

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 20 April 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, AK Lofthouse, R Shrive, M Van de Water, Rev B Withington, O Wyeth, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Groome.
PCSO C Duggan of Northamptonshire Police.
One member of the public.

16/7389 **APOLOGIES.** None were offered at this meeting.

16/7390 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

16/7391 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 March 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

16/7392 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use of this facility was made at this meeting.

16/7393 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Groome supplemented his report previously circulated by email, which briefed on items including continuing work to improve Children's Services, the passing of a resolution to independently assess options for the creation of unitary councils for Northamptonshire, continuing efforts to secure improvements to the Midland Mainline rail service, a meeting of the Children's Scrutiny Committee focusing on school place availability and school standards, dialogue with the Highways Portfolio Holder on road maintenance, and further pressing of the Highcroft Farm tenancy renewal. Members were also advised that Cllr Groome was trying to establish how the education contribution secured under section 106 from the Redrow development was to be applied to Broughton School, note was being taken of the mounting public pressure for improvements to the A43, and the County policy was apparently now not to adopt new street lighting.

The meeting also noted a report submitted by Borough Cllr Hakewill, which included information primarily concerning the ongoing discussion of measures possible to protect the High Street recreation ground from unauthorised incursions; it was felt useful for further dialogue to occur directly between parish members and the Borough Council to determine the best way forward.

16/7394 **POLICE REPORT.** Councillors received a report from PCSO Duggan who advised that two burglaries had been reported over the preceding month (one affecting a dwelling and the other, the school). An arrest had been made in connection with a suspected offence of arson, and there was police awareness of a problem with egg throwing that was being focused on.

There followed some discussion as to whether the level of incidents being reported did accurately reflect the level of crime and nuisance being suffered by village residents and businesses. Members voiced a concern that local feedback was that a

greater number of incidents were occurring than recent reports depicted; it was wondered and discussed whether some form of filtering or streaming was resulting in reports not being communicated to the local team. Members were agreed that residents should be advised to insist on an incident number being allocated whenever reports were submitted.

In respect of the issue of obstruction around school run times, councillors heard that a recent patrol had not revealed a significant problem existing when officers were present but it was noted that the issue remained one causing much local concern so would not be forgotten about.

16/7395

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from 16/7364, members noted a ‘thank you’ note received from Mr Knowles of Greenbay Grounds Maintenance in respect of the recent volunteer award for work undertaken to the pocket park.

Arising from 16/7365, in respect of the apparent breaches of planning control at the Northampton Road caravan site, the Chair advised that her enquiries of the Borough Council had indicated the possibility of a further planning application being made to secure authorisation for an increase in unit numbers on the site. Following some discussion of the scope for this, and given the lack of progress with any new policy for traveller accommodation, members agreed there appeared to be a need for cross-parish dialogue with the neighbouring councils serving Pytchley, Walgrave, and Orlingbury, also to involve the relevant Borough Council portfolio holder and ward members, in order to inform any response should such an application be made.

16/7396

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A communication received from the Borough Council providing details of the forthcoming year’s Capital Community Grant Scheme.
- b) A letter received from Ms Fiona Potkins, a resident of Isham, suggesting and providing information in support of the naming of a new road or street in memory of former parish councillor, Mr Alex Powell deceased. The correspondent described that Mr Powell had been active and effective in securing local improvements to housing and transport links for the benefit of the village so was, therefore, worthy of such recognition. It was agreed the case had merit but, of course, there had been other similar requests that were equally deserving and there were more nominations than new roads presently. Accordingly the request should be acknowledged and this explained.
- c) A communication from the Parish Council’s insurance broker, Came & Company, providing renewal details for the council’s insurance policy. Members noted the renewal terms proposed and agreed the same, effective from 1 June 2016.
- d) An email exchange with Sergeant Scott Little of Northamptonshire Police concerning various issues of local concern and providing assurance that such resources as were available and relevant would be applied to addressing the same.
- e) A notification received from County Highways, advising that a road closure affecting Cransley Hill in the vicinity of number 1a would be in force from 6 June for up to three days to facilitate the installation of a new water supply. Details were provided of proposed diversion arrangements.

- f) Publicity material provided by the County Council in respect of an initiative to address social isolation and loneliness, 'Get Connected'; this was agreed to be displayed locally.
- g) A communication received from CPRE Northamptonshire, concerning that body's Litter Heroes 2016 initiative. Members noted that a very significant clean-up had been undertaken in the village over recent days but, presently, it was not known whether this had been an official or voluntary activity. Regardless, members had seen that in excess of 30 bags of litter had been collected and wished to record the Parish Council's appreciation for whoever was responsible.
- h) An email from the Borough Council advising of printing recharges that would apply to material printed by the Borough Council on request.
- i) Notification of the consultation arrangements applying to the South Northamptonshire Council Local Plan Part 2A Options document. Members noted the consultation would run from 4 April to 10 June.
- j) A note from the Borough Council, confirming that the Rural Forum meeting for June had been re-scheduled to 28 July 2016, due to the holding of the EU Referendum on the previously scheduled date of 23 June.
- k) A communication received from a new resident of Brookhaven, making representations concerning their experience of exiting the village onto the A43 at peak times, and commenting on various road safety concerns. Members noted the comments made, including the existence of a petition calling for improvements that had also been publicised on social media. County Cllr Groome suggested the level of public interest now indicated the potential for a meeting involving himself, Borough Cllr Hakewill, and the members for affected wards either side of the road. Parish Councillors expressed support for any action that might alleviate the difficulties that were fully recognised.
- l) An email from Sergeant Little, advising that a change in reporting systems presently being implemented meant that the customary statistical reports received by parishes would not be available for a while.
- m) Material notifying of an exhibition being held to raise awareness of development proposals affecting Symmetry Park, Kettering; the event to run on 21 April 2016.

16/7397

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

None were presented at this meeting.

16/7398

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following proposal was considered, and members concluded no observation need be made:

12 Brookhaven	Erection of decking to rear garden	Mr Amos
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Planning decisions notified:

The following decision notices had been provided, being approvals subject to conditions:

78 Northampton Road	Single storey rear extension	Mr A Clark
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The following decision notice had been provided, being a refusal with reasons:

Broughton Grange

Change use of office to retail

Mrs G-Brown

16/7399

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

Income			£
Barclays Bank PLC	Interest on deposit account		1.05
Kettering BC	Precept raised		13,000.00
Expenditure			£
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit)	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Store fee	(direct debit)	1.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101706)	347.39
HMRC	Income tax	(101707)	77.20
GA Duthie	Telephone and electricity	(101708)	27.93
Broughton PF&VHA	Grant for kitchen refurb	(101709)	600.00
R Shrive	Key cutting (extra set VH)	(101710)	19.00

16/7400

BLACKSMITHS IN BROUGHTON – 175 YEARS. It was agreed that the forthcoming anniversary of the existence of the blacksmith business in the village warranted some form of celebration, the form of which should be decided in consultation with the proprietors. Members also agreed that Broughton News could carry an associated article or related material.

16/7401

POCKET PARK. Members reviewed the existing management agreement and noted this terminated on 7 June 2018, so broadly had a further two years to run. It was agreed to continue seeking the paid assistance of Greenbay Grounds Maintenance in connection with the upkeep of the spinney, which as a matter of course should include the boundary with the adjacent pastures. In respect of the potential for future capital investment in the facility, it was noted that the trigger for the related S106 contribution flowing from the Redrow development was close to being passed; accordingly, it was appropriate to now engage in dialogue with the Borough and the School with a view to devising any initiatives to advance conservation, education and recreation opportunities offered by the park.

16/7402

VILLAGE SIGN PLINTH. Councillors considered a proposed design for the structure as submitted by the stonemason, Mr Farrow, for approval. It was agreed this was appropriate and in-keeping in terms of design and suggested materials so Mr Farrow should be requested to progress.

16/7403

PRECEPT AND GRANTS. Consideration was given to whether the past and current support for the Village Hall Association indicated that a potential existed for other local organisations to apply for and secure grant assistance in a similar manner. After some discussion, members agreed this was perhaps not appropriate and that the annual precept raised should be informed and determined only by specific budgeted proposals where a clear public benefit was demonstrated, and not by general or ad-hoc requests.

16/7404

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE. Members discussed whether the current and likely forthcoming overgrowth of weeds and other unwelcome vegetation necessitated the Council making its own arrangements for clearing or spraying given the lack of resources presently confronting the Borough and County. After some discussion, including around the related formalities of securing and monitoring appropriate contractual provisions for such work (and for ensuring adequate indemnities), it was concluded this was regrettably not feasible for the moment but should be kept under review. In the meantime, it was decided to investigate whether 'additional' cuts and/or sprays might be commissioned under the existing Borough and County programme at the Parish Council's expense.

16/7405

PARKING AT KETTERING ROAD/GATE LANE JUNCTION. Members noted there were legislative changes proposed that might enable enforcement against pavement parking where no full obstruction occurs but, meantime, it might be possible to prevail upon goodwill to desist through the use of the Council's considerate parking leaflet.

16/7406

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

Cllr Shrive asked for material for the next edition of Broughton News.

Cllr Lofthouse added to the circulation material some brochures obtained that detailed play equipment perhaps suitable for the High Street recreation ground (again anticipating S106 contributions being released). Members also agreed this might facilitate a re-fencing of the former dog-free area.

Cllr Mrs Bull suggested Redrow could be asked to assist/support the spring bulb initiative.

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned the recent house fire in the village and suggested a small stock of cards be kept for the Council that enabled a supportive response, if only to suggest possible points of contact and assistance, in the event of such distressing events occurring in the future. Members endorsed this, believing it important that anyone in the village suffering major events of this nature should be aware the PC was willing to be of as much assistance as possible.

Cllr Mrs Scouse raised the issue of financial support for the Village Hall and, specifically, a request by the Village Hall Committee for the release of funds to defray the cost of kitchen refurbishments and a new cooker. There followed some debate, primarily focusing on whether 'revenue' items should be covered by the PC from the precept and the principle of the precept being seen as a 'ready' source of finance. Consequently, it was agreed that reimbursing the pre-incurred cost the cooker would not be appropriate but that the capital cost of the kitchen units etc should be covered as these represented a part of the fabric of the building. It was accordingly agreed to advance the sum of £600 as a contribution toward the sum sought.

Cllr Mrs Scouse then advised that impending alteration works to the Village Hall, involving changes to the entrance and internal doorways, would mean some key sharing would be necessary until completed.

16/7407

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 18 May 2016, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

16/7408

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm.

18 May 2016

Signed.....