

## BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

**15/7310**      **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were tendered by Cllrs JC Chester (work obligation) and R Shrive (away).

**15/7311**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**15/7312**      **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 November 2015, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**15/7313**      **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The meeting was addressed by three residents of Ivydene Terrace, who stated they represented all occupiers of properties accessed off the unmade streets comprising Ivydene Terrace and West Street. Mr B Long for the residents outlined the long-standing problems still being experienced in the vicinity during the daily school runs and indicated that minute 15/7299, arising from the November meeting of the Parish Council, had prompted some interest and concern when seen. This referenced ‘a mix of physical and technological measures’ apparently being considered without being specific as to what these might be; hence the visit today to enquire.

In response, it was explained that no specific proposals had been worked up as yet and the potential approaches referenced were simply measures that had been employed elsewhere to address similar problems and that may lend themselves to being employed in Broughton. Before any specific proposals were considered, there would necessarily be consultation, including with affected local residents (as had been the case with the recent parking restriction proposal that did not find favour so was not progressed). All the Council had done was to receive and look at material sourced from a variety of quarters that discussed such problems in other communities and how they had been addressed and with what success.

The visiting speakers then outlined in more detail the way in which problems in Broughton manifested themselves, with it being described that there were some ‘repeat’ trespassers (individual identified cars being frequently witnessed where they should not be), and that unpleasant or even aggressive response were often received when drivers were asked not to trespass.

Given this description that identified individuals were repeatedly offending, the visiting speakers were asked whether specific complaints to the police had been made

or, even, whether civil remedies were under consideration to retrain incursions. The meeting heard that whilst it was accepted both courses were possible, in practice these were not really a viable option due to the capacity of the police to respond and the resources available to residents to pursue private legal remedies.

Upon the visitors receiving further assurances that the parish Council was very aware of the difficulties being caused and committed to investigating all possible means to lessen them, a lengthy debate ensued. As a result of this, members agreed that a further meeting ought to be requested with the Governors and Head Teacher of the school in the first instance, with the possibility of a wider public meeting to consider the issue also being called. It was generally felt by councillors that a resolution was as likely from peer pressure being brought as from formal measures and it was likely the case that many causing the problem did not fully appreciate the impacts their behaviour was having for local residents.

#### **15/7314**

**REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Groome spoke to supplement his report as emailed around on 17 November 2015. This touched upon the potential for Highcroft Farm to be brought under active management with adjoining land in a different holding as a wildlife site; upon a dialogue just being initiated with the Broughton School to consider best application of the S106 education contributions resulting from the Redrow development; upon a potential financial deficit being accrued by the County Council; upon an impending OFSTED inspection of the County Children's Services function and an associated drive to recruit additional foster carers; and upon the submission of a discussion paper considering the HS2 rail proposal for County Council debate.

In addition to these issues, County Cllr Groome also mentioned he had now agreed to meet the School Head to discuss the S106 contributions; that the recently reported roll-out of de-criminalised parking enforcement might be a little slower to occur than implied due to the necessity for central government approvals; and that details were still needed by him to support his making available funds from his County empowerment budget to assist with the village sign proposal.

Borough Cllr Hakewill then reported upon recent matters he had been involved with; members noting that the requirement for better security measures to prevent incursions onto the High Street recreation ground was continuing to be pressed, and that the issue of the pending gypsy and traveller site specific planning policy was likely to re-emerge shortly for further consideration. It was thought possible that Highcroft Farm would again be favoured in the proposed policy document. Cllr Mrs Bull supplemented this with related information that had been reported at the last meeting of the Rural Forum.

On the subject of planning policy, members heard that public examination of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy had now commenced and it was increasingly clear from this that Neighbourhood Planning was a key focus of the Inspector. Accordingly, Broughton was to be commended for the progress it had made so far toward formulating a draft Neighbourhood Plan, which could only stand it in good stead in the future.

Borough Cllr Hakewill then mentioned issued he had become aware of concerning the operations of the Kettering Loam business and difficulties that had occurred recently with HGV movements/routing and road surface cleansing. Members heard that the operation had apparently been established outside normal planning control so more usual means of addressing these difficulties might not be available but there may be highway controls that could be brought to bear to at least limit the roads affected.

*Borough Cllr Hakewill left the meeting on the conclusion of this item.*

**15/7315**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Arising in respect of the current casual vacancies affecting the membership of the Parish Council, the meeting was introduced to and addressed by Mr Marco Van de Water of 8 Brookhaven, off Gate Lane, who spoke in support of his candidacy for co-option to one of the vacancies. Members heard Mr Van de Water was an architect now practicing and residing in the village, and was very interested in serving as a parish councillor assuming this did not conflict with his professional interests. After some discussion of Mr Van de Water's background and the focus of his practice, and after the Clerk advising when it may be inappropriate to participate (ie upon planning applications submitted by clients being considered), it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Van de Water be co-opted to the Parish Council subject to the usual formalities of declaring acceptance of the office and completing the register of interests. Mr Van de Water to be provided with copies of these when the December meeting agenda was issued.

Arising from 15/7303 and from consideration by the Kettering Borough Planning Committee of the planning application relating to the proposed increase in pitch numbers at 1 The Old A43 on 27 October (this being agreed for approval notwithstanding objection by the Parish Council), members noted various emails being exchanged that encouraged a perception that this application and another gypsy/traveller application at Braybrooke (which was refused consent), might not have been treated as objectively as perhaps they could have been.

Arising from the same item, but also from other experience recently of decisions made by the Borough Council when considering planning related business, the meeting heard that efforts were being made to engage the Borough leadership in an effort to forge better relationships and improve dialogue so as to enhance the potential for co-operation and partnership working. A series of dates had been suggested for a possible meeting if this could be achieved.

Arising in respect of planning policy generally, the meeting heard that councillors had attended the last meeting of the Borough Planning Policy Committee in order to comment upon the draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document that was presently under consideration. Members noted that the representations made had resulted in suggested changes being adopted by the Committee to inform the draft going forward; specifically including a requirement to take into account local knowledge and/or studies of sites' habitat value, rather than relying only upon owners' or developers' own assessments.

Arising from 15/7299, and given the move away from dedicated planters including

on the approach to the Pocket Park, members agreed a proposal that the 'Beryl's Glade' donation be used toward procuring and establishing an area of dedicated native daffodil planting in the park. Accordingly a supply of bulbs had been identified and sourced and a 'planting party' was set to occur on 21 November providing the weather co-operated. All welcome!

Arising from the issues identified on a recent NCC accompanied walkabout, Cllr Baxter confirmed that the barrier posts closing off the redundant access to the Red Lion car park from High Street had now been reinstated in the interests of highway safety.

Arising from the ongoing preparations for the Broughton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, the meeting noted that the sponsoring Group had now formally requested the Borough Council to arrange for Screening of the plan objectives, which had been notified and supported with an accompanying Sustainability Statement.

Arising from 15/7300, Cllr Baxter reported that he had inspected the raised footway at the Bank and was able to confirm that there was indeed a crack opening up that ought to be sealed to prevent weather ingress if further deterioration was to be avoided. The meeting heard this had been reported to the County Council for assessment.

Arising from 15/7299, councillors were advised that two potential species of Birch tree had been identified as perhaps being suitable for the replacement for the memorial tree at the Village Hall grounds. Details of these would be notified to the Borough Council for consideration and advice.

Arising from 15/7307, it was reported that two street lights were now not working in Gate Lane (the usual two).

Arising from 15/7248, Cllr Baxter reported that, sadly, he had to advise Mrs P Cope of Grange Road had needed to stand down from her position as a Council nominated trustee on the Broughton Charities of Bentham and others due to recently having decided to move home away from the village. Accordingly, and subject to Parish Council approval, Mrs Christine Riches of 8 Rose Close had agreed to be appointed and serve in this capacity. Members noted this and **RESOLVED** to appoint Mrs Riches to the role with immediate effect; and also agreed that their grateful thanks to Mrs Cope should be recorded for her years of service to the Charities and their best wishes be extended for the move to her new home.

### **15/7316**

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

- a) A communication received from Cllr James Noble on 12 November 2015, in which Cllr Noble had indicated he had reluctantly decided to resign his membership of the Parish Council with immediate effect. Members noted that a recent change in work commitments had resulted in little time being available for the role and frequent diary conflicts that prevented meetings being readily attended. The meeting heard that, despite these recent difficulties, he had found his time with the Council to be generally positive and expressed his confidence that the remaining membership was well placed to look after village interests as

far as was possible in the face of the weight of emerging development and consultation pressure. In noting the resignation with sadness, members wished to record their thanks for Cllr Noble's contributions during his period in office and also to offer the very best wishes for the continuing success of his new career. It was agreed the resulting casual vacancy would be declared and notified in the usual way.

- b) The Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Rural Forum meeting, on 26 November, was placed on circulation and an electronic link provided.
- c) A letter received from the Borough Council, advising that a Neighbourhood Plan Area designation application had been submitted by Pytchley Parish Council, seeking designation of the entire parish as a Neighbourhood Plan Area. Members noted the parish council intended to promote the proposed plan itself and that comments on the designation could be submitted until 27 November 2015.
- d) A notification received from the Borough Council, advising of a consultation being undertaken in respect of a proposed new Local Development Document to add to the emerging suite of local planning policies, seeking to protect identified Historically and Visually Important Open Spaces. Members noted there were several sites in the parish that were contemplated by the proposed document so it was agreed a copy of the consultation and any underlying material would be circulated for consideration outside the meeting. The closing date for comments was 11 December 2015.

#### **15/7317**

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

The Chair reported generally on her attendance at the November meeting of the Village Hall Committee, which mainly considered housekeeping matters for the Association. The minutes of the meeting held in October were placed on circulation.

The Chair then reported in a little more detail upon the attendance at last meeting of the Borough planning Policy Committee, and the consideration by that body of the proposed Biodiversity SPD. The upshot was that by attending and making representations the Parish Council had been quite successful in securing proposed modifications to the document that should, if adopted in this form, prove assistive in ensuring development proposals were assessed a little more objectively in terms of habitat and biodiversity impacts than might otherwise have been the case. Generally, the experience was that the Planning Policy Committee had been receptive to this late input and willing to take the same into account; which was considered to be a more positive reaction than others encountered lately.

#### **15/7318**

**POLICE REPORT.** No officers were in attendance at this meeting; members noted the usual summary of reported incidents included 7 for Broughton in October being a mix of burglary (2), theft/handling (2), and violence (3).

#### **15/7319**

#### **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**

##### **Planning applications submitted for comment:-**

None had been notified since the last meeting.

##### **Planning decisions notified:**

The following decision notice had been provided, being an approval subject to

conditions:

1 The Old A43 Increase in traveller pitches (1 to 4) Mrs B Hoyland

**15/7320**

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

**Income** **£**

None was reported at this meeting.

**Expenditure** **£**

Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit )	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit )	4.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101679 )	256.96
HMRC	Income tax	(101680 )	145.98
Mr SA Bedford	Bus shelter ground rent	(101681 )	
65.00			
	GA Duthie	Telephone and electric exps (101682 )	18.00
	Broughton PF&VHA	Meeting room hire fees (101683 )	
61.20			

In respect of the invoice for the meeting room hire at the Village Hall, members noted this had included a fee for a meeting in August, when the parish Council did not generally convene. Accordingly, and where no ad-hoc meeting had occurred, it was agreed to seek a 'credit' of this fee against the next invoice.

Members then received and considered draft estimates of anticipated income and expenditure for the financial year 2016/17, including potential contingencies. The draft prepared for consideration (copy attached to these minutes) suggested a precept should be raised in the sum of £13,000 on the basis of the financial activity envisaged for the forthcoming year. After discussion and upon it being confirmed any precept would need to be advised to the Borough Council by 29 January 2016, it was agreed the draft estimates would be left with members for consideration and revisited at the next meeting.

**15/7321**

**GATEWAYS PROJECT.** This was deferred to a future meeting to enable further research of options to be considered given the onerous requirements and limited options initially advised by the County Council for enhanced gateway signage.

**15/7322**

**HIGHCROFT FARM.** Members agreed to keep this site as a standing agenda item for the time being, to ensure any emerging proposals were kept under review and responded to as effectively as possible so as ensure, so far as possible, its preservation given its ecological value.

**15/7323**

**GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**

Cllr Baxter suggested and the meeting agreed that a letter from the Council be sent to the local blacksmiths firm, James Brothers, thanking them for the high quality ironwork undertaken by them to facilitate the recent poppy display; which was thought to be most fitting and attractive.

**15/7324**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 16 December 2015, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

**15/7325**

**URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was closed at 9:17pm.

16 December 2015

Signed.....

**BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/2017**

Clerk's employment costs	4,500.00
Chairman's Allowance	240.00
Subscriptions, printing, publications and incidentals	1,500.00
Publication costs of new style "Broughton News"	300.00
Insurances	700.00
Postages and Telephones	275.00
Audit Fees	130.00
Bank Charges	60.00
Electricity	75.00
Repairs and Renewals	250.00
Rents and room hire charges	175.00
Parish plan account – ringfenced balance held	385.00
Street Lighting Improvements	2,000.00
Pocket Park significant works	3,000.00
Gateway planter replacements	2,000.00
Central village sign plinth	1,500.00
Grants and discretionary expenditure etc. (includes S137)	2,500.00
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	19,590.00
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**Contingencies (potential significant additional expenditure)**

Clerk's contractual retirement gratuity	2,000.00
Costs of recruitment new Clerk	450.00
Contribution to High Street/road safety scheme	3,500.00
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	5,950.00
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**Balances (most recent statements as at 11 Nov 2015)**

Community Account	16,882.24
Business Saver Account	8,442.23
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	25,324.47
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<b><u>Grant 2016/17</u></b>	0
<b><u>Suggested precept</u></b>	13,000.00

18 November 2015