

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 18 February 2015, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs MC Rust (in the Chair), Mrs JC Chester, JH Noble, Mrs PA Scouse, R Shrive, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Groome.
One member of the public.

15/7180 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted): Cllr R Baxter (away), Cllr Mrs HJ Bull (away), Cllr B Withington (away) and Borough Cllr J Hakewill (diary conflict). In addition, PCSO Parish of Northamptonshire Police had been in contact to advise police representation would not be possible due to officer non-availability.

15/7181 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

15/7182 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 January 2015, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

15/7183 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of this facility was made.

15/7184 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Members had received an e-mailed report from County Cllr Groome, which was expanded upon verbally. This again considered the budgetary pressures confronting the County Council; it being stated that something like a 15% reduction in expenditure was required next year to allow for the over-spend in the current year. The councillor's assessment was that children's services, adult care, and waste were all accordingly at risk of service reduction. The County Council were to consider the proposed budget alongside a radical plan to externalise service delivery over the next five years. In respect of the Highcroft Farm proposal, members heard that the indications were this may no longer be in the running as a potential site for Gypsy or traveller provision as the notice to quit served upon the tenant as related to the affected part of the holding had apparently now been withdrawn; it was assumed because of the now confirmed habitat value of the site. Councillors noted that a meeting had been held with representatives of local colleges about apprenticeship take-ups, it being established that something like half available places were not filled due to competing pressures upon students to follow a route into higher education. The issue was to be the subject of further consideration. County Cllr Groome offered assistance as may be needed to ensure the facility of footpath GD15 was not lost due to the housing development at Cransley Hill.

15/7185 **MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from 14/7161, it was noted that the County Council lighting team had now responded on the request to 'switch' the active lighting outside 41 and 43 Northampton Road, with the inactive columns outside numbers 40 and 42. The view of the County was that such a change would leave an unacceptable lighting gap and could not be supported currently, although the pending replacement programme might result in further changes as the affected columns were included in

that scheme to be rolled out between April and September 2015.

Arising from 14/7169, members heard that the new notice board for the village centre should be delivered to the supplier in early March following manufacture, and that steps would be taken to precisely locate the installation site. Additionally, councillors considered and confirmed that the 'header' legend on the case should read 'Broughton Parish Council' but that would not preclude space being made available for the display of local interest material.

Arising from 14/7177, the meeting heard that the Borough Council had kindly offered to assist in replacing the gateway flower boxes by installing any prefabricated units the Parish Council sourced and initially filling. A potential supplier for boxes had been identified and it was also stated that stock for future re-fills might be able to be provided from any bedding surplus then held by the Borough if volunteers could plant. It was agreed to consider this at the April meeting.

Arising from 14/7151, members noted there had been some discussion since the last meeting, and concern expressed, in connection with the obstruction of footpath GD15 where it crossed the land affected by the Redrow Homes development. The meeting heard that a notification had now been received of the making of a temporary closure order made on 16 February, that would continue in force for six months to facilitate the development. Whilst the necessity for this was acknowledged on health and safety grounds, members considered whether there might be any pressure for the right of way to be closed or diverted permanently, and were advised that a separate legal process would need to be invoked if this were desired and that the Council could expect to be consulted in that eventuality.

Arising also from the Redrow development, Cllr Mrs Scouse described that she had made an enquiry of Kettering Borough Council to try and establish what, if any, controls might be in place during construction to protect amenity in Silver Street and at the Kettering Road end of Coxs Lane. During the discussion arising from this, it had been advised that a field access off Cransley Hill would be used until the site entrance from Coxs Lane was provided. Members agreed to continue pressing associated concerns with the Borough and County Councils given the congestion and safety issues that were likely during these works and the conflict with school traffic especially.

15/7186

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A letter received from the Borough Council notifying of arrangements for the forthcoming local government elections and providing copies of nomination packs for prospective candidates. Members noted that the notice of election would be published on 30 March 2015, nominations would close at 4pm on 9 April 2015, and that polling would occur on 7 May 2015.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council, providing a copy map showing what were thought to be the locations of all street lamps in the parish for verification. Following checking and error correction, it was the intention of KBC and NCC to meet with groups of local councils in order to discuss options for future ownership/maintenance. It was agreed this map should be circulated.

- c) A letter received from Mr and Mrs P Horrix, thanking the Council for the recent community volunteer award made in their favour, in respect of the WW1 exhibition arranged by them. Members were pleased to note the award would be put toward a whale watching trip planned as part of a visit to Canada later in the year.
- d) A communication sent by the County Council, providing a highways service satisfaction questionnaire for completion.

15/7187

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

Cllr Shrive reported upon his attendance at the Borough Council budget setting consultation meeting, held on 22 January. Members heard that the hand-outs as provided had been circulated, and that the prevailing message appeared to be one of continuing pressure to save and increased strive to act commercially. In discussion, the concern was expressed that local councils would be expected to take on more service delivery to be underwritten by increased precept raising, whilst Kettering town services would continue to be delivered by the Borough. If so, this was considered inequitable.

Cllr Mrs Scouse reported upon her attendance at the last meeting of the Planning Committee, where the application relating to 44 High Street had been considered. Despite objections, including from the Parish Council, the committee had resolved to grant planning permission subject to conditions including to prevent construction overspill affecting Cransley Hill.

Cllr Mrs Scouse then reported upon her attendance at the Rural Forum meeting held on 5 February. Issues there had included the non-attendance of a portfolio holder able to speak in support of the community fund, a campaign to recruit rural special constables, interesting information from the highways authority on local speed reduction initiatives and constraints on accident reporting/data collection, discussion prompted by NALC of how communications between district and local councils might be improved, the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the budget setting consultation process, the potential for energy generation related planning proposals to be predetermined, and the current position with non-implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy by KBC.

The Chair reported upon the meeting of the Village Hall Committee held on 10 February. Members heard the business included advice that a ward initiative grant kindly offered by Borough Cllr Morton had not proved possible so the monies had been vired to the Parish Council for flower box and pocket park initiatives, that the draft budget was in preparation, that a quotation was to be accepted for the hard-surfacing works and these should commence shortly, that remote CCTV monitoring was now live, and that a consultation event was to be held on 7 March to introduce the plans for the proposed hall extension. The next meeting was scheduled for 10 March 2015 and the minutes of the meeting held in January were placed on circulation.

15/7188

POLICE REPORT. Given officer duty commitments, no verbal report was submitted to this meeting but members noted the monthly figures for December again showed 4 reported incidents; this time being 2 of other burglary, 1 of theft/handling,

and 1 of violence (including domestic). Councillors noted also that the mobile police station had been present in the village recently and suggested that more publicity be given to such visits in advance.

15/7189

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following application was considered and it was agreed no observation need be made:

24 Carter Avenue Side and rear extensions Mr & Mrs Smith

The following application as previously objected to and members noted that the plans had been revised to relocate the solar arrays onto the garage building rather than the listed dwelling, which appeared to overcome the concerns that had been notified:

23 High Street Solar panels and replace windows Mr Dobson

The following application, members having been circulated with a copy of the consultation response submitted in respect of the last application so as to formulate a response, had been commented upon to the effect that the Parish Council objects to this development on grounds that -

1. The 'car park' referred to in relation to the adjoining shop is not an official car park. There is no dropped kerb or formal permission granted to cross the pavement. Should approval be granted it should be a Condition that necessary approvals be secured and an appropriate surface and dropped kerb be provided.
2. The Cransley Hill/High Street junction is a very busy and possibly dangerous one, especially when requiring someone to reverse in or out. An official Traffic Survey carried out in November 2014 by the Highways Authority showed over 15,883 vehicle movements per week, with a daily week-day average of 2,557 movements.
3. Also to be taken into account should be the planned changes due to take place at the junction in line with the Section 106 obligations resulting from the Redrow Development in Cransley Hill/Cox's Lane.
4. Traffic and parking in the High Street are the most contentious issues in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan which is being considered strategically in an effort to bring about a resolution to or easing of the situation.
5. The Council also query whether a new-build should have a front door opening directly onto the street?

44 High Street Two bed dwelling Mr Purewal

Planning decisions reported:-

The following copy decision notices had been received, being approvals with conditions:

23 High Street Solar panels and replace windows Mr Dobson
Broughton Primary School Extend car park and new fencing etc Governors BPS

15/7190

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

Income			£
Kettering BC	Ward grant – Cllr Morton (pocket park/planters)		535.00
Sale proceeds	Surplus filing cabinet from AJPS archive		5.00
Expenditure			£
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit)	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	2.00
Kettering BC	Festive lights invoice	(101644)	628.80
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101645)	252.24
HMRC	Income tax	(101646)	142.82
GA Duthie	Telephone and electric exps	(101647)	22.46
Poppy Print	Broughton News printing	(101648)	95.00

15/7191

POCKET PARK. Cllr Shrive reported that a meeting had now been held at the park to identify immediate priorities, which were the clearances of main pathways through, the removal of low branches that posed a hazard, and the tidying of bramble growth on the boundary with the adjacent property. The internal works had been quoted at £170 plus VAT to attend to and those on the boundary at £200 plus VAT. It was estimated that 3 visits per year should then be sufficient to keep on top of re-growth. Members agreed this programme and that the adjoining owner’s agent be contacted to give consent for the grounds to be entered for the boundary work.

15/7192

WEBSITE. Members noted that Mr Bodicoat had now advised of further information needed to be able to take forward the website improvements; this information was being ascertained and would be provided.

15/7193

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

Cllr Mrs Chester mentioned an issue with a dog at Northampton Road, this being thought a matter for the KBC Dog Warden.

Cllr Shrive mentioned that the Wellingborough Road planters had now been tidied.

Cllr Shrive reminded the meeting that the parking restriction consultation for Cransley Hill needed to be undertaken.

15/7194

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 18 March 2015, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, followed at 8pm by the annual meeting for local government electors.

15/7195

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised and the meeting closed at approximately 8:35pm.

18 March 2015
Signed.....