

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 17 September 2014, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs. MC Rust (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs. HJ Bull, Mrs PA Scouse, Rev. B Withington, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.  
County Cllr. C Groome and Borough Cllr. J Hakewill.  
One member of the public

**Prior to the meeting commencing, a minute in silence was observed to mark the passing of former parish councillor and long standing vice-chairman of the Parish Council, Mr John Stamper, who had sadly passed away on 29 August 2014.**

**14/7093**      **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted): Cllrs. Mrs. JC Chester (holiday), Mrs. PA Cope (unwell), JH Noble (working), and R Shrive (working abroad).

**14/7094**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**14/7095**      **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 16 July 2014, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**14/7096**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of the facility was made at this meeting.

**14/7097**      **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** In addition to presenting his report circulated by email earlier in the day (touching upon the Pytchley crossroads scheme, school capacity issues, and promoting the availability of apprenticeships), County Cllr. Groome advised that negotiations with adjoining landowners continued for the crossroads project, the numbers of school-age children were currently soaring with S106 funded capacity increases lagging considerably behind. Cllr. Groome provided details of a link to a Department of Communities and Local Government consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy relating to Gypsy and Traveller development. The meeting then thanked Cllr Groome for facilitating the recent resurfacing works to Cransley Road.

Borough Cllr. Hakewill then also provided some information concerning the same DCLG policy consultation, discussed with members recent business considered by the Rural Forum, and suggested that there appeared to be no reason why multiple applications could not be made by individual parishes for assistance under the new Community Fund initiative. There also occurred some discussion of the recent Planning Committee meeting and, in particular, the debate of the latest Redrow application to change house types at the Cransley Hill site, which had been resolved to be refused.

**14/7098**      **MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from 14/7089, members were informed that the team at Travis Perkins Limited who had been canvassing for a pocket park site to work upon as part of a community challenge had now settled upon a site more local to their office.

Arising from 14/7090, the Chair confirmed that Mr. Danny Moody of NALC had now been invited to attend the October meeting of the Parish Council to make his presentation on the benefits of membership of the association.

Arising also from 14/7090, members heard that further information had been received from MGWSP clarifying the proposed relocation of vehicle activated signage in the village. The contractor had advised that the only change affecting Kettering Road was to relocate the existing sign further into the village, to be broadly opposite the junction of Silver Street. Having referred to the query raised by Cllr Shrive that was being responded to, members believed clarification was still needed as to whether physical calming measures (speed humps etc) were intended for Northampton Road.

Arising from the recent successful grant application made to Locality for neighbourhood plan funding assistance, Cllr. Mrs. Bull confirmed that the grant conditions applying required the provision of monitoring information and the refund of any monies not expended on the exercise.

Arising in respect of strategic development proposals generally, Cllr. Withington had circulated some information received in connection with a parcel of land comprising approximately 47 hectares located between Mawsley and Cransley that was presently being marketed.

Arising from 14/7083, the Chair reported that one of the recently planted trees in the High Street recreation ground, which had been drooping badly, had now failed completely and it was agreed to seek its replacement.

#### **14/7099**

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

- a) A letter received by the Chair from Cllr. Mrs PA Cope advising of her resignation from the Parish Council with effect from 15 September. Mrs. Cope had explained that she had been suffering poor health and did not feel able to continue in office with the imminent onset of winter also to contend with. Councillors noted the resignation with regret and wished to record their thanks to Mrs. Cope for her long service to the Council and all her contributions and support over this time. The Clerk agreed to notify the Elections Manager of the resulting vacancy.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council in respect of an initiative by the Information Commissioner, intended to assist local councils meet their freedom of information obligations. Members noted a series of training workshops was being held in Cheshire between 27 and 29 January 2015.
- c) Notification received from the Borough Council of a review to commence shortly in respect of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Kettering District and Constituency. Members noted that comments were invited before 30 November 2014 and it was agreed that the Baptist Chapel continued to be the preferred location for the village polling station.
- d) A letter received from District Law on behalf of the Borough Council, confirming that the costs claim arising from the Judicial Review claim brought by the Parish Council in respect of the handling of the Redrow Homes planning application had now been settled upon the payment of the sum of £3,255 as

- previously resolved.
- e) A communication received from the Borough Council, advising of changes to the system of electoral registration arising from the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration. Posters were provided for local display.
  - f) An email exchange between the Chair and MGWSP representatives arising from concerns raised with the County Council about highway safety in the vicinity of the school, both currently and in the future given the recent planning approval for major housing development on nearby land. Councillors noted a site meeting had been arranged for 30 September at 2:45pm so that any issues can be identified during the school run occurring then. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr. Baxter would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
  - g) A communication received from the Village Hall Committee advising of recent issues arising with security at the hall. Members noted that there had been problems with the hall itself and the car park not being properly secured after bookings. Key holders were accordingly being asked to pay particular attention to locking-up and, especially, when multiple bookings were taking place as this seemed to be a cause of problems.
  - h) A further communication received from the Village Hall Committee advising of a change in wi-fi access codes.
  - i) An advice note received from the Borough Council concerning the introduction of regulations allowing the filming and digital reporting of all public meetings of local government bodies. The meeting heard an official guidance document had been produced and the changes had taken effect from 6 August 2014.

#### **14/7100**

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

The Chair reported upon her attendance at the following meetings and minutes of the meetings held on 8 July and 12 August were placed on circulation:

- a) The meeting of the Village Hall Committee on 12 August. Matters considered included that wi-fi access was now to be provided to regular hirers and could be made available for casual bookings if needed; the BMX track was to be tidied but left otherwise as is; alterations to the small committee room are to commence shortly but will not include changes to the flooring until/unless required by the proposed extension; the drawings for the proposed extension to be made available for parish councillors to consider and to be displayed at the forthcoming village show; and the scope for involvement of the Association in the Neighbourhood Plan exercise.
- b) The meeting of the Village Hall Committee on 9 September. Business included that the proposed extension plans were to be emailed for circulation to councillors; invoice dates for Parish Council room hires were to be revised to avoid the August recess; painting works had been completed in the small committee room; main hall floor had been repaired and was to be thoroughly cleaned when the hall was free; and facilities for playing boules were to be provided. The next meeting was scheduled for 14 October.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull then reported upon the following meetings/events that had been attended:

- a) A useful meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan group, particularly assisted by good information provided by Ms Julia Baish of the Borough Council.
- b) Attendance with other members at the last meeting of the Borough Council

Planning Committee, which had considered the latest planning application by Redrow Homes to substitute house types on two plots (revised from three) at the Cransley Hill/Coxs Lane site. The meeting heard that representations had been made to this committee for the Parish Council and, after considerable debate and in the face of officer advice, the committee had resolved to refuse the application for reasons broadly aligned with the objections raised by the Parish Council, including the proposal's inconsistency with the original outline consent conditions seeking to restrict roof heights and designs to ensure the development was in keeping with local character. A recording of the proceedings was made available for those who had not been able to attend and this was agreed to reveal the level of contention that existed around this proposal.

- c) A visit to the Rothwell offices and site works of the A14 widening scheme, as hosted by the contractor, Morgan Sindall. Those attending agreed this had been extremely interesting and valuable in understanding the engineering and traffic management issues arising from this major project. Visiting councillors had been impressed with the approach being taken and the significant care being exercised to ensure as little disruption as was possible was caused whilst the works were performed.
- d) The Village Show event; which had been especially successful for the Neighbourhood Plan group in that 4 or 5 additional volunteers had been recruited as a result of the display and engagement possible at the event. The meeting heard that the show generally had again been very well attended and enjoyed by all.

In respect of the plans displayed for the proposed extension to the village hall, Cllr. Mrs. Bull expressed some concern at the potential for vandalism given the amount of glass envisaged by the scheme. Members noted that although previous problems appeared to have thankfully abated over the last few years, the committee should not lose sight of the fact that a design that promoted natural surveillance by avoiding recesses and accessible roofs etc would likely minimise the possibility for such problems to recur.

#### **14/7101**

**POLICE REPORT.** No officers were in attendance. The usual statistical reports for July and August were circulated; these revealing 20 offences during these two months with half of these being accounted for by complaints of violence, which was concerning.

#### **14/7102**

##### **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**

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

The following application had been notified and it was agreed that the same should be objected to as this new dwelling will be situated in open countryside beyond the village boundary. The reason provided for the new property would be for a rural worker to live near his place of work however the applicant further advises in the planning statement that the new property will be required for use by an elderly family member. It was noted that there are purpose built properties in the village that will provide appropriate and suitable accommodation for elderly residents; and there is the existing property at 42 Kettering Road which is related to this smallholding which fulfils the need for a rural worker to live near his place of work. Furthermore, the

applicant has previously submitted an application in 2013 for a dwelling at 42 Kettering Road, albeit of different style/larger scale. The decision to refuse was appealed and the appeal was dismissed, principally on the basis that it was development in the open countryside and contrary to policies RA3, RA5 and Policy 1, Policy 9 of the Core Spatial Strategy (Appeal ref APP/L2820/A/13/2193772). Since this Appeal and building on the Inspector's findings, the designation of Broughton as a Principal Village by the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy has been withdrawn and Kettering Borough Council is now able to demonstrate a very healthy 5 year housing land supply:

42 Kettering Road (adj)      New dwelling      Mr Chapman

**Planning Decisions notified:**

The following decisions had been notified, being approvals with conditions:

Little Chef, A14 west	Extractor fan and external doorways	KFG Restaurants
Land at west Street	Replacement garage after demolition	Mr Underwood
2 St Andrews Way	Entrance porch, canopies, extension	Mr & Mrs Fox

The following decision had been notified, being a refusal with reasons:

Cransley Hill (land off)      Substitution of house types (2 plots)      Redrow Homes

**14/7103**

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

<b>Income</b>		<b>£</b>
Locality	Neighbourhood Plan grant	3,055.50
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>£</b>
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge - Aug (direct debit )	4.79
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge - Sept (direct debit )	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission (direct debit )	4.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP (101617 )	252.24
HMRC	Income tax (101618 )	142.82
BDO LLP	Audit fee (101619 )	120.00
BPF&VH Assn	Room hiring fee (101620 )	64.60
GA Duthie	Telephone (101621 )	24.07

Members then heard that the audit of the Parish Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 had been concluded with no matters of concern being raised by the external auditor.

**14/7104**

**POCKET PARK.** Members heard that the display at the recent village show had generated a reasonable amount of interest such that several potential volunteers had been identified. In terms of progressing matters, it was agreed that a programme of achievable spring tasks would need to be prepared, larger tasks might be suitable for a contractor to be engaged, and, if needs be, consideration might be given to supporting the project with monies raised by precept if it was desired to retain the facility for the village as appeared to be the public wish. Information material sourced from Leicestershire by Cllr. Mrs. Scouse was placed on circulation.

**14/7105**

**WEBSITE.** It was agreed the Council should now explore the engagement and retention of a contractor to maintain/develop the website, building upon the good work already done.

**14/7106**

**GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**

Cllr. Shrive had reported by email upon his attendance with Mrs. Shrive at the ceremony to award the Royal Anglian Regiment the freedom of the Borough. Members also noted that, again with Mrs. Shrive, the councillor had discharged the Council's obligations to serve refreshments at the August 'munch and mingle'. Suggestions had also been made as to how to present the October edition of Broughton News so as to incorporate a tribute to former Cllr. John Stamper who edited the publication for very many years.

Cllr. Baxter had raised an issue with an overgrown hedge at 31 Silver Street.

Gateway planters to be an agenda item for October.

Cllr. Baxter raised an issue with repeated failures of the BT telephone system serving the Grange Road estate.

Cllr. Mrs. Scouse provided some information concerning foul drainage arrangements for the Redrow site.

Cllr. Mrs. Bull reminded the meeting of the necessity to ensure robustness of the traffic management plans for the construction of the Redrow scheme; especially in respect of avoiding impacts upon the school.

Chase update on the Northampton Road enforcement notice.

Armistice Day arrangements were agreed, with Mr. Nigel Bull kindly agreeing to perform the recital previously carried out by Mr Stamper.

It was agreed to request the Borough Council to arrange the customary festive light display, with these to be turned on as early as possible in December.

**14/7107**

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

**14/7108**

**URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

15 October 2014

Signed.....