

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

Prior to the commencement of business, Cllr. B Withington was welcomed to his first Parish Council meeting following his accepting office as a councillor.

13/6914 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted):
Cllr. JC Chester (away)
Cllr. P Roke (unwell)
Cllr. R Shrive (away)

13/6915 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

13/6916 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 July 2013, and the special meeting of the Parish Council held on 31 July 2013, copies of each having been circulated, were both approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

13/6917 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of the Right to Speak facility was made at this meeting.

13/6918 **POLICE REPORT.** Councillors heard from PCSO J Parish who advised the meeting that the past month had given rise to 9 reports of crime, including 1 incidence of a dwelling being burgled, 2 burglaries of outbuildings, 1 theft from a motor-vehicle, 1 theft/handling offence, and 1 of violence.

Issues raised with PCSO Parish by members included the continuing problem of speeding traffic in the village (especially affecting Kettering Road), the very noticeable increase in reports across the Rural Sector, being highlighted on Neighbourhood Watch bulletins, of opportunistic offending such as attempted thefts etc, and the on-going issue of night time activities in the vicinity of the cemetery gates (the meeting heard this was a focus of recent patrolling).

PCSO Parish was asked then to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to those involved for the surgery sessions being regularly held in the Co-op store, which were being well supported by local people and considered a valuable facility.

13/6919 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Those present heard County Cllr. Groome present a report of recent County Council matters that

had also been circulated by email, and that included information concerning the current review of the Children's Services function following a recent Ofsted rating of 'inadequate' (members noting that a 2 year improvement plan was being implemented), an awaited update on the County Council's intentions in respect of the future use of Highcroft Farm (in the context of potential use for provision of Gypsy/Traveller accommodation), Cllr. Groome's re-election as Chair of the rail lobby group 'LANRAC' (where the group would be pushing for non-scheduled improvements to the Midland Main Line in addition to seeking to ensure scheduled upgrades were progressed), and the suggestion that a parish walkabout be undertaken with BPC members in the second half of November. Members noted that relevant County Council officer representation would be sought for this letter event and a date was settled upon, being Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 12:30pm.

The Chair than queried of Cllr. Groome whether he knew if the Casualty Reduction Team was still in existence. Cllr. Groome confirmed it was.

13/6920

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 13/6911, the meeting received an update in respect of the application for Judicial Review of planning permission KET/2012/0709, as issued by Kettering Borough Council and dated 10 June 2013. Councillors noted that, subsequent to the resolution made on 31 July 2013 to proceed with the challenge, the Grounds and supporting Statement of Facts had been drafted with the assistance of Counsel and the claim had been duly lodged with the High Court.

The Borough Council as defendant, and developer and believed landowner as interested parties, had all been served with the proceedings; the defendant and developer both having responded by filing Summary Grounds to Resist the claim. Given the content and tenor of submissions made in this material, Members noted that observations had been filed on behalf of the Parish Council in order to rebut certain assertions; all material before the Court having been circulated.

Members heard also that witness evidence filed in support of the claim had cited the fact of the public meeting held on 11 May 2013 as an indicator of the public interest in the matter at issue (together with other planning pressures affecting the village) and that, as a result of that meeting and the subsequent Parliamentary debate secured by Mr. Philip Hollobone MP, a visit to the village by Planning Minister, Mr. Nick Boles MP, had been arranged for Friday 6 September 2013. The fact of this visit had, accordingly, also been brought to the notice of the Court as a further indicator of the wider public interest being served by permission for the claim to proceed being granted.

After councillors' questions were responded to, and after it was confirmed that, subject to any further pre-decision exchanges of material occurring, the next significant stage of the process would be the Court making an order as to whether it had decided to give permission for the Judicial Review, members discussed how they might best facilitate the visit of the Planning Minister. In conjunction with Borough Cllr. Hakewill, it was agreed this would give Mr. Boles the best appreciation of the planning pressures confronting the village if a tour of significant sites could be arranged, where he could be accompanied by a cross-section of interested councillors

and others, followed by a question/answer session to which more people, including concerned residents, could be invited. A package of relevant background material could also be compiled for the Minister to take away for perusal. Members noted advice that, although the ministerial visit being scheduled was a factor the Court needed to be aware of, the Minister had no remit or potential influence in respect of the claim so there was no utility in discussing this issue with him or lobbying him for any outcome; the matter was entirely in the province of the Court.

Arising then from 13/6876, councillors were presented with a draft letter intended to comprise the necessary Regulation 5 (of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012) application for designation of the neighbourhood area for the proposed Broughton Parish Neighbourhood Plan. In respect of the case for seeking designation of the entire administrative parish for these purposes, members **RESOLVED** that the following wording be adopted as the supporting statement required under Regulation 5(1)(b) and that the letter incorporating this statement be submitted:

Broughton Parish Council has applied to designate the full extent of the administrative parish of Broughton as the neighbourhood area for the purposes of the proposed Broughton Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Where Broughton village has strong historic and continuing connections with the established rural identity and agricultural heritage of the wider parish area, the designation applied for will enable the Neighbourhood Plan to incorporate cohesive policies underpinning that identity and heritage whilst facilitating appropriate and sensitive development that only strengthens the role of the village as the focus of a vibrant but essentially rural community.

13/6921

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 communication received by the Chair and the Clerk from Cllr. DJ Perkins on 30 August 2013, and advising of Mr. Perkins' decision to resign from membership of the Parish Council with immediate effect, citing fundamental differences over the Neighbourhood Planning project. Members noted with regret that, despite the passage of some time to reflect between the decision being notified and this meeting, Mr. Perkins had confirmed he wished to stand by his resignation. Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED** to give the necessary notification of the resulting vacancy to the Elections Manager and members wished to record their grateful thanks to Mr. Perkins for his many contributions whilst serving as a parish councillor, not least in connection with setting up the new website. In this latter respect, councillors noted that Mr. Perkins had made contact with the site designer in order to facilitate a hand-over to whoever succeeds his involvement with this project. Cllr. Mrs. Taylor indicated she was willing to undertake this.
- b) A communication received from Cllr P Gordon, as circulated to all councillors, dated 14 September 2013, and advising of Mr. Gordon's decision also to resign from membership of the Parish Council. The meeting heard this decision had

been reluctantly made due to health reasons coupled with Mr. Gordon feeling that he was prevented from participating in the consideration of issues affecting High Street that he would wish to as a result of Declarable Pecuniary Interests existing. Again, it was **RESOLVED** to give the necessary notification of the resulting vacancy to the Elections Manager and members wished to record their grateful thanks to Mr. Gordon for his many contributions whilst serving as a parish councillor.

- c) A series of email exchanges involving the Borough Council, a Mr. S Crosby-Browne (a film student originating from the village), officers of the Met Film School, and parish councillors. The meeting heard that a request had been received over the summer for a permit to film in Parsons Spinney over several days in connection with a graduation film to be produced by a film student. Members noted that, after the parameters of the intended activity were established, including filming hours, the potential for nuisance or inconvenience of residents or other users, the proposed content of the production, and after verifying public liability insurance was in place to indemnify the Parish Council, it had been agreed to permit the exercise. The meeting heard that the resulting film, if up to expected standard, would be entered in various European film festivals and that the Parish Council would be afforded a viewing.
- d) A letter received from local resident, Ms. A Adams, expressing concern at the present overgrown appearance of the pocket park; and especially the pond area. Members noted the concerns being expressed and asked that Ms Adams be advised the Council was pursuing all available avenues to reinvigorate interest in the pocket park volunteers group as it shared her desire to see improvement. It was also suggested the film-maker referred to at c) above might be invited to facilitate some clearance work as a consideration for the permit allowed to him.
- e) A letter received from the Highways Agency, advising of public information exhibition events to be held early in October to publicise the A14 Junctions 7-9 Kettering Bypass Improvement Scheme and the Network Rail improvements to Pytchley Road bridge in Kettering.
- f) A notification received from the Joint Planning Unit, publicising a consultation being undertaken on Strategic Housing and Employment Sites, the Urban Structure Study, the Interim Housing Policy Statement, and Statement of Community Involvement. Members noted the closing date for comments was 11 October 2013 and that the Strategic Housing sites identified included one site bordering the A14 that was inside the parish area for Broughton. This prospective allocation had been included without prior consultation with the Council. Councillors head that the material being consulted upon could be accessed via the JPU website.
- g) Formal notification received from the County Council of the proposed new waiting and parking restrictions affecting Coxs Lane and High Street. Members noted the changes accorded with the scheme they had previously had input to and the new restrictions would be implemented following formal consultation subject to completion of legal formalities.

- h) A letter received from the Borough Council, inviting representation at a training event on 4 November in connection with development control functions. It was agreed the programme for this would be circulated to enable preferences to be decided.
- i) A letter received from the County Council seeking volunteer assistance with a project seeking to digitise archived records for on-line access. A poster was provided for display.

13/6922

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported upon the meetings of the Village Hall Committee held on 13 August and 10 September 2013. Business at these included thanks being extended for the Parish Council’s assistance with funding improvements, the commencement of the football season, the attendance of the Touring Arts project, the commencement of the Meachem Room refurbishment, works to improve heating and ventilation, progress with the overflow car park, arrangements for the village show, the receipt of a further plaque for the QEII Field designation. It was noted the next meeting was to be held on 8 October.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull then reported upon the recent meeting of the wider Neighbourhood Plan group, which had proved to be very beneficial and revealed much support for the initiative with clear interest being shown by residents in becoming actively involved. A more focused meeting for the smaller steering group was scheduled for next week, when the emerging key strands and tasks would be further developed.

13/6923

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

The following applications were considered and it was agreed that no observations needed to be made to the planning authority:-

4 Meachem Close	Rear extension	Mr Hicks
Westlands, West Street	Rear and side extensions	Mr Mathews

Planning Decisions notified:-

A decision notice comprising an approval with conditions for development at Westhill Drive, Kettering had been received and was placed on circulation for members’ information.

Update on KET/2012/0709 (Cransley Hill) – S106 obligations and extension of time for completion:-

This was dealt with under ‘Matters Arising’ (minute 13/6920 refers).

13/6924

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

Income	£
No income was reported	
 Expenditure	 £

Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	2.00
Zen Internet	Web hosting fee	(direct debit)	4.79
BDO LLP	Audit fees	(101565)	120.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101566)	250.33
HMRC	Income tax	(101567)	141.20
GA Duthie	Reimburse court fee - JR	(101568)	60.00
GA Duthie	Travel/parking costs - JR	(101569)	39.20
GA Duthie	Telephone and Electric exps	(101570)	70.27
J Nicholls	Bus shelter repairs	(101571)	198.49

13/6925 GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS. An overgrown footpath from Crane Close.

Overgrown hedges at 67 The Banks and Paston House.

Overgrown conifers at Grange Road.

Flower boxes at village gateways starting to rot/decay.

The housing needs survey results were being compiled – response rate of 41% indicated.

Chicken manure still an issue.

Former Garden of Remembrance in need of attention.

Request festive lights on PC planted tree at High Street (now grown!)

13/6926 DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 16 October 2013, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

13/6927 URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

The meeting was then closed

16 October 2013

Signed.....