

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 20 May 2015, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

15/7227 **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN.** This being the annual meeting of the Parish Council and the first meeting following the parish council election held on 7 May 2015, consideration of business was preceded by the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year after members completed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office. The following appointments were confirmed after nomination and being duly seconded without competing nominations being made:-

Cllr Mrs PA Scouse was appointed as Chair.

Cllr R Shrive was re-appointed as Vice-Chairman.

New Cllr AK Lofthouse was welcomed to his first meeting and councillors agreed to record the meeting's thanks due to the outgoing Chair, Mrs MC Rust, who had decided not to stand at the election and had therefore retired from office. Members agreed Mrs Rust had been a committed and diligent leader for the council and would be very much missed.

15/7228 **APOLOGIES.** None were tendered.

15/7229 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

15/7230 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 April 2015, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

15/7231 **COMMITTEE/OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS.** This was deferred until the June meeting.

15/7232 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use was made of the facility at this meeting.

15/7233 **POLICE REPORT.** A report was presented by PCSO K Ellerby, which included a breakdown of the four reports of crime for the last month. These comprised one incident each of burglary (dwelling), burglary (other), theft of a motor vehicle, and theft from a motor vehicle. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the house burglary was as yet undetected.

A councillor then raised a query concerning a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour being complained of, as apparently committed by a new social housing tenant in the village. PCSO Ellerby advised that, in the first instance, reports should

be directed to the Borough Council who would liaise with the Police in deciding which of their respective powers might best address the issue.

The recurring issue of apparent drug dealing in Gate Lane was then raised by another councillor, and it was confirmed the issue was known and receiving attention.

Finally, in response to another query, discussion occurred of the recent use of a field access from the A43 for construction traffic associated with the Cox's Lane development. The concern was voiced that the use of this access was not thought to be authorised and posed a significant hazard. After discussion, it was generally agreed that the practice had been temporary only whilst heavy plant for a particular purpose was brought onto the site.

15/7234

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. Building upon his monthly report, circulated prior to the meeting, County Cllr Groome mentioned he had been returned to the same committees this year so will be majoring on children's services, safeguarding, corporate parenting, and education. It was also confirmed that railway and flood defence activities would continue.

County Cllr Groome indicated that apprentices would remain a focus too; especially give the apparent resistance to the initiative from some schools, which perceived they might lose revenue if apprenticeships are taken as an alternative to continuing schooling.

The issue of street lighting was again mentioned, with the meeting being advised to keep the matter under review as it seemed likely the Borough Council was desirous of divesting itself of its current lighting responsibilities.

In respect of Highcroft Farm, some discussion occurred around the protections the site might now expect to enjoy given its newly established habitat value, and it was suggested the Neighbourhood Plan might assist in underpinning this.

15/7235

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from the approach from TW Strategic Land in respect of the development proposals for land behind the school, councillors heard that the company had now indicated a desire to engage with the Neighbourhood Plan group to discuss its plans. After some discussion, it was agreed it was now more appropriate for any meeting to be with the Parish Council and, therefore, representatives of the company should be invited to present to a future meeting (perhaps July). In making this invitation, members indicated it should be stressed the exercise was intended as a listening opportunity and the Council would not be able to indicate any stance on proposals that might be advanced.

Arising from the request from residents for new street lighting provision in Brookhaven, the meeting heard that a reminder had been received from Mr Hobbs on their behalf, expressing some frustration at the lack of apparent progress whilst columns were being replaced by the County Council and the time that was passing. Councillors noted that a response had been provided that explained the works being undertaken were unrelated to the outstanding request, which remained the Parish Council's policy. Members also noted that Mr Hobbs' representations had been

communicated to the relevant ward members of KBC due to the present impasse in making the provision requested and previously agreed.

Arising from 15/7203, members were informed that at the close of nominations for the election, on 9 April 2015, seven nominations had been received; including from six of the existing eight councillors. One of those not having been nominated confirmed this was due to oversight and indicated a willingness to be appointed again by co-option following the election if a suitable vacancy then still existed. Given the shortfall against the full complement of eleven, councillors to raise awareness with other prospective candidates for co-option.

Again arising from 15/7218, Cllr Mrs Bull advised the need still existed for more local publicity about dog related nuisance and seeking that owners acted responsibly. It was confirmed a request had been made to the Borough Council.

Arising from 15/7223, Cllr Shrive confirmed that he and Cllr Baxter had inspected the existing village gateway planters to assess what would be needed to replace these. It was their view that seven planters would be needed (six of a large size, and one smaller due to level differences at the Wellingborough Road location). If possible, these should be rot-proof. Steps now to be taken to identify particular products that might fit the bill.

15/7236

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) An email received from the Borough Council, advising of a query from a young resident concerning dilapidations to the basketball court at the Village Hall playing field. Members noted the concerns being raised but, after hearing from Cllr Mrs Bull and the Clerk, expressed some surprise at the query being directed toward the parish Council and Village Hall Association given the facility was actually owned by the Borough Council.
- b) A renewal invitation from Came & Company, insurance brokers, in respect of the Parish Council's insurance policy. Members noted that the broker had tested the market and identified a quotation of £684.40 for equivalent cover to last year, via the offices of Hiscox. As previously, it would be necessary to 'lock-in' to the insurer for a three year term in order to secure the quoted rate and members agreed this course.
- c) A communication received from The Pensions Regulator, advising that the 'staging date' for the Council for purposes of automatic enrolment is 1 June 2015. Members noted that on the basis of the Clerk's current working hours, there was no enrolment necessary but relevant notifications would need to be issued.

15/7237

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

A report submitted by the former Chair, Mrs Rust, of the meeting of the Village Hall Committee held on 12 May was considered. Members heard the business included a request for historic images of the village for display (it being noted that suitable material might be accessed via the Broughton History On-line website), that a ballroom dancing event was being proposed, that feedback from the recent consultation event was still being considered, that water tank replacement had been agreed, that the committee had agreed to request the balance of precept monies for

the Hall be able to be used for updating/replacement of kitchen equipment. Members discussed this latter request and agreed, after some deliberation, that the parish Council's preference would be for precept income to be used only for capital projects and not relatively minor items that were able to be funded from the Association's regular revenue stream. The next meeting (including the AGM) was scheduled for 9 June 2015 and the minutes of the meeting held in May were placed on circulation.

15/7238

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

None were considered at this meeting.

Planning decisions reported:-

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

2A Church Street	Single storey rear extension	Mr D Smith
8 Gables Lane	Detached double garage	Mr Fenton

15/7239

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

Income			£
Kettering BC	Precept received		13,000.00
Expenditure			£
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit)	4.79
NACRE	Annual subscription	(101657)	35.00
Broughton PF&VHA	Village hall hire fees	(101658)	57.80
Broker Network	Insurance premium	(101659)	684.40
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101660)	256.96
GA Duthie	Telephone and electric exps	(101662)	16.54
HMRC	Income tax	(101663)	145.98

15/7240

POCKET PARK. The meeting heard that an offer to cut back certain overgrown Yew trees had been received via Mrs Rust; after discussion and given the ongoing programme of works, members agreed the kind offer should be declined presently.

15/7241

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

It was agreed to ask the Borough and County Councils for their cutting schedules for any grounds maintenance contracts relating to Broughton; concern having been noted as to the extent of overgrowth currently.

Cllr Baxter mentioned that he had addressed by direct action a recent problem with discarded scrap cable ties following the dismantling of safety barriers erected to protect lamp column works. The scrap items had been returned to their owner.

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned that it might now be appropriate to invite Borough Cllr R Roberts to a summer meeting, particularly to engage on various development related matters.

Cllr Withington reported that another lamp in Gate Lane had failed; this being one of

the two that had only recently been repaired after an extended period out of service.

Members noted that surface water arrangements for the Redrow scheme at Cransley Hill appeared to be changing and it seemed likely the originally proposed balance ponds were to be replaced with underground attenuation measures off-site. This to be queried with the case officer.

15/7242

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 17 June 2015, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

15/7243

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised and the meeting closed at approximately 8:45pm.

17 June 2015

Signed.....