

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 17 February 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), Mrs HJ Bull, AK Lofthouse, R Shrive, Rev B Withington and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Groome, Borough Cllr J Hakewill.
PCSOs K Ellerby and J Parish of Northamptonshire Police.
One member of the public.

16/7358 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were tendered by Cllrs R Baxter (away), Mrs J C Chester (work commitment), and M Van de Water (paternal duties).

16/7359 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

16/7360 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 January 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

16/7361 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** Mr Oliver Wyeth of 12 Glebe Avenue addressed the meeting in support of his candidacy for co-option to the Parish Council. Members heard that Mr Wyeth had grown up in the village and lived in the community all his life, so was well known by all age groups. Mr Wyeth described that he has a keen interest in local politics and was especially interested in securing improvements to facilities and services available to local people.

After some questions from councillors were answered and upon it being confirmed that Mr Wyeth was registered as a voter in the parish, it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt him to the membership of the Parish Council subject to the usual formalities of completing a declaration of acceptance of office and registration of interests form. The Clerk confirmed he would be in contact with this material in time for Mr Wyeth to take his seat at the March meeting.

16/7362 **POLICE REPORT.** PCSOs Ellerby and Parish presented a brief report upon the crime reports received since the last meeting; which, although reduced in number, did include a robbery at a local store. Members noted this appeared to be one of a connected series of similar offences across various settlements.

Illustrated by a photograph of the problem provided by Cllr Van de Water, there then occurred a discussion of the abilities of the Police to address the issue of obstructive parking at the junction of Gate Lane with Kettering Road. Visibility in the High Street direction, especially for drivers emerging from Gate Lane, was frequently obstructed by parking in the vicinity of the junction, including on the footway.

After considering the image, the attending officers advised it was unlikely any enforcement action would succeed if what was shown was typical as the parked vehicles were not sufficiently close to the junction or actually obstructing passage along the footway given its width in this location.

16/7363

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. County Cllr Groome supplemented his report circulated by email; advising principally that the forthcoming County Council budget had needed to be significantly revised in light of the local government financial settlement that had just issued and that envisaged further cuts in the order of £8m. There was, accordingly, significant doubt about deliverability; particularly given pressures upon children's services, adult care, and highways maintenance (members expressing concerns about the continuing deterioration of road surfacing that was evident).

16/7364

MATTERS ARISING. Arising in respect of the project to enhance the central village sign with a new base of plinth, members heard that attempted approaches to the preferred contractor, Robert Farrow Limited, had failed in that the email address shown on the estimate seemed now not to be active, and the provided telephone number was not being answered. Members agreed to use their local contacts to try and establish whether the firm had ceased trading for any reason or whether contact details had simply changed since the estimate was obtained.

Arising from 16/7348, the meeting heard that the representative of the informal walking group seeking support for the provision of a bench on the bridleway between Pytchley and Broughton had now received a response from the County Highways Service, which had been perceived as being unhelpful. A copy of this was to hand, however, and the same seemed more to be simply setting out the legal requirements of the Highways Authority in the matter. Where it seemed possible there was still some scope for securing the provision being sought if these conditions could be navigated, Cllr Withington offered to peruse the same and liaise with the group's representative to try and assist.

Arising from 15/7299, members noted a report from Cllr Baxter confirming that the ailing tree at the Village Hall, originally planted in memory of former Cllr Anne Esther, had now been replaced by the Borough Council. Enquiries were being made to establish the species of the replacement.

Arising in respect of the work done over recent months by Mr P Knowles of Greenbay Grounds Maintenance to the Pocket Park, councillors noted an exchange occurring between the gentleman and Cllr Mrs Bull that indicated no recharge was to be made by the contractor for the services rendered. Members noted, however, that going forward, where a similar programme had been agreed for the new season, this was expressly to be on a charged-for basis given the nature and quantity of work envisaged.

Members wished to record their appreciation and gratitude to Mr Knowles for the generosity of his actions last season; which had resulted in a much valued local amenity remaining open and accessible to residents and visitors where, without the work undertaken, this might not have been the case. Accordingly, it was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the volunteer award for this year be made to Mr Knowles on condition that the accompanying honorarium be expressly to be enjoyed by his young family.

Arising from 15/7220, the meeting heard that the Treasurer of the Village Hall Association had now requested release of a sum from the funds precepted for village

hall related matters to defray the cost of the recent repair and replacement works undertaken to the hall water tank system. Members noted the invoiced cost was £572.64 and authorised that reimbursement of this sum be made.

Arising in respect of financial support for the village hall generally, members heard that the Parish Council had been requested to commit to making funding available toward the hall development plan project. Specifically, the sum of £2,500 had been sought as a contribution to the capital shortfall required for delivery of phase II of the scheme, which councillors heard was intended to open up access to facilities for a wider spread of users and enable dual uses to occur when the nursery/play group was in session due to separated accesses being provided etc. Essentially, the scheme would make better use of facilities possible.

The meeting heard that various funding streams were being pursued and it was acknowledged that village support and buy-in was necessary, not just that of the Parish Council; albeit this was important but should not be presumed given the mandatory effect of the precept in raising council tax for parishioners. Balanced against the scheme was the continuing reality that the hall was located somewhat remotely from the village centre and was perceived by some to be inaccessible to the elderly or less mobile.

After some discussion, and upon the most recent estimates being checked, it was **RESOLVED** that the request should be supported.

Arising from 16/7348, councillors heard that the various gateway planters had now been removed albeit it had been noted that, prior to removal, one or two had been emptied and repaired. It was thought possible, therefore, that some communication glitch had occurred and it was hoped that no significant wasted work had been caused to operatives – thanks would be expressed to those involved for their assistance in any event.

Arising from 16/7349, members noted that the organisers of the Best Village competition (details circulated following the January meeting). Northamptonshire ACRE, were now seeking to recruit judges for the competition. The related material was placed on circulation.

16/7365

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A communication received from the Borough Council acknowledging the concerns raised by the Chair in respect of the apparent breaches of planning control affecting the Northampton Road caravan site. It was confirmed that these were to be investigated by case officer, Mr Duncan Law, who would respond in due course.
- b) Notification of a Neighbourhood Planning seminar to be held on 16 March at Chesterton, near Bicester. Members noted this was generally aimed at communities yet to commence the Neighbourhood Plan process.
- c) A communication from the County Council seeking information on street lighting in the parish. Members were of the view that the information being sought was well known to the County Council.

- d) A note from the current Northants Telegraph 'Down your way' correspondent, introducing herself and seeking material for inclusion in reports.
- e) The draft minutes for the Rural Forum meeting held on 4 February. Cllr Mrs Bull advised that a correction had been suggested in respect of a specific question asked by her concerning the recording and reporting of any cross-border meetings held to consider policy issues relating to Gypsy and Traveller site allocations.

16/7366

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

Cllr Shrive reported upon his attendance at the KBC budget consultation meeting, with the key points being noted as:

- A new format meeting, much shorter and not questions as you go along.
- KBC get to keep only 7% of collected business rates.
- KBC has 3700 council houses.
- £1,579,000 has been saved this year.
- A lot of savings have come again from staff.
- There was a £600,000, 16.5% grant reduction from the government.
- KBC council taxes (without rural precepts) are below average.
- After 2016-17 there are no incentives from central government to freeze council tax.
- Growth in both houses and business are very important as all the money received helps to balance the budget and is not reinvested.
- A copy of the presentation was to be made available on the KBC website.

16/7367

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS (resumed).

Borough Cllr Hakewill having arrived during the preceding item, then gave his report. Amongst the issues briefly covered were an update concerning Highcroft Farm, a suggestion for parish reps to have access to a parking pass when visiting the Borough Council offices, the provision and planting of a new tree (a field maple) at the junction of Lime Close, the continued pressing for bollards or other barriers to protect the High Street recreation ground, and ongoing concerns arising from HCV traffic using local connector routes in connection with the loam works at Great Cransley.

In respect of an issue alive in the village currently, Cllr Mrs Bull then queried the apparent practice of KBC in placing social tenants with particular support needs in rural locations remote from the necessary infrastructure; it was difficult to view this as anything but unfair on the families concerned and the communities that were left to deal with the consequences of such allocations being made.

Cllr Hakewill left the meeting at this point.

16/7368

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following proposals were considered, and whilst members had no wish to object to the scheme represented by these applications (including the listed building application), they did wish to seek that any planning permission is made subject to a planning obligation or condition that restricts the new habitable space for use only incidental to the principal dwelling, and never as an independent dwelling unit or holiday let etc. As with the proposal at Ratcatcher, next door, it was considered that

residential amenity and highway safety would be unacceptably compromised if such subdivision was to occur in the future, hence the need for this to be expressly controlled:

Rectory Farm, Church Street Convert outbuilding to form annexe Mr Bithray

The following applications were considered without need for any observations to be made by the Parish Council:

36 Northampton Road	Convert outbuilding to garage etc	Mr Lock
Broughton Grange	Change use from office to retail	Mrs G-Brown

16/7369 **FINANCE.** The following items of income and expenditure were noted/agreed:-

Income		£
NCC	Grant – village sign enhancement	510.00
Expenditure		£
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge (direct debit)	4.79
GA Duthie	Salary and WP (101696)	256.96
HMRC	Income tax (101697)	145.98
GA Duthie	Telephone exps (101698)	12.50
KBC	Festive lights (101699)	628.80
GA Duthie	Electricity (101700)	9.06
P Knowles	Volunteer award (101701)	150.00
Broughton PF&VHA	Grant (water tank refurbs) (101702)	572.64

16/7370 **GATEWAYS PROJECT.** No further consideration of this matter occurred at this meeting.

16/7371 **HIGHCROFT FARM.** Members noted that Pytchley Parish Council had indicated a willingness to attend a joint meeting to consider the proposed Gypsy and Traveller site allocations policy if and when this re-emerged for consultation.

16/7372 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
Members noted the number of occupations that would trigger S106 contributions on the Redrow site was now close to being reached and, therefore, consideration should be occurring as to how the contributions toward infrastructure at the High Street recreation ground and at the Pocket Park should best be applied. In respect of the former, one suggestion worthy of consideration was the reinstatement of the play area fencing given recent complaints of dog nuisance there.

16/7373 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 16 March 2016, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, followed by the annual meeting for local government voters at 8:00pm).

16/7374 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised.

16 March 2016

Signed.....