

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 16 November 2016, commencing at 7.00pm.

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

16/7504 **APOLOGIES.** Cllr Mrs Chester apologised for absence due to having to work and Rev Withington apologised for absence due to a diary conflict.

16/7505 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

16/7506 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 October 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

16/7507 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use was made of this facility at this meeting.

16/7508 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Taken whilst Sergeant Little was present, Borough Cllr Hakewill reported upon the public meeting held on 21 October. Members noted that around 140 people attended, with collected feedback appearing to show that the majority felt the evening had been useful in airing recent concerns. Details of various volunteers had been collated with a view to supporting Community Speedwatch and Street Warden initiatives in the village and also with a view to relaunching the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Councillors heard that Cllr Hakewill would be giving an overview of the meeting and outcomes to residents of St Andrews Court who might not have been able to attend on the evening, and it was likely that further meeting might be held to bring together volunteers for the initiatives decided upon.

16/7509 **POLICE REPORT.** The meeting then heard from Sergeant Little, who described that since the last meeting, 3 further reports had been received in the village. These comprised a burglary and two attempts. Members noted, in addition, that an arrest had been made in connection with a recent break-in affecting the Working Men's Club but no information was yet known about any disposal following the related referral to court. Sergeant Little confirmed that the village would continue to be a focus after the recent spate of incidents although the picture did appear to be generally improving.

16/7510 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS continued.** County Cllr Groome informed members that the key matter for him presently was the possibility that the Midland Mainline rail electrification programme was again to be cancelled in respect of stretches serving the county. In concert with the Kettering MP, a Parliamentary adjournment debate had been sought but no date had yet been set for

this. Better transport news existed, however, in that the new owners of east Midlands Airport did seem to have turned around the previously sub-standard operation there and levels of service being experienced by users were much improved of late.

Cllr Groome then mentioned that the County corporate parenting board was presently focusing hard on care leavers, with individual young people in this situation being tracked and supported much more effectively as a result of changes to the service.

16/7511

MATTERS ARISING. Arising in respect of the current casual vacancy on the Parish Council, members noted this had been advertised by the Returning Officer and if no election was claimed in the statutory period (i.e. by 30 November) then the existing resolution to co-opt Martin Rose could be given effect. In the meantime, councillors noted an email received from Mrs Shelagh West, the other prospective candidate, thanking the Council for its consideration of her candidacy and members were especially appreciative of Mrs West's kind offer to assist where possible and appropriate with future business given she remained interested in serving the village notwithstanding not being appointed on this occasion. Mrs West had been asked to re-apply in the event of future vacancies arising.

Arising from the recent Borough Council proposal to recharge election costs arising from parish and town council by-elections, the meeting noted from Cllr Groome that when this was considered by the Borough Research and Development Committee, Cllr Mrs Ruth Groome had spoken against the proposal and the committee had been unanimous in the view that no change to current practice should occur. Members expressed their gratitude for Cllr Mrs Groome's support for the local councils.

In respect of this same issue, members also noted that the Rural Forum had been active in raising awareness of the proposal, along with another relating to the possible introduction of dog control orders in the Borough.

Arising in respect of the recent spate of criminal activity in the area, the meeting noted an update received via Borough Cllr Hakewill from the Police, which confirmed the recovery of a large amount of stolen property following a cross-border investigation with Leicestershire officers; and two convictions secured at Wellingborough Magistrates Court for offences arising from hare coursing activity in the County.

Arising in respect of the land at Gate Lane, members noted that the owner's agent was seeking instructions as a result of the Council's enquiries.

16/7512

CORRESPONDENCE. The following item of correspondence was reported:

- a) A communication from the Village Hall Committee advising of the installation and access details for a new Wi-Fi router at the hall.
- b) An email sent by Cllr Rev Withington raising concerns in respect to seemingly uncoordinated street works undertaken by Virgin Media in the village recently, which had caused considerable inconvenience and disruption due to the timings of works involving the excavation of footways. Members discussed the

concerns and agreed that it would have been preferable for the works to have been scheduled around the busiest times and for local consultation/notification to have been undertaken although this did not appear to be a requirement imposed upon the utility companies.

- c) The annual report of the Northamptonshire Rural Housing Association.
- d) Notification from Northamptonshire ACRE of the opening for entries for the 2017 running of the Best Village Competition. Members noted the closing date was 16 March 2017.
- e) An email received from the Planning Policy team at Kettering Borough Council advising that the Planning Policy Committee meeting to be held on 23 November would be receiving a report recommending proposals for an exercise titled 'Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan'. Having viewed the report, councillors were very concerned indeed that the sites being suggested in this did not reflect those identified and promoted in the draft Neighbourhood Plan just about to be consulted upon and, further, KBC policy officers involved in supporting and advising on the Neighbourhood Plan process had never mentioned or discussed the new exercise, nor flagged any likely conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, it was agreed that representations needed to be made to the committee and the existence of the Neighbourhood Plan needed to be raised as a matter of urgency. Additionally, enquiries should be made of the Borough Council to establish how the new initiative nested in the published Local Development Scheme given there appeared to be no mention of it in the Scheme as a new policy strand.

16/7513

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

The Chair briefly reported upon her attendance at the recent Planning Committee meeting where the Rectory Farm application was considered. Members noted that although the committee had agreed to impose a condition restricting use of the new building to purposes only that were incidental to the principal dwellinghouse, the committee had found no reason to refuse planning permission on the grounds of the Parish Council's objections to the development. On considering the decision notice for the permission, it was apparent that this did not seem to fully reflect the conditions resolved to be imposed by the committee.

16/7514

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following applications were considered, with no observations being thought necessary:

10 Carter Avenue	Replace outbuildings by extensions	Mr Lofthouse
1 Oak Close	Single storey side extension	Mr Knighton

Planning decisions notified:

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

Ratcatcher, Church Street	Internal works to listed building	Mr Reynolds
Rectory Farm, Church Street	New oak framed building	Mr Bithray

The following decision was reported, being a refusal with reasons:

11A Grange Road	Garage extension	Mr Goodall
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16/7515 **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
Mr & Mrs Bedford	Bus shelter ground rent	(101732)	65.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101733)	330.14
HMRC	Income tax	(101734)	72.80
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire fees	(101735)	87.97
GA Duthie	Telephone and electricity	(101736)	13.04
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	(101737)	17.00

Members then considered draft estimates of anticipated income and expenditure for the financial year 2017/18, including potential contingencies. The draft prepared for consideration suggested a precept should be raised in the sum of £13,000 on the basis of the financial activity envisaged for the forthcoming year (copy annexed). Where no significant proposals for revision were raised, it was **RESOLVED** that a precept in this sum now be notified to the Borough Council for the ensuing year.

16/7516 **POCKET PARK MAINTENANCE.** Cllr Shrive reported that steps were ongoing to seek quotations for the agreed work and a copy of the indicative specification for this was circulated. It was thought the estimates just agreed did adequately allow for the likely expenditure involved.

16/7517 **HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND.** Members received and considered some illustrative material provided by a play equipment provider and agreed to pursue the proposed enhancement of the area with the Borough Council; also seeking advice on the application of Section 106 funding due to be released shortly for this purpose.

16/7518 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
It was reported that although white lines throughout the village had been re-painted recently, it was the case that the lines protecting the entrance to Dawkins Court had been omitted and residents there were suffering difficulties with the entrance being obstructed.

The issue of dog fouling was again causing concern in the village.

Cllr White reported that a defibrillator had now been provided in the centre of the village, placed on the exterior wall of the Co-op store. Members recorded their

grateful thanks to those involved in making this provision, which was very public spirited and afforded a very valuable facility worthy of being publicised as widely as possible.

In respect of the local bus service, it was reported that there had apparently been some recent reports of timetable failures with disappointed passengers not being picked up.

Members noted that the former wildflower area at Church Street had now been replanted with spring bulbs by the Borough Council, which was much appreciated, and a similar initiative still needed to be secured at the Coxs Lane junction where development work had damaged the previous bulb area.

At Silver Street, it remained the case that two street lights were still out of service.

There remained a need to pursue the installation of pedestrian protection barriers at the Coxs Lane terminations of the new footways serving the Redrow development.

16/7519

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 21 December 2016, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

16/7520

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:05pm.

21 December 2016

Signed.....

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR 2017/2018

Clerk's employment costs	4,500.00
Chairman's Allowance	245.00
Subscriptions, printing, publications and incidentals	1,500.00
Insurances	700.00
Communications	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 improvements	2,000.00
Pocket Park tree and ground maintenance works	3,000.00
Gateway planter replacements	2,000.00
Grants and discretionary expenditure etc. (includes S137)	2,500.00

	17,795.00

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

	5,950.00

Balances (most recent statements as at 11 Oct 2016)

Community Account	18,259.40
Business Saver Account	8,442.43

	26,701.83

<u>Grant 2017/18</u>	0
<u>Suggested precept</u>	13,000.00

16 November 2016