

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 21 September 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), Mrs HJ Bull, A Parker, R Shrive, M Van de Water, N White, Rev. B Withington, O Wyeth, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.  
County Cllr C Groome  
Sergeant S Little and PCSO J Parish of Northamptonshire Police  
Fourteen members of the public

Prior to the meeting commencing, new parish councillors Nicholas White and Alan Parker completed their declarations of acceptance of office so as to be able to participate in accordance with the co-options previously resolved.

**16/7470** **APOLOGIES.** Cllr R Baxter tendered apologies for absence due to being away, and Cllr Mrs JC Chester apologised for absence due to a work commitment.

**16/7471** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**16/7472** **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 July 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**16/7473** **POLICE REPORT.** This was considered as part of the following item.

**16/7474** **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** A number of local residents were in attendance to express concern in respect of the level and nature of incidents occurring in the village lately. The meeting heard that the latest recorded figures, although a week or two out of date, did not seem to reflect the experience of local people. The consensus of those present was that significant under-recording was occurring, especially in respect of break-ins, thefts and vehicle related crime (including speeding).

PCSO Parish took some time to explain that a new reporting system had been introduced very recently and this was, to some extent, still bedding in so might account for some discrepancies; also, Sergeant Little described there was a temptation for people to believe that because incidents were described or referred to on social media the police must know of them. This was not the case and the message must be that incidents did need to be reported directly. During the discussion of this, it became apparent that Broughton and Little Cransley might now be being treated as separate villages for reporting purposes, which would be addressed.

It was confirmed that other communities in the County apart from Broughton were also experiencing an increase in the number of incidents being suffered. Burglaries and shed-breaks etc were especially being seen in more numbers than usual. Within available resources, this was being responded to and one arrest had been made within the last few days that might be linked to a number of crimes in the period of concern.

In discussion, the question was asked whether there was more the community could do in order to assist the police response; Neighbourhood Watch was apparently not as well supported now as in previous years and this, especially, could be very effective with information sharing so some were working to revive interest. In addition, a 'telephone tree' system had been proposed for the Church Street area. Those present also noted that Borough Cllr Hakewill was in the process of arranging a public meeting given the degree of community interest in the issue.

After hearing the experiences of those visiting members of the public when trying to report incidents, members concluded that the 101 service was perhaps not working as effectively as it might due to the 'filtering' of reports required and undertaken by call handlers in order to allocate responses. For non-urgent reports, emails to the safer community team were an alternative that would enable officers to have a clearer picture of what was occurring; urgent calls needing an emergency response should be directed via 999. One incident was discussed in some detail where even a 999 call had not produced a response.

It was agreed that in many cases property might not have been secured as well as it might have been and Sergeant Little described how there were instances where officers had even closed windows of unoccupied rooms found open on patrols. Similarly, people should be aware of the potential for the misuse of information posted on social media if holiday absences etc were publicised.

There followed a discussion about the usefulness of CCTV images in detecting offenders and whether suspicious activity could be publicised. The advice given was that such images should be offered to the police who were best able to act upon the same.

County Cllr Groome confirmed then that the experiences being described at this meeting were very similar to those seen in other communities and the issue had been considered at a strategic reporting meeting convened by the Police and Crime Commissioner recently. The key message to take away seemed to be that, when reports were telephoned in, a 'crime' number (not 'incident' number) should be asked for, as these were treated quite differently in analysing patterns of offending.

The Chair confirmed that the parish council would continue to monitor the situation and support Cllr Hakewill in accommodating the public meeting he was pursuing.

#### **16/7475**

**REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Groome then supplemented his written report of recent County Council related activity as circulated previously by updating members on the current position with the education contribution secured in respect of the Redrow development; it being the case that pressure may need to be brought by the Broughton School governors to ensure the monies were actually applied for the specific purpose set out in the S106 Agreement and not more generally, as seemed the present intention.

#### **16/7476**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Arising in respect of the current vacancy on the parish council, members noted that an expression of interest had now been received from

Mr Martin Rose, a village resident, who had provided information in support of his candidacy. Mr Rose was in attendance and was invited to address members to supplement this. Where there were now three potential candidates for one vacancy, once formally declared (and assuming no election was called for), it was agreed the way forward would be to invite all to a future meeting for the matter to be decided. Members were very encouraged by the level of interest in serving by clearly capable candidates after some time of running under strength, which could only be to the benefit of the community.

Arising in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan process, members noted that the County Council had provided some initial indicative thoughts for discussion on possible traffic management improvements for key roads through the village and these would be taken under consideration.

Arising in respect of general village maintenance issues, the meeting noted that the pavement from Paston House and leading out of the village had been made wider by siding out overgrown vegetation as requested.

**16/7477**

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

- a) A communication advising that a grant application made by the Village Hall Association and supported by Cllr Shrive had been successful. This was to assist with the costs of the village show.
- b) A communication advising of the availability of copies of the NN Joint Core Strategy document, following adoption.
- c) Information concerning the introduction of new parking arrangements for parish councillors and clerks visiting the Borough Council offices on official business.
- d) A query received from the committee administrator for the Rural Forum in connection with whether a lighting ownership map had been received within the last 12 months.
- e) A communication from Borough Cllr Hakewill providing a copy of a recent appeal decision relating to a caravan site at Braybrooke, for information.
- f) Copy exchanges with land agents, Savills, concerning the present status of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the likely timeframe for consultation to be embarked upon.
- g) Information from CPRE concerning that organisation's Autumn Road Show event, on 27 October at Great Houghton.
- h) Notification received from the County Council of resurfacing works to be undertaken to the A43/A14 roundabout requiring closures and diversions over two weekends from 11 and 18 November 2016. The proposed diversion details were placed on circulation.

- i) A request from the County Council for contact details for submission of consolidation material connected with the production of the new definitive map of public rights of way.

**16/7478**

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

Cllr Mrs Bull reported upon the last two meeting of the Rural Forum, where business before the forum had included a review of rural transport serving Wilbarston, which most affected the very young and the very old; the related issue of bus service viability; street lighting responsibilities; the adoption of the Core Spatial Strategy with very few modifications affecting rural areas; a proposed methodology for considering and determining solar farm applications so as to try and steer onto commercial roof space in preference to farmland; police reporting, including a claimed clear-up rate of 2.8%; the availability of economic diversification grants locally; consideration of the issue of overnight/rest-time HGV parking given the adverse consequences of this being predominantly layby based at present, the forum pressing for new distribution centres to be required to include for holding areas when being planned; and a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

**16/7479**

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**

**Planning applications submitted for comment:-**

The following proposals were considered, and members concluded no observations need be made:

11A Grange Road	Garage extension	Mr Goodall
9 Kettering Road	Porch and garage alterations	Mr Bennett
Ratcatcher, Church Street	Alterations to barn conversion LBC	Mr Reynolds
71 Northampton Road	First floor extension	Mr & Mrs Burke
3 Riggall Close	First floor side extension	Mr Williams

In respect of the following proposal, members noted that a response had been submitted over the summer recess, after consultation with councillors, flagging concerns at the potential for lost heritage value and damage to the conservation area resulting from any redevelopment of the forge, and expressing concern that no acknowledged housing need appeared to be responded to by the scheme:

20-22 Cransley Hill	Creation of 4 dwellings	Mr James
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In respect of the following proposal, Members resolved to object to this scheme for the following reasons:

- The structure of the proposed building was considered to be over-sized for the setting and of an unattractively utilitarian and stark appearance given its prominence in the conservation area. The height, and massing of the building would dominate views into the site from the public realm and be harmful to the presently attractive setting of the existing dwelling. The proposed materials were not considered to be in keeping either with the parent house or this part of the conservation area generally and, again, considered harmful.
- The size and design of the structure, it was considered, will inevitably lend itself to use for the covered storage of motor vehicles that will, in turn,

unacceptably intensify the previously occasional use of the unauthorised access that has been opened onto the Gate Lane/Church Street corner. Whilst the opening has been there for some while, there has been no history of frequent use for vehicular traffic ingress and egress to the property (as evidenced by the fact the kerb has only just been re-engineered to facilitate a verge cross-over that is not believed to be authorised by the highways authority, resulting in loss of attractive public realm fabric in the form of the previous cobbles or setts that have been replaced by concrete) and any increase over present minimal usage would be detrimental to highway safety on a busy corner with very limited visibility for existing traffic.

For these reasons, members were opposed to the scheme in its present form and also believed a temporary stop notice should be considered to halt the on-going unauthorised development until an acceptable alternative could be settled.

**Planning decisions notified:**

The following decisions were communicated; being approvals subject to conditions:

26 Wellingborough Road	Single story extension	Mr Gresham
29 Northampton Road	Side and rear extension	Mr Burrows

The following decision was communicated; being a refusal with reasons:

20-22 Cransley Hill	Creation of 4 dwellings	Mr James
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**16/7480**

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

<b>Income</b>			<b>£</b>
None reported at this meeting.			
<b>Expenditure</b>			<b>£</b>
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit )	9.58
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit )	6.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101723 )	330.14
HMRC	Income tax	(101724 )	72.80
GA Duthie	Telephone and electricity	(101725 )	31.73
R Farrow	Stone plinth for village sign	(101726 )	1,380.00

**16/7481**

**POCKET PARK MAINTENANCE.** After some discussion, it was agreed that quotations should be sought for a basic programme of work to keep the pathways in the spinney clear at least. Provision to cover the likely cost should be built in to the budget for next year; Cllr Shrive agreed to devise a suggested specification on which to seek quotations.

**16/7482**

**HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND.** Given information now provided by the Borough Council as to the process for applying the Redrow S106 funding, it was agreed to invite Mr D Lane along to a future meeting in order to explore how best the desired enhancements might be secured.

**16/7483**

**LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE.** The view was taken that presently the wildflower

area looked acceptable but cutting and spraying to revert to grass should still be pursued; apparently the footpaths from Church Street were to be cleared and resurfaced too. A further pleasing thing to note was that white lines had now been repainted between Church Street and Cransley Hill; and it was expected the new fence/barrier in Bakehouse Lane would be imminently dealt with.

**16/7484**      **BLACKSMITHS IN BROUGHTON – 175 YEARS.** Cllr Shrive reported that an open day was to be held on 15 October between 10am and 5pm; and that an article had been prepared for Broughton News.

**16/7485**      **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**  
All present were pleased to note that a child reported missing last night had been found safe and well.

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned that there was a need for some post repairs to the fencing at Podmore Way play area.

Cllr White reported a proposal by a local walking group to procure a defibrillator for the village; it was agreed to support this if that helped secure the facility.

Cllr Mrs Bull updated members on progress with the Neighbourhood Plan.

**16/7486**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 19 October 2016, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

**16/7487**      **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

19 October 2016

Signed.....