainties around possible assistance to the Village Hall Association and around the Judicial Review proceedings, it was agreed to defer any decision upon the level of precepting necessary for one meeting cycle at least.

13/6954 **POTENTIAL CREATION OF YOUTH COUNCILLOR ROLE.** Having previously been made aware of the interest of a young person in becoming involved with the business of the Parish Council, members considered the legal basis for perhaps creating the role of ‘youth councillor’. The Clerk advised that although there was statutory provision in place (as a result of changes introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) for the appointment of young people as councillors, such powers relied upon ministerial regulation to be given effect and no such regulations had yet been made. Consequently, a youth councillor role could not be created for the moment; but members did agree the minister concerned, Mr. Eric Pickles, should be asked to give consideration to making the regulations the new statutory provisions contemplated.

13/6955 **BROUGHTON NEWS.** Given present uncertainties over calls upon finance, and the potential for making better use of web-based publication, it was agreed to defer a decision on future production of Broughton News until the January 2014 meeting.

13/6956 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
Cemetery trees – case for pollarding?

Yeoman House – overgrown hedge.

Notice board and plinth at Red Lion village sign.

Operation Springbloom – bulbs supplied and planted.

Wild flower patch at Church – re-sow.

Proposal for MUGA at village hall – meeting 28 November.

Community award – December agenda (nominations please)

13/6957 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 18 December 2013, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

13/6958 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 9:33pm

18 December 2013

Signed.....