

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 15 January 2014, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs. JC Chester, Mrs. PA Cope, Mrs PA Scouse, Cllr. R Shrive, Rev. B Withington, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr. C Groome.
Borough Cllr. J Hakewill
PCSO L Mitchell of Northamptonshire Police and 2 members of the public.
Prior to the meeting commencing, Cllr. Mrs. Scouse attended to the formalities of signing her declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk and was duly welcomed to her first meeting as a parish councillor.

14/6976 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted): Cllr. Mrs. C Taylor

14/6977 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

14/6978 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 December 2013, copies of each having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

14/6979 **POLICE REPORT.** Members received a verbal report from PCDO Mitchell on complaints of crime affecting the parish for the preceding month, which comprised 6 minor issues only. Some discussion occurred concerning the theft of an electric fence battery.

In response to a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that difficulties with cars or other vehicles being obstructively parked on the pavement did comprise an offence and could be dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice, I reported (use 101 number). It was also agreed that vehicle speeds in the village were a particular problem currently whilst the A14 improvement works were ongoing.

14/6980 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** Mr. Simon Merrifield of Highcroft Farm addressed the meeting concerning the current Borough Council exercise to identify and promote site for new gypsy and traveller accommodation, with Highcroft Farm being one of the potential sites under consideration. Members heard that the original proposal was for 15 pitches, accommodating approximately 4 units per pitch but this had now been revised to perhaps 9 pitches on a reduced area of about 6,000 square metres; with the remainder of the site remaining likely to be needed for future road improvements as originally planned when acquired.

Councillors were informed that no survey work had been undertaken to assess suitability for these changes, inadequate service infrastructure was present as minimally provided for the existing bungalow and that relied on a biodigester for foul drainage.

The meeting noted Mr. Merrifield's description that the site afforded valuable and unusual habitat; primarily comprising an unspoiled long-grass field that, for example,

supported 23 different types of butterfly (as opposed to the single variety found typically on agricultural land). Additionally, there were a number of rare types of clover and vetches etc. present, and specialist assessment was urged before any decisions were made.

Mr. Merrifield asserted that development at the intensity proposed would represent a significant over-provision of sites compared with the currently assessed need in the district, and when taken in combination with the almost adjacent site already existing in Broughton, would become an over-dominant feature.

The consultation material that had been seen was misleading in that public transport links were properly described, and reliance on any footpath or cycleway was unrealistic given the weight and speed of traffic and lack of any lighting along that length. Mr. Merrifield responded to a number of questions from councillors.

14/6981

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. County Cllr. Groome added to the information provided by Mr. Merrifield by outlining further information he had turned up concerning the history of the acquisition of the site by the County Council, and a plan was considered that showed the extent of the area affected by the Borough Council proposal. Cllr. Groome informed the meeting that the Planning Policy Committee, on 19 February, was apparently unlikely to be considering specific site recommendations, with members being asked to identify their own preferences.

It was suggested that a cross-parish meeting might be beneficial, involving neighbouring villages also likely to be affected. A wildlife and ecology assessment did certainly seem to be necessary on the strength of Mr. Merrifield's evidence and it was likely this would occur during the summer. Councillors agreed the suggestion for a meeting and a date of 29 January was set for this, at Broughton.

Turning to the car park improvement works at the village hall, Cllr. Groome confirmed he would be happy to facilitate a grant of £500 toward this scheme. In respect of finance generally, he reported that the County Council budget was likely to contemplate a Council Tax increase of 1.99% for the County element, which was the maximum allowed without need for referendum. Particular budget pressure arose from recovery plans associated with the recent Ofsted report relating to children's services, and this was very likely to result in cuts elsewhere to compensate. Adult care was especially vulnerable, and proposals were likely to merge adult care provision with the County health service.

14/6982

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from a recent query concerning lack of Borough Council consultation on proposed tree works affecting Parkside at Gate Lane, the meeting heard that following comments being submitted as a result of public prompting, the Borough Council had advised that no consultation had been undertaken.

Arising from 13/6968, it was reported that the submission by the County Council of the suite of drawings for future proposed highway revisions in the village had been looked over by a working group on 27 December. All suggestions made by the

County seemed acceptable although there were two issues of detail affecting vehicle activated signage at High Street and traffic calming at Northampton Road that needed to be raised. The new sign proposed near Silver Street should, preferably, display actual speeds; and the Northampton Road 'narrowing' closest to the village centre should be omitted.

14/6983

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, notifying of the date and venue for the annual Budget Consultation Meeting, to be held on 23 January.
- b) A communication received from the Highways Agency, providing further information concerning the ongoing A14 improvement scheme, including details of temporary speed limits to apply and assurances that noise arising from night time working would be, so far as was possible, kept to a minimum.
- c) An email received from an Engineering Technician at the Borough Council, seeking reports about local surface water flooding; the aim being to capture relevant detail and build a database with which to inform future strategies for tackling floods arising from heavy rainfall and to pre-empt such events when forecast. It was agreed that this communication be circulated.

14/6984

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported upon the working group meeting held on 27 December, which in addition to herself also involved Cllrs. Baxter, Bull, Chester, Cope, Shrive, and Withington; with technical advice and assistance kindly being provided by Mr. L Manning for the first issue considered.

This meeting had first considered the Reserved matters application for the Redrow scheme at Cransley Hill, with it being agreed an extension to the deadline for a response should be sought due to the number and nature of the comments indicated. Cllr. Bull agreed to compile and circulate a draft response for submission.

The working group then considered the latest draft response to the Conservation Area consultation, with various detailed issues being addressed to inform the final response for submission that, again, Cllr. Bull agreed to coordinate.

The group had considered the proposals put forward by the County Council for the various highway revisions, with the result being general agreement of the suggestions subject to those changes described at minute 14/6982.

The Chair then reported on the meeting of the Village Hall Committee, held on 14 January. Business considered by this had included the current healthy level of bookings, the formation of a local karate group, and the continuation of the morris dancing group until at least the end of March. A review was to be undertaken of the siting of the CCTV cameras. The meeting had heard that funding cuts had meant it was likely some Northamptonshire Touring Arts events might have to be withdrawn.

An update had been given on the hall improvement programme. The next meeting was scheduled for 11 February 2014.

14/6985

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

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

The following application had been notified and it was agreed that no observations need be made:-

Westhill Drive (land at) Hedgerow notification Kier Homes

The following application was considered and it was agreed to object to the proposal for the following reasons:-

1. The Broughton slip road is only 2km from the site on the A43 and therefore any traffic travelling south from the site will also pass this turn. The junction is already operating at or beyond capacity with regular accidents occurring and considerable congestion at peak times. Turning right out of the village has become increasingly difficult and it is difficult to judge the speeds of traffic coming from the Kettering direction. There is limited capacity to wait in the middle of the road and at peak times obstructs traffic turning into the village from Northampton. If approval is contemplated, then a planning obligation should be required for improvements to mitigate against the inevitable worsening of these problems that will result. No less than a roundabout, full time lights or part-time lights is needed at the closest Broughton junction and comprehensive re-engineering of the roundabout at the Northampton end of the village (where exiting traffic cannot turn north, so increasing loads on the closest junction and through traffic in the village).
2. The A14 is already very congested in this area.
3. The A43 is already up to capacity and is a red route and is often used as a diversion if there is an accident on the A14 thus increasing traffic in Broughton.
4. It is not clear whether future increases in traffic from Mawsley have been taken into account.
5. The lane marking, signage, and layout between the new junction into the park and the A14 roundabout is counter-intuitive and widely disregarded by drivers, resulting in congestion and potential risks to safety. Increased traffic here, including HGVs, will only exacerbate this.
6. With regards the current junction serving the site itself, the PC do not feel this is satisfactory given current and potential future traffic loadings and would suggest either a roundabout, an underpass below the A43 for traffic turning right into the development, or a dedicated slip road off the A14 junction 8 roundabout; all with the current 40 mph speed limit on the A43 being enforced with cameras.

Old Cransley Ironworks Outline for B1, B2 and C1 scheme St Francis group

The following application had been re-notified and it was agreed to circulate to members for comment:-

44 High Street Single dwelling Mr Purewal

Planning decisions notified:-

The following decision was reported, being an Approval subject to conditions:-

56 Church Street Single dwelling with access Mr Manning

Planning appeals notified:-

The meeting was notified that a planning appeal had been submitted for:-

Broughton Road (north of) Wind turbine and control house Glanmoor

Members then received an update on the residual costs issues arising from the conclusion of the Judicial Review challenge of KET/2012/0709. It was confirmed that representations had been submitted by both parties in accordance with the directions made by the Court and the outcome as to the costs payable was awaited.

14/6986

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

| Income | | | £ |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Barclays Bank PLC | Interest on premium account | | 1.03 |
| Expenditure | | | £ |
| Barclays bank PLC | Store fee | (direct debit) | 1.00 |
| Barclays Bank PLC | Commission | (direct debit) | 2.00 |
| Zen Internet | Web hosting charge | (direct debit) | 4.79 |
| MC Rust | Chair's Allowance | (101586) | 225.00 |
| Broughton PF&VHA | Room hire fees | (101587) | |
| 76.50 | | | |
| GA Duthie | Salary and WP | (101588) | 250.33 |
| HMRC | Income tax | (101589) | 141.20 |
| GA Duthie | Telephone and Electric exps | (101590) | 13.07 |

Members then considered draft estimates for the year 2014/15, that had necessarily be drawn on the basis that a full costs award in favour of Kettering Borough Council of £6,500 would become payable arising from the unsuccessful legal challenge to the Redrow planning permission. The estimates as submitted, also included for grant expenditure at a level of £2,500, which would allow the recent request from the Village Hall Committee to be met, if members wished for this to occur. After allowing for the complete withdrawal of revenue support from the Borough Council for the forthcoming year, the suggested precept amount that resulted was £15,000 to cater also for contingencies.

Some discussion took place, especially around the level of support indicated for the Village Hall; views included that the hall request should be met in full, and that the current exceptional circumstances meant that a lesser amount should be advanced.

In order to progress matters, Cllr. Bull proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the principle of a grant being made available for the hall be settled.

The principle having been established, the Chair then proposed and Cllr. Baxter

seconded that provision be made for the grant request of £2,000 to be met in full. This was put to the vote and agreed by 5 votes to 2 (1 abstention).

In light of the above, and after a proposal by Cllr. Bull that the precept be limited to £13,500 was not supported, a proposal to precept the sum of £15,000 was made by the Char and seconded by Cllr. Cope. Upon being voted upon, this was carried by 5 votes to 4 on the Chairman's casting vote.

14/6987 **NEW VILLAGE CENTRE NOTICE BOARD.** This was deferred for a month.

14/6988 **BROUGHTON NEWS.** This was also deferred for a further month.

14/6989 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS (continued).**
Borough Cllr. Hakewill having arrived after the item was considered earlier in the meeting, was invited to present his report. Cllr Hakewill first confirmed that he had been delayed due to attending the Executive meeting at the Borough Council, where agreement has been made to the setting of the Neighbourhood Plan Area requested by the Parish Council. Further information was provided concerning the likely shape of the report to be considered by the forthcoming Planning Policy Committee in connection with the Gypsy and Traveller accommodation exercise in line with an email that had been circulated. In respect of the precept decision that had just been made, comfort might be taken from the fact the precept applying to Mawsley village was in the order of £65,000 this year.

14/6990 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
Cllr. Baxter reported that two street lamps were out in Gate Lane, and that one outside 40/42 Grange Road might also be faulty.

The Chair then reported that, due to current poor health, Cllr. Mrs. P Roke had written to tender her resignation from the Parish Council, which resignation had been accepted with regret. Members noted that Mrs. Roke had been sincerely thanked for her very many valuable contributions whilst serving as a councillor, and advised that she would be very welcome indeed to stand again for election or co-option as may be relevant if/when circumstances were ever such that she felt the inclination to serve in this capacity once more.

14/6991 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 15 January 2014, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

14/6992 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 9:17pm

26 February 2014

Signed.....

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR 2014/2015

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Clerk's employment costs | 4,500.00 |
| Chairman's Allowance | 230.00 |
| Subscriptions, printing, publications and incidentals | 1,500.00 |
| Publication costs of "Broughton News" | 650.00 |
| Insurances | 750.00 |
| Postages and Telephones | 275.00 |
| Audit Fees | 175.00 |
| Bank Charges | 60.00 |
| Electricity | 75.00 |
| Repairs and Renewals | 250.00 |
| Rents and room hire charges | 175.00 |
| Parish plan account – ringfenced balance held | 385.00 |
| Street Lighting Improvements | 2,000.00 |
| Pocket Park | 500.00 |
| Grants and discretionary expenditure etc. (includes S137) | 2,500.00 |
| Costs claim for Cransley Hill judicial review (KET/2012/0709) | 6,500.00 |
| | ----- |
| | 20,525.00 |
| | ----- |

Contingencies (potential significant additional expenditure)

| | |
|--|----------|
| Clerk's contractual retirement gratuity | 2,000.00 |
| Costs of recruitment new Clerk | 450.00 |
| Contribution to High Street/road safety scheme | 3,500.00 |
| | ----- |
| | 5,950.00 |
| | ----- |

Balances (most recent statements as at 15 Jan 2014)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Community Account (10 Jan) | 6,872.73 |
| Business Saver Account (31 Dec) | 8,291.83 |
| | ----- |
| | 15,164.56 |
| | ----- |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| <u>Grant 2014/15</u> | 0 |
| <u>Suggested precept</u> | 15,000.00 |

15 January 2014