

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 15 June 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, R Shrive, O Wyeth, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Groome, Borough Cllrs J Hakewill and C Moreton
Burton Latimer Town Cllr S Watts
One member of the public

16/7430 **APOLOGIES.** Parish Councillors M Van de Water and Rev. B Withington apologised for absence due respectively to family commitments and an unavoidable diary conflict, and Borough Cllr J Hakewill due to having to attend the annual meeting of the Borough Council.

16/7431 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

16/7432 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 May 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

16/7433 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The meeting was addressed by Cllr S Watts who spoke in support of his candidacy for co-option to the Parish Council. Members heard Cllr Watts intended also to stand for election to the County Council next year and desired to serve on local councils within the Division to gain a better understanding of issues confronting communities. Cllr Watts described his background and experience; councillors hearing he was presently the owner of a local business and a former police officer. Cllr Watts had also served on Burton Latimer Town Council for the last year or so.

The Clerk confirmed that although Cllr Watts' home address was in Burton Latimer, at Churchill Way, he was satisfied this was within sufficient proximity of the parish boundary such that eligibility for appointment was not an issue.

In response to members' questions, Cllr Watts advised that he did not feel disadvantaged by not being a resident of nor the proprietor of a business in Broughton village, nor did he consider his other existing and prospective representative commitments would indicate against service as a Broughton parish councillor. He stated that he would attend meetings of the council between now and the County elections regardless of being co-opted or not.

Cllr Watts then described that he considered his wearing of various hats, if co-opted, would assist in building relationships across authorities and that he felt able to represent a particular demographic that was perhaps not well served on local councils presently. Again in response to questions, Cllr Watts confirmed he was alive to the potential for conflicted interests but believed these were capable of being navigated and managed.

After some discussion, members agreed to note Cllr Watts' candidacy but defer making any decision for the present.

16/7434

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. County Cllr Groome supplemented his written report as circulated previously, touching upon use of the Redrow S106 education contribution, the change in Cabinet composition, the A43 improvement programme, and the need for a village walkabout, with further details on these. Members noted especially that he would be pressing for the education to be specifically ring-fenced for use at Broughton School, which seemed to be what was contemplated by the planning agreement. It was confirmed there was no current necessity for a walkabout involving NCC representation as no change in circumstance had arisen since the last one and relevant issues were well known.

County Cllr Groome left the meeting at 7:27pm

Members then heard from Borough Cllr Hakewill who mentioned first the A43 improvement programme; advising that Kettering Borough Council were to receive a 5,300 signature petition tomorrow night that called for immediate roll-out of the scheme in the vicinity of the village notwithstanding the present funding constraints. The associated issue of a 'crawler lane' proposal was then discussed with Broughton members expressing some disquiet as to the potential for this to make joining the road from Broughton even more problematic if it resulted in HGV traffic platooning.

Cllr Hakewill then turned to the enforcement issues at Northampton Road and some discussion occurred of the latest response from KBC; it being agreed to press for further action where this did not appear to be indicated for a variety of reasons that were capable of being challenged on the facts and legal toolkit that was available. Essentially, the Borough Council seemed intent on seeking the regularisation by further consent of development that had clearly been signalled as being unacceptable by dint of the previous decisions made.

There followed an update on the emerging trends of the devolution debate; members noting particularly the views of the LGA that all areas should be parished as a result of the changed models of administration being favoured.

Finally, it was confirmed to Cllr Hakewill that, as yet, the new lockable bollards of other barrier to incursion onto the High Street recreation ground at Bakehouse Lane had not been installed despite being agreed by the Borough for provision. It was assumed the final design and location was still being settled given the need to reconcile with private access right for nearby residents there.

Cllrs Hakewill and Moreton left on conclusion of this item, 8:15pm.

16/7435

MATTERS ARISING. Cllr Wyeth first raised an issue that had come to his attention where users of the right of way across the field off Northampton Road had encountered problems after being chased by cattle in the field. It had been perceived that the stock concerned might have been bullocks or even involving an intact bull. After some discussion of the issue, which had an occasional history of occurrence when unleashed dogs were allowed to run, it was agreed it did not sound like the farmer had acted improperly and that there was signage advising walkers to keep dogs under control as livestock was kept in the field. It was agreed a paragraph could

be published in the next edition of Broughton News to remind path users of their responsibilities when using the path and others like it in proximity to stock.

Cllr Wyeth then mentioned the High Street recreation ground and enquired if, how, and to what extent precept or other monies might be applied to improve or refurbish the play equipment there, which was now looking rather tired. The meeting heard that there was the prospect of some funding being released from the Redrow S106 package for play facility improvements necessitated by that development and the High Street was likely the best place for this to be applied. Accordingly, and as an initial step toward making the case for this when the contribution was to hand (the trigger point being thought close in terms of total occupations now), Cllr Wyeth kindly agreed to undertake a photo survey of the existing facility to be used in support.

Arising in respect of the current casual vacancies on the Parish Council, members noted an expression of interest received from another non-Broughton resident who had provided information in support of his candidacy for potential co-option. Councillors heard that Mr Jehad Soliman Aburamadan of 246 London Road in Kettering had been invited to attend the meeting to address councillors but, unfortunately, could not make the date. Instead, he had submitted a written statement that provided information on his experience and interests, and set out why he considered his appointment would benefit the village. After considering this, members again agreed to defer making any decision whether or not to co-opt for the present time.

Arising from the Neighbourhood Plan process, members noted there had been a need to source some map based information to support the exercise and, as a result, there had been a need to register the Parish Council under the current OS Public Sector Mapping Agreement for purposes of accessing OS copyrighted material, which had been done (a previous licence held was a one-off for a specific purpose but this registration would continue).

Arising from 16/7418, the meeting heard that the Village Hall Association had now confirmed commencement of building works on the hall improvement scheme and had accordingly requested release of the agreed contribution towards costs. A copy of the first construction invoice had been provided that confirmed expenditure in excess of £4,500 being incurred to date from a contract sum exceeding £33,000. Consistent with the commitment previously given, members agreed to release the sum of £2,500 to help defray these costs.

Arising from 16/7427, the meeting was advised that the County Council were to follow up the request for new barriers to protect the Redrow estate pedestrian access points onto Cox's Lane given increased traffic quantities and speeds being encountered.

Arising from 16/7423, information had been received from the County Council concerning the present grass cutting regime that applied in the village; it being confirmed the work was undertaken by KBC under contract. It was believed that although the County requirement was for three cuts per year on grounds of safety

only (not aesthetic considerations), it was likely the case that KBC were actually attending more frequently than that albeit the cost of this was contentious as between the two authorities. If additional discretionary attendance was desired at parish cost, this would need to be pursued with KBC.

Arising from 16/7418, members noted that a communication had been sent to the householder believed to have been undertaking work on the Broughton Common land off Church Street as described.

16/7436

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A communication received from a Mr Paul Lai, seeking to raise awareness of a perceived weakness in the duties imposed on HM Coroners to investigate whether deaths reported and confirmed as being by suicide are at all ‘avoidable’ in the sense of active General Practitioner intervention when patients present with symptoms of depression. Members noted Mr Lai’s concern that accepted best practice was not invariably followed in this respect and noted also a petition existed that was calling for such to be made mandatory.
- b) A letter from the Borough Council, providing details of the forthcoming civic service and parade on 10 July at 3pm in Desborough.
- c) A communication from the Luminus Group (a Registered Provider of social housing), advising of and inviting attendance at a residents’ conference event on 23 July at Huntingdon.

16/7437

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair submitted a brief report on her attendance at the recent meeting of the KBC Planning Policy Committee meeting called to consider the outcome of the review of Visually and Historically Important Open Spaces; members noting the main result for Broughton being that Highcroft Farm had not been agreed for such designation despite the case made for this.

16/7438

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

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

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 38 Cransey Hill | Roof development to form room | Mrs Owen |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------|

Planning decisions notified:

The following decision, being an approval subject to conditions was reported:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 12 Brookhaven | Rear garden deck extension | Mr R Amos |
|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|

16/7439

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

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Income | £ |
|---------------|----------|

None reported at this meeting.

| Expenditure | | | £ |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Zen Internet | Web hosting charge | (direct debit) | 4.79 |
| Barclays Bank PLC | Commission | (direct debit) | 2.00 |
| GA Duthie | Salary and WP | (101716) | 330.14 |
| HMRC | Income tax | (101717) | 72.80 |
| GA Duthie | Telephone and electricity | (101718) | 13.25 |
| Broughton PF&VHA | Improvements grant | (101719) | 2,500.00 |

Members then heard that the annual statement of accounts for year 2015/16 was in preparation and needed to be approved before the end of June for submission for audit. Upon it being confirmed that the statements would be in the usual format and would reflect and summarise only that financial business as had already been reported at every meeting during the relevant period, it was **RESOLVED** the statements may be circulated and signed by the Chair for submission as drawn.

16/7440 **BLACKSMITHS IN BROUGHTON – 175 YEARS.** Cllr Shrive reported that dialogue was occurring with the proprietors in an effort to agree how best to mark and publicise this anniversary.

16/7441 **POCKET PARK.** Members were advised that a request for commissioned work at the park, especially to the pathways and paddock boundary, had been submitted to the contractor.

16/7442 **FORMER POST OFFICE.** Members noted that an issue with this site had arisen since the last meeting, where various works had been commenced and undertaken to this building that had been referred to Planning Enforcement and Building Control officer for attention. Advice given by the Development manager at KBC was reported and councillors heard that dialogue was occurring with the owner and his agent in order to deter unauthorised work and to secure regularisation.

16/7443 **BROUGHTON COMMON/WILDFLOWER AREA.** This was agreed to be carried forward as an agenda item for the July meeting.

16/7444 **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE.** This had been dealt with previously in the meeting under ‘matter arising’.

16/7445 **CARAVAN SITE PLANNING ISSUES.** The form of a further communication pressing the concerns of the Council, including as to the planning mechanisms available but seemingly not being employed by the Borough Council, was discussed.

16/7446 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
In respect of the ‘missing’ street lamp at Bakehouse Lane, and after viewing photographs and aerial images, it was established the ‘middle’ lamp of the row of three was the one that had been removed; this to be advised to KBC for investigation.

The footpath from Crane Close was overgrown with nettles.

The former garden of remembrance area was again looking neglected; it being agreed to seek complete clearance and reinstatement as part of the recreation ground to try and avoid further deterioration.

Once again, parking difficulties in Ivydene Terrace had apparently arisen; this time with a large van being left there by a non-resident.

An overgrown/overhanging tree at 1 Baker Avenue was reported.

16/7447

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 20 July 2016, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

16/7448

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised.

The meeting was closed at 9:05pm.

20 July 2016

Signed.....