

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs HJ Bull (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs JC Chester, JH Noble, Mrs PA Scouse, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.  
County Cllr C Groome.  
PCSO K Ellerby of Northamptonshire Police.  
Mr D Moody of NALC

Prior to the meeting commencing, and given the apology for absence tendered by both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, the councillors present agreed by consensus to appoint Cllr. Mrs HJ Bull to the Chair for the purposes of the meeting.

**14/7109**      **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted): Cllrs. Mrs MC Rust (caring commitment), R Shrive (working abroad), Mrs C Taylor, Rev. B Withington (pastoral commitment), and Borough Cllr. J Hakewill (diary conflict).

**14/7110**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**14/7111**      **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 17 September 2014, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**14/7112**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of the facility was made at this meeting.

**14/7113**      **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Groome presented his report, as circulated by email on 13 October. This provided information concerning the excavation of a former Roman settlement at Chester Farm, Irthlingborough; emerging initiatives to improve technical and vocational education opportunities; County Council financial pressures, especially confronting Children's Services and Care for the Elderly; the completion of a further and independent ecological survey of the Highcroft Farm site; continuing work on the improvement scheme for the Pytchley cross-roads junction; and attendance with Cllr Mrs Groome of the civic service and exhibition commemorating the start of the Great War.

In respect of the new Highcroft Farm study, members noted this had revealed a varied and extensive habitat value attaching to the site that would be pressed with the two authorities concerned in promoting the development proposal. Members discussed with Cllr Groome the likely next steps on the project and timings for these.

In response to a query from Cllr Baxter, it was confirmed that the Pytchley cross-roads scheme was taking longer than intended to finalise due to continuing negotiations with the neighbouring landowners who were able to facilitate some the improvements being proposed.

A discussion then ensued arising from and following advice by Cllr Mrs Scouse that

there appeared to be an official aspiration afoot to realise a significant area of amenity space between the villages of Broughton and Mawsley without it being immediately clear what, if any, development proposal this might relate to.

*County Cllr Groome withdrew from the meeting following the conclusion of this item.*

**14/7114**

**NCALC – PRESENTATION BY MR D MOODY.** The meeting welcomed Mr Moody, Chief Executive of Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, who was in attendance to apprise councillors of the benefits of membership of the Association.

The meeting heard that Broughton PC had not been a member of the Association since 2010 and that of the 211 local councils in the county, 204 were presently members. Mr Moody emphasised this represented a network of local councils, many sharing similar issues.

Various recent examples of issues confronting member councils where support had been provided were described and, although it was apparent from minutes of recent meetings that Broughton PC was both active and effective, it should not be overlooked that membership brought with it access to free at point of use advisory services. These included for areas such as legal queries, human resources, training, and could be tailored to the specific needs of the council and its individual members.

Members noted the annual subscription was, unfortunately, imminently due to increase and, for Broughton, would amount to £666 on the basis of its current demography. In the context of this, various local comparables for Band D council tax recharges (reflecting precept income raised) were cited.

A number of questions were dealt with by Mr Moody, including one relating to the nature and intensity of development pressures presently confronting the village, where there was a perception decisions were being imposed contrary to the democratic mandate. The benefits (or otherwise) of lobbying in such circumstances were discussed and whilst there was strength in numbers, it had to be recognised this could also be counter-productive if negatively conducted.

*Mr Moody was thanked for his presentation and withdrew from the meeting following the conclusion of this item.*

**14/7115**

**POLICE REPORT.** PCSO Ellerby gave a verbal report to members on the incidents complained of over the last month and also explained that the marked increase in violence featuring in the previous report was largely due to domestic confrontations. In response to a question, it was confirmed that there continued to be a police focus on difficulties connected with the school run and there was the possibility of joint working being undertaken with the school to try and reduce the potential for this. Arising from concerns communicated by a local resident, the officer was informed of suspicions of drugs related offences occurring in the village, and information was also passed on concerning speeding vehicles in certain locations.

*PCSO was thanked and released from the meeting at the conclusion of this item.*

**14/7116**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Arising in respect of the Highcroft Farm proposal, members

noted that the new ecology study was now available for perusal and made very interesting reading given the variety of species noted and the rarity of many of these.

Arising from 14/7106, Cllr Baxter advised that significant work had been on the telephony network serving the Grange Road estate and it was hoped this would resolve the recent problems being suffered by residents there.

Arising in respect of the forthcoming parish elections to be held in May 2015, it was agreed that the January 2015 agenda should include an item for publicity to be given to these so as to promote potential candidacy.

#### **14/7117**

**CORRESPONDENCE.** The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A letter received from the Mayor of Kettering, Cllr Duncan Bain, giving publicity and inviting attendance at the Civic Ball, to be held on 7 November 2014.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council, notifying of the result of the initial Community Governance Review consultation, following consideration by the Borough Council on 24 September 2014. The meeting noted that the final proposal endorsed by the Borough, in light of comments received, was to leave the number of seats for the parish council at eleven, as existing. Councillors were informed that further consultation would now be undertaken on this proposal, with the outcome to be considered by the Borough Council at its meeting on 17 December 2014.
- c) A letter received from Thorpe Malsor Parish Council, providing a copy of a letter recently sent to the Leader of Northamptonshire County Council, expressing concern about the difficulties for users of the junction of Gypsy Lane and Rothwell Road, Kettering, and the impact for those delayed in attending services at the Crematorium or appointments at the hospital. It was agreed these concerns were valid but also that there was little prospect of physical changes being made to address them given the land constraints and traffic pressures in the vicinity.
- d) A letter received from the County School Admissions Team, providing material for display concerning the primary school places application process relating to children turning 4 during the year from 1 September 2014; the application window closing on 15 January 2015.
- e) A communication received from the Borough Council, providing information and a pro-forma to facilitate the levy of any precept thought necessary for financial year 2015/16. Members noted that the pro-forma needed to be completed and returned by 30 January 2015 and heard also that draft estimates would be considered, as usual, at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

#### **14/7118**

**REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.**

Although not present at this meeting, Cllr Mrs Rust had provided email updates following a meeting attended by her, accompanied by Cllr Baxter, on 29 September 2014 with representatives of NCC/MGWSP and the Head of Broughton School, Ms C Shortt, concerning fears being expressed by parents and school staff over dangers associated with irresponsible parking in the vicinity and the lack of visible warning of the existence of the school entrance. It had been agreed that parking restrictions during school hours could be considered, coupled with higher visibility signage to

warn approaching drivers. There was also the possibility of illuminated warning signs but the cost of these (circa £5,000) meant provision would need to be bid for and assessed against competing needs.

Members noted the same meeting had also considered the possibility of parking restrictions for Coxs Lane, in the vicinity of the proposed pedestrian access to the Redrow development site opposite Silver Street. MGWSP had agreed to seek restrictions in the construction traffic management plan to prevent deliveries at times conflicting with the school run and would also seek measures ensuring construction connected vehicles are not parked on the highway. The possibility of S106 contributions being used for illuminated warnings was discussed and would be explored but this was thought an unlikely prospect.

Councillors were also informed about the business considered at the meeting of the Rural Forum, held at Wilbarston. Most significantly, questions raised concerning the community fund had been left with Borough Council representatives to answer as responses had not been offered on the night, and there had also been a revision asserted of the previously advised CIL position for the district (where no charging schedule looked to be being adopted). Members noted that the street lighting review would shortly be reported and precepting/abolition of grant continued to be a contentious matter for many.

**14/7119**

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**

No consultations on applications had been notified and no determinations advised; a notification had been received that the application relating to 44 High Street for the erection of a new dwelling (as previously objected to by the Parish Council) would be considered by the Borough Planning Committee on 21 October 2014. After revisiting the objections previously made and after considering photographic and plan material depicting the constraints of the site, it was agreed verbal representations would be made to this meeting in support of the observations already made.

**14/7120**

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

<b>Income</b>			<b>£</b>
Barclays Bank PLC	Interest on deposit account		1.13
<b>Expenditure</b>			<b>£</b>
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit )	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit )	4.00
Barclays Bank PLC	Store fee	(direct debit )	1.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101622 )	252.24
HMRC	Income tax	(101623 )	148.82
GA Duthie	Telephone and electric exps	(101624 )	19.60

**14/7121**

**POCKET PARK.** The meeting considered how best the efforts of any volunteers might be utilised in an effective and sustainable manner and it was agreed a management plan would be essential to underpin this, so that necessary tasks could be broken down into achievable elements and those elements realistically too onerous for volunteers could be identified and programmed for specialist hired assistance when necessary. With this latter eventuality, especially, in mind it was agreed the

estimates under preparation for the next financial year should provide for a contingency for this purpose.

**14/7122** **WEBSITE.** It was agreed this item should be carried forward to the November meeting given the absence of Cllr Mrs Rust.

**14/7123** **GATEWAY PLANTERS.** It was also agreed this item (together with the matter of the new noticeboard) should be considered at the next meeting.

**14/7124** **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**  
Cllr Mrs Scouse reported that the Coxs lane to Crane Close right of way was very afflicted with nettle growth.

Cllr Mrs Chester mentioned the litter bin outside the fish and chip shop was persistently overflowing lately

Cllr. Baxter reported complaints had been received concerning the disrepair of the bus shelter near the Grange Road junction.

Cllr. Mrs. Scouse reminded the meeting that thought would soon need to be given to street naming suggestions and there was an outstanding nominee for this.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull re-raised the issue of malodourous material (thought to be chicken guano) deposited adjacent to the hedge line on fields off Northampton Road.

Redrow development mop-up meeting with KBC still needed.

**14/7125** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 19 November 2014, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

**14/7126** **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

19 November 2014

Signed.....