

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 17 October 2012, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair).
Cllrs. R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. PA Cope, P Gordon, LA Manning, and DJ Perkins.

PC M Penhallow and PCSO L Mitchell of Northamptonshire Police
Three members of the public

12/6753 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):
Cllr. JC Chester (health)
Cllr. P Roke (work commitment)
Cllr. R Shrive (working away)
Cllr. C Taylor (health)

12/6754 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr. P Gordon informed the meeting that if a planning application consultation relating to 44 High Street had been received and was to be discussed, then at that point he would withdraw from the meeting on the basis of having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as the owner and occupier of property neighbouring the site. The Clerk confirmed this application was to be considered.

12/6755 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 October 2012, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

12/6756 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** Councillors were addressed first by local resident, Ms. P Scouse, who expressed interest in the prospective planning application for residential development of land off Cransley Hill being worked up by Redrow Homes. In the context of this, Ms. Scouse queried the current planning policy position given the various ongoing consultations by the Borough Council and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, and also queried the roles of the various authorities. The Clerk and members especially engaged in responding to these consultations then clarified how they viewed the process working, and how interested members of the public could make their views known.

Members then heard from a resident of Dawkins Court who had attended the meeting in order to make known to the Parish Council her views upon the planning application presently due for determination that related to 44 High Street, and which proposed the redevelopment of the site to provide two shop units with two-bed flats above.

Those attending were made aware at this point that the speaker was the daughter of Cllr. Gordon. Given the declaration made earlier in relation to his participation in the consideration of this matter, and given the councillor's relationship with the speaker, Cllr. Gordon confirmed, after hearing the advice of the Clerk, that he would remain present whilst the visiting speaker addressed the meeting but would withdraw before any discussion occurred.

The speaker then described to the meeting that she had concerns arising from this proposed development due to the already seriously congested nature of this part of High Street. It was stated that at least five deliveries per day serve the Co-op store opposite, and there were also very frequent traffic movements associated with the new chip shop and the existing newsagent on the site. Members heard that Cransley Hill was often a bottle-neck too, with regular problems occurring when larger vehicles especially were obstructed.

It was asserted that the Highways Authority appeared not to have been properly consulted in respect of previous proposals in this area and there was a resulting lack of faith in the Planning Authority. Concerns also existed in respect of the scale of the proposal (height and overlooking), and that no need existed for additional retail space where the former Post Office on High Street remained unoccupied.

Upon the Chair confirming that these comments would be taken into account when the planning application was discussed under item 9 of the Agenda, the visiting speakers withdrew after thanking members for listening to their comments.

12/6757

POLICE REPORT. Councillors welcomed PC Penhallow and PCSO Mitchell who gave a verbal update concerning the 8 reports of crime received for September. Amongst these, members noted that three shed-breaks featured; there being a continuing occurrence of these types of offence in the village. Councillors were urged to remind parishioners of the necessity to ensure outbuildings were left secure when unattended.

Cllr. Baxter then mentioned to the attending officers that West Street and the area surrounding was again being badly affected with congestion and unauthorised access associated with the daily school runs. Discussion occurred around the precise status of the private roads there and the consequent scope for enforcement to occur.

The visiting officers were then thanked and left the meeting.

12/6758

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 12/6743, members heard that the Parish Council's further comments on the proposed Conservation Area Appraisal to go out to consultation, following sight of the full document including plans, had now been submitted to and acknowledged by the Borough Council. That body had confirmed, however, that inclusion of the school within the boundary of the area ultimately to be confirmed was unlikely given modern changes to the building and the lack of views from the public realm. The meeting noted that the Parish Council's position in this respect had been reserved as there was informed advice potentially available that the

school represented a noteworthy heritage asset that should be afforded protection notwithstanding these constraints.

Councillors then noted that a consultation event had been scheduled for the evening of 8 November, at the school; it being agreed to query the degree of publicity for this given the relatively short lead time and the desire to ensure as much local input as possible.

Arising from 12/6743, the meeting heard that the Parish Path Warden, Mr. Collins, had advised of another potential source of assistance with minor footpath works, via Tresham College and the Prince's Trust. Members noted that this was being explored.

Arising also from 12/6743, members noted advice received from the NNJPU concerning the timings for receipt of comments upon the Core Strategy proposals so as to best enable reporting to and consideration by the Joint Planning Committee. The key dates referred to were 29 October for comments to be received for inclusion in the committee report, with the committee itself sitting on 8 November. Consequently, it was agreed that Cllr. Mrs. Bull would co-ordinate the collation of the PC response for submission by 29 October, and ideas for a vision statement to inform the Neighbourhood Plan also being requested by the PC should now be submitted to the Chair.

Arising from 12/6744, it was reported that a reasoned response to the Town and Parish Council Funding Review being undertaken by the Borough Council had been submitted that essentially confirmed a preference for the continuation of the current grant assisted funding system. Members noted the detail of the response, as appended, and **RESOLVED** to adopt the same as the Parish Council's formal position on the matter.

Arising once more from 12/6743, a draft consultation leaflet was considered, that related to the proposed parking/waiting restrictions at High Street and Coxs Lane. Subject to certain minor amendments, the leaflet was agreed for issue and distribution when appropriate.

12/6759

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 Borough Council, enclosing a briefing note relating to permitted development provisions for domestic wind turbines. This was placed on circulation.
- b) A letter received by the Chair from Mrs. MacLeod of Bentham Close, and also co-signed by six other residents in that immediate area, raising concerns at the condition of two parcels of land at the entrance to Bentham Close from High Street. The meeting noted that the land, thought to have been originally intended for building, was considered to be neglected and unsightly at present. Members

agreed to pass on these representations to the Borough Council for attention.

- c) A letter received from the Post Office, consulting upon the proposed relocation of the service in Broughton from the Corner Store at Wellingborough Road, to the Co-op at High Street. Members noted the range of products and services proposed to be provided, and the extended periods when these would be available, and agreed to support the proposed changes.
- d) A communication received from the County Council, notifying of an impending consultation relating to Town Transport Strategies, to form part of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan. Councillors noted that the closing date for comments would be 2 November 2012 and the consultation could be accessed on the County Council website.
- e) A letter received from the County Council providing material publicising the Street Doctor highway reporting service. This was placed on circulation.
- f) A further letter received from the County Council, advising of the availability again this year of free tree packs, with various native mixes being available. Members noted the closing date for applications was the end of December and literature was placed on circulation.
- g) A letter received from Mr. and Mrs. Littler of Kettering Road, flagging perceived deficiencies in the local consultation recently performed for Redrow Homes and relating to that company's proposals for land off Cransley Hill. Members noted that the authors stated they had not received direct copies of the consultation material and had only become aware of the exercise after the advised closing date had passed; so did question its validity.
- h) A letter received from the Alzheimer's Society, providing publicity material concerning the Society's Dementia Café initiative. This was placed on circulation.
- i) Publicity material received from the County Council, relating to the school place application process.
- j) A letter received from Countryside Advisor, Mr. C. Smith, providing details of consultancy services offered by him.

12/6760

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported upon attendance by her of the Village Hall Committee, on 9 October 2012. Members heard that no detailed finance report had been submitted as the Treasurer was away presently, a review of licensing arrangements for events was being undertaken given the frequency of events that included licensable activities, rubbish bin provision was being considered, a need had been identified to consider an extension of the car park, a decision had been made to secure broadband facilities, a recent Touring Arts event had been enjoyed albeit numbers attending were

disappointing, building insulation remained under consideration, an estates manager had been appointed, and it had been confirmed that storage space for pocket park tools could not be offered due to lack of capacity. Minutes of the September meeting were placed on circulation.

The Chair then reported upon her attendance at a seminar facilitated by the Borough Council to consider Gypsy and Traveller related issues. Members noted that themes covered included the regional variations in the numbers of unauthorised pitches experienced, the longer time generally taken to determine Gypsy and/or Traveller planning applications, the requirement to ensure a five year housing land supply by March 2013, funding constraints affecting the provision of transit sites, and issues around the sustainable siting of developments in relation to village centres.

The Chair reported upon her attendance at the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 20 September; members heard this had been poorly attended. Issues covered included a meeting being organised for 8 October to consider Traveller site enforcement, the re-circulation of crime report statistics to parish councils, the distribution of documentation relating to the NNJPU Joint Core Strategy consultation, an update on the Site Specific proposals consultation, enhancements to the Kettering town centre and market areas, and a seeming confirmation that any withdrawal of parish funding grants would not result in a reduction of Council Tax.

Also at the Rural Forum meeting, there had been a specific item relating to the Joint Core Strategy consultation, when it had been explained that the consultation was an 'extra' (or informal) initiative, that some 7,000 to 11, 000 (approx) new dwellings had to be allocated over the next 20 years without allowing for approvals already granted (some 13,000 existing), that a new village at Denethorpe is under consideration, that Broughton has been identified as a 'principle village' (clarification of this definition being sought), that steps were being taken to ensure all parishes had sight of the full consultation document, and that the consultation period was being extended to address the fact some had been omitted from the document's initial circulation.

Also in relation to the Joint Core Strategy, the Chair confirmed that a working party had been held on 15 October 2012; a note of this being appended.

12/6761

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

In respect of the following application, it was first noted that no Design and Access Statement had been provided (or seems available on the LPA website); additionally, the application form appeared to have been completed incorrectly in terms of the total bedrooms being proposed, and unhelpfully in terms of the likely uses any development consented to might be put to (different uses may have different local impacts). The following comments accordingly relate to the information that had been provided.

Whilst the Parish Council was generally desirous of supporting a prosperous and vibrant High Street area, it did consider current issues of traffic congestion (especially at peak periods) and deficiencies of parking in the vicinity will inevitably be worsened if this scheme is permitted, with unacceptable impacts on safety for pedestrians and road users. The proposed scheme was thought not to make adequate parking provision and will undoubtedly encourage yet more traffic movement in this area of the village.

Additionally, the mass and bulk of the built form of the proposal at what is a key location in the prospective Broughton Conservation Area was thought neither to enhance nor preserve the heritage value of the street scene surrounding the site, which presumably it should given the emerging policy protection being contemplated for this area.

The lack of indication of prospective users for any new commercial units meant that no meaningful appraisal of impacts arising from servicing and deliveries etc was possible.

The scheme, as proposed, showed no amenity space for occupiers of the residential units, which might well include children/young people.

For these reasons, the application was **RESOLVED** to be objected to:

44 High Street Two shop units with flats over Mr Purewal

NB – in respect of the item above, Cllr. P Gordon declared the existence of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as the owner/occupier of a neighbouring dwelling and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was discussed.

12/6762

FINANCE.

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

Income			£
Barclays Bank PLC	Interest on premium account		1.01
Expenditure			£
Barclays Bank PLC	Store Fee	(Direct debit)	1.00
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(Direct debit)	2.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101520)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101521)	141.20
GA Duthie	Electricity expenses	(101522)	9.03
R Profit	Volunteer Award	(101523)	150.00

12/6763

TIN CAN BAND. Councillors agreed that beyond advising the police of the date for the event this year (first Sunday after 12 December), no direct action need be taken by the Parish Council although it might be helpful in keeping disturbance to a minimum if the ‘route’ was accessible on the Broughton Village website. Cllr. Mrs.

Bull offered to provide a copy to the webmaster.

12/6764

COMMUNITY AWARD NOMINATION. Members heard that a nomination had been made that, once again, due to exceptional dedication and work (often in the face of setback by vandalism or theft), the Community Award of £150 should be made to Ms Rebecca Profit to recognise the effort and energy applied by her toward the Pocket Park project over the last year. Councillors agreed that the fact the park remained available to the village was in no small part due to Ms Profit's work and enthusiasm, which would be very difficult to replace after she moves away from the village. The award was agreed unanimously

12/6765

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS. On behalf of Cllr. Shrive, Cllr. Mrs. Bull reported that Cllr. and Mrs. Shrive had represented the Parish Council at the last 'bacon roll' drop-in event at the Church.

Cllr. Gordon informed the meeting that the AGM for the local Neighbourhood Watch group was coming up and efforts were being taken to recruit a new coordinator for a scheme in Silver Street.

Cllr. Perkins mentioned that there was currently an issue at the Village Hall playing fields with an overgrown area being inappropriately used as an impromptu toilet facility. The Chair agreed to pass this information on to the Village Hall Committee with request for low hanging branches to be cut and for the area to be tidied so as to discourage this.

I was confirmed that arrangements were in hand for the Armistice Day service at the War Memorial.

The meeting agreed that thanks were due to Mr. S Thompson of Kettering Road who had acted with a friend to tidy the Kettering Road bus shelter and cut back encroaching vegetation.

12/6766

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 21 November 2012, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

12/6767

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

21 November 2012

Signed.....