

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 21 January 2015, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs MC Rust (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, JH Noble, Mrs PA Scouse, R Shrive, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Groome.
Borough Cllr J Hakewill.

As a preliminary issue, members received advice and noted that due to non-attendance of meetings for six consecutive months, the law had operated to terminate the membership of the Parish Council of Cllr C Taylor. The resulting casual vacancy would be notified to the Elections Manager.

15/7164 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies for absence were tendered by (and accepted for the reasons noted): Cllr Mrs JC Chester (work commitment), Cllr B Withington (diary conflict).

15/7165 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

15/7166 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 December 2014, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

15/7167 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of this facility was made.

15/7168 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Members noted County Cllr Groome's emailed report, focusing on budgetary pressures confronting the County Council; the view being expressed that children's services, adult care and waste were all areas placed in risk. Verbally, this was supplemented by a description that pressures had been compounded by a history of over-spending whilst government grant had been reducing. Members heard that a five-year plan was in the course of being rolled out that could dramatically re-shape the structure of the council and result in a very significant employee head count. Discussion then ensued about the potential for unitary authorities for Northamptonshire to be explored once more, and for the increased use of shared services across public bodies.

In respect of the Pytchley cross-roads project, Cllr Baxter queried when the scheme might be complete as works appeared to have stalled and/or even to have been done in the wrong locations (hedge reductions). It was confirmed the scheme should be finalised by March 2015 and that, although somewhat counter-intuitive, the sight lines through the junction were deliberately designed to encourage caution by approaching drivers and thus reduce traffic speeds.

Members also received a verbal update from Borough Cllr Hakewill, which again majored on the ongoing budgetary process, seen in the context of its proximity to the May elections. Cllr Hakewill stressed the continuing availability of the community fund as a source of finance for local initiatives. There then followed some general discussion on various current matters, including recent Rural Forum business,

progress with Neighbourhood Planning generally, the street lighting review, the re-notification of the planning application at Northampton Road, and matters arising from the Redrow consent at Cransley Hill.

15/7169

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 14/7152, the meeting heard that the County highways engineer had responded in connection with the recent ‘near-miss’ reported at the northern junction with the A43. In summary, although the shortcomings of the current arrangements were acknowledged, it had been confirmed the layout and markings were correct and to specification; the difficulties experienced were considered to be due to driver awareness/attention when negotiating the unavoidable conflicts in traffic movements across the junction. Members noted advice that no additional signage was likely to be possible that might assist in reducing potential confusion.

Arising from 14/7151, Cllr Withington had reported that a parishioner had received a communication from Stagecoach that rather dismissed the impact of the lost bus-link to the Mawsley surgery. Although members were aware now that a car service organised by the practice manager did afford a limited alternative, there remained concern at the effect on local people of the change and it was agreed to continue to press the operator for a better explanation and possible review.

Arising from 14/7161, it was confirmed that the Borough Council had now attended to the footway works needed at Bakehouse Lane, and that the damaged tree had been replaced at the bottom of the recreation ground. The footway works especially had resulted in a significant improvement for users and were very pleasing.

Arising from 14/7151, the meeting heard that the chicken manure spread under the hedgerow at Northampton Road looked to have become a harbourage for rodents. It was agreed this should be reported to the Borough Council as a priority.

Also arising from 14/7151, it was reported an order confirmation had been received from the supplier of the new central notice board, and the indication given was that installation could be achieved before the financial year end in accordance with applicable grant requirements.

15/7170

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A letter received from the Borough Council summarising the outcome of the just concluded polling place and polling district review. Members noted the findings in respect of the village did not result in any changes but the review had recorded a need to ensure the existing station at the Baptist Chapel could cope if/when an increase in electorate of 25% over the 2014 figure was seen.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council notifying of the budget consultation meeting to be held on 22 January 2015.
- c) A letter from the Borough Council, advising of the formal outcome of the recently concluded Community Governance Review. As anticipated, the adopted position for Broughton was that the Parish Council was to retain 11 seats at full complement.
- d) A communication sent by the County Council and advising of changes to the opening times for the various household waste recycling centres; this

- information was placed on circulation.
- e) Information received concerning the roll-out of the new fibre broadband service in the village, including posters for display.
 - f) An approach received by the Chair from the administrator of the estate of an owner of property at Gate Lane, seeking a meeting to canvass the potential for the land to come forward as a site for housing development, and enquiring about local planning constraints. The Chair and Vice-Chair agreed to meet with the enquirer on an informal basis.
 - g) A communication from NACRE publicising the fact that this organisation was likely to be losing funding presently provided to it by DEFRA, and seeking support for lobbying activity to reverse this.
 - h) A further communication from NACRE, publicising the annual best village competition. The meeting agreed not to submit an entry this year but felt an entry may be worth making in the next round.
 - i) A letter received from the Mayor of Kettering, notifying of the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration event scheduled for 25 January 2015 under the theme, *'keep the memory alive.'*

15/7171

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair reported upon the meeting of the Village Hall Committee held on 13 January. Members heard the business included an investigation into the cause of a roof leak, confirmation of the grant of planning permission for the extension scheme, an indication of support from the Borough Council for the MUGA proposal, and the likely holding of a consultation event in March to publicise the various alterations. The next meeting was scheduled for 10 February 2015 and the minutes of the meeting held in December were placed on circulation.

15/7172

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; being 1 of criminal damage, and 3 of violence (including domestic). Cllr Shrive mentioned that obstructive/inconsiderate parking was once again becoming a contentious issue in the vicinity of the school with pavements increasingly being used too; often repeatedly by the same drivers.

15/7173

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following application was considered and members **RESOLVED** that whilst there were no concerns in respect of the proposals affecting the windows, the proposed installation of solar panels should be objected to on grounds that the resulting appearance will be incongruous and out of keeping with both the conservation area and listed building, resulting in unacceptable harm to these heritage assets. The building is prominent in its setting and public views especially from the adjacent footway known locally as 'the Knick Knack' were considered likely to be adversely affected:

23 High Street

Solar panels and replace windows Mr Dobson

The following application was considered and members asked to be circulated with a copy of the consultation response submitted in respect of the last application so as to

be undertaken to effect clearance of pathways and it was agreed to seek a quotation for this work from the contractor.

15/7176

WEBSITE. It was confirmed that Mr Bodicoat be provided with access details in order to ascertain what work might be involved in developing and maintaining the site in accordance with an outline he had submitted.

15/7177

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

Cllr Mrs Scouse mentioned that surface water ponding at the southern junction with the A43 had been reported via the Street Doctor service.

Cllr Baxter mentioned that street lamps needed attention outside 11 Cransley Hill and Rectory Farm.

Cllr Shrive updated the meeting on the proposed content of the latest Broughton News, to include an insert commemorating former Cllr AJP Stamper.

Cllr Shrive then mentioned the flower boxes at Northampton Road had been attended to by him and Mrs Shrive; Cllr Mrs Bull indicated she would arrange to do likewise for the Wellingborough Road ones.

The Chair reported that the footway at Gate Lane, leading to the Village Hall, needed siding out.

Cllr Mrs Scouse reminded the meeting that a meeting needed to be held with Taylor Wimpey to establish the company's proposals for its land in the village.

15/7178

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be on Wednesday 18 February 2015, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

15/7179

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised and the meeting closed at approximately 9:30pm.

18 February 2015

Signed.....