

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, A Parker, M Rose, R Shrive, M Van de Water, Rev B Withington and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
Borough Cllr J Hakewill
County Cllr C Groome
Three members of the public

Consideration of business was preceded by Cllr M Rose being welcomed to his first meeting as a member of the council, having duly completed his acceptance of office in order to confirm his co-option in that capacity.

16/7521 **APOLOGIES.** Cllr N White apologised for absence due to having to work, Cllr O Wyeth apologised for absence due to being away on holiday and Borough Cllr C Moreton was also unable to attend for the same reason.

16/7522 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

16/7523 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 November 2016, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

16/7524 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use was made of this facility at this meeting.

16/7525 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**
County Cllr Groome supplemented his emailed report to members by advising first that, despite present very tight funding, the Pytchley cross-roads junction was to receive further attention in order to try and address the still concerning accident incidence there. Further improvements to signage, the provision of rumble strips were being considered in the context of a review of the last 10 years' accident history. It was confirmed that the parish council certainly supported any further measures that could be achieved given the continual number of accidents and near-misses occurring there.

It was also wondered whether drivers using satellite navigation displays in their vehicles were perhaps being misinformed on some as to the relative priorities that applied at the junction such that they were arriving at the same unprepared to stop. It was agreed that the increased amount of traffic using the road as an alternative to main roads so as to avoid congestion and road works etc was likely a factor too.

Borough Cllr Hakewill then gave his report, first mentioning the steps that had been taken and were still in hand to try and recover possession of the Cransley Park development site from the travellers who had occupied the same.

Members noted that the site owner had commenced court proceedings but that there

were also, apparently, individual welfare issues that had to be taken into account that might indicate a degree of toleration being allowed.

Cllr Hakewill then touched upon the latest site specific site proposals for housing development and noted that an explanation was still outstanding (but promised) from the Borough Council on the Local Development Scheme issue that had been raised, and there was also an issue being debated amongst parish stakeholders concerning the housing numbers being sought to be provided, given there had been movement on the figures that was difficult to track back to previous information provided.

The issue of the proposed move away from paper consultation to electronic only, on planning applications was also mentioned and Cllr Hakewill confirmed that matter was likely to be considered at the next meeting of the Rural Forum such was the concern around the exercise and the likely impact on parish councils' abilities to properly engage with such a mechanism.

Cllr Hakewill then confirmed that the Community Streetwatch and Speedwatch initiatives for the village resulting from the recent public meeting were still being progressed with steps being taken to co-ordinate volunteers etc. Cllr Mrs Bull advised that the last month had again been a bad one for incidents being suffered and there remained an impression that reporting was not fully effective; certainly not in securing feedback to the community as to any outcomes that resulted. Cllr Hakewill floated the idea that perhaps CCTV/ANPR on the village approaches was needed.

16/7526

MATTERS ARISING. Arising in respect of the festive lighting in the village, members noted that whilst the lighting was being commissioned a problem had arisen with the strings in the High Street recreation ground trees, and a temporary fix seemed to have been effected that had resulted in slightly reduced number of lights this year. It seemed the Borough Council had been able to do this as a lower cost alternative to full replacement, which first looked to be indicated.

Arising in respect of the pocket park maintenance programme, members noted that a quotation had been received from Castle Tree and Landscaping of Kettering, envisaging costs of £250 plus VAT per regular cut of overgrown vegetation within the spinney to maintain footpaths etc, and £450 plus VAT for a one-off treatment of the boundary with the paddock. Members agreed this was reasonable and decided to proceed with engaging the contractor on this basis, subject to sight of evidence of adequate public liability insurance existing.

In respect of the Local Plan Site Specific Part 2 housing land allocations issue, an exchange of correspondence with Simon Richardson, the Borough Development Policy Manager, was reported, it being noted that Mr Richardson had sought advice in respect of the representations made as to whether or not the exercise conformed with the Council's duties to publish and keep up to date its Local Development Scheme (the concern being that there appeared to have been clear failures in this respect).

16/7527

CORRESPONDENCE. The following item of correspondence was reported:

- a) A communication from the Borough Council providing a copy of the draft minutes for the Rural Forum meeting held on 1 December 2016; these were placed on circulation.
- b) A copy of a letter provided by Philip Hollobone MP to the Secretary of State for Housing and Planning, raising concerns at the necessity for distribution centre proposals to accommodate stop-over parking provision for HGVs in order to alleviate related nuisances being suffered by residents living in proximity to such facilities through such parking occurring on the highway.
- c) A letter received from the Electoral Services Manager confirming that no request from voters had been received for an election as a result of the recent public notice of the casual vacancy on the parish council; which meant it was now in order for the Council to fill the vacancy by the co-option of Mr Martin Rose previously resolved, conditional upon this. Cllr Rose had accordingly taken his seat from this meeting.
- d) An exchange of correspondence between Borough Cllr Hakewill and Mr Rob Harbour of the Borough Council, requesting and confirming that the current planning application relating to Silverhills Bungalow would be determined at committee.
- e) A request from NACRE for details of village facilities currently available, for inclusion in that organisation's database relating to the village.
- f) Information received and placed on circulation concerning the consultation by BT about the future of traditional telephone kiosks. Members noted this would not affect the High Street kiosk, which was decommissioned but listed. The provided information for the other revealed that no calls had been made from it for some considerable time so it was unsurprising removal was contemplated. Members noted the consultation was to be considered by the Rural Forum.
- g) An invitation to renew membership of Northamptonshire ACRE, which was agreed.

16/7528

POLICE REPORT. No officer was in attendance at this meeting but a report had been emailed that indicated 10 incidents of crime being reported in November, comprising 3 shop lifting offences and 7 thefts or attempted thefts from motor vehicles. The meeting noted that additional patrolling had occurred as a result, and it was reported that no break-ins to premises or out buildings had been reported in November.

16/7529

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES. Members involved reported upon the liaison that had taken place and resulted in a positive outcome in terms of changing locations for the new grey fibre telecommunications boxes that had been installed in the village. Those present noted

that considerable steps had been taken operator and parish council members alike to identify suitable alternative locations when it was realised the installations were originally to be located at sites in Church Street and near the War Memorial that would have had unacceptable impacts on surrounding visual amenity. The operator, Virgin Media, had proved to be very receptive and accommodating in settling upon alternative locations, and dialogue with the installation team had also proved enlightening as to the constraints they were subject to when undertaking works; especially relating to reinstatement etc. The operator had confirmed the exercise and resulting engagement with parish councillors had proved a valuable learning exercise and would likely inform the company's approach when rolling out the fibre programme to future villages (Broughton being the first tranche in this scheme).

16/7530

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following application was considered, and it was resolved that an objection to the proposed development be made on the grounds that the scheme represents an over-intense use of a tight site. The submitted layout was considered likely to result in parking provision that will be difficult to use and, therefore, increase the pressure for on-street parking in part of Coxs Lane where no capacity exists, likely resulting in adverse effects on highway safety and residential amenity:

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| 31 Silver Street | New dwelling from outbuilding | Mrs Benbow |
|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|

The following application was considered and it was resolved an objection be notified on the basis that the outline scheme represents inappropriate and unsustainable development in open countryside. Further, if developed out as a retirement complex in accordance with one of the indicative proposals suggested, the development will be unduly isolating for residents perhaps less likely to be sufficiently independent in mobility terms so as to access essential support services:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Silverhills Bungalow | Residential development (outline) | Living Country |
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Planning decisions notified:

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

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|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 10 Carter Avenue | Side and rear extensions | Mr Lofthouse |
| 1 Oak Close | Single storey side extension | Mr Knighton |

16/7531

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 |
| GA Duthie | Salary and WP | (101738) | 256.96 |
| HMRC | Income tax | (101739) | 145.98 |
| GA Duthie | Telephone | (101740) | 12.37 |
| NACRE | Subscription renewal | (101741) | 35.00 |

- 16/7532** **POCKET PARK MAINTENANCE.** This had been dealt with earlier in the meeting.
- 16/7533** **HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND.** The Chair updated the meeting on a constructive meeting held between herself and Cllr Wyeth, with Mr David Lane of Kettering Borough Council, which had resulted in an agreement that Wicksteed Leisure be asked to prepare indicative proposals for options priced at £10,000, £15,000, and £20,000 respectively for consideration and comparison. It was noted a visit had been arranged for 5 January 2017 for this purpose; and that from this basis, it should be possible to identify any match funding needed and work up applications upon identifying potential sources then available. This would be kept as a standing agenda item for the next few months.
- 16/7534** **OLD WILLOWS CRAVAN SITE.** The Chair advised that, given the current situation with this site, a meeting with Borough Cllr David Howes had been sought to discuss the policy position and how this should inform consideration of any planning application that was made to regularise the current development that was apparent. Significant concern existed at the levels of occupation and the inadequate separations that were possible in light of this.
- 16/7535** **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE.** Members noted that, after some technical difficulty with uploading to the website due to large file sizes involved, the Neighbourhood Plan consultation had been launched and was now live. Members were urged to encourage responses and there was discussion about what further awareness raising might be possible to increase engagement; some responses were already being seen but it was likely some were putting off completion of the survey due to the Christmas period pending. The importance of responding should be stressed when the issue was discussed.
- 16/7536** **COMMUNITY STREET AND SPEED WATCH INITIATIVES.** Members noted that in order to progress these initiatives, it was necessary for the parish council to have formally declared its support and, accordingly, members unanimously **RESOLVED** that such support be given however possible to such schemes as might be possible to be established in the village and that this be advised as necessary.
- 16/7537** **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
Cllr Baxter reminded members of the need to ensure the circulation pack of material was read and moved on as swiftly as possible; the increase in membership resulted in less effective time per member.
- Cllr Van de Water mentioned the situation with the Old Post Office on High Street, and members agreed that whilst it was concerning that an impasse appeared to have been reached that prevented the current dilapidations being remedied, this turned upon a civil dispute as to rear access and servicing that the authorities were unable to intervene in. Especial concern was noted that the building was unlikely to be weather tight and there was, accordingly, significant scope for further deterioration if a resolution was not found. The Borough Council were aware of the issue and should,

therefore, be able to address matters if any structural safety issues arose.

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned a fly-tipped deposit of rubbish present at Kettering Road.

It was mentioned again that the street light at 6 Silver Street (on the wall) remained out despite repeated reporting.

16/7538 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 18 January 2017, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

16/7539 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed upon all present being wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, at 9:15pm.

17 January 2017

Signed.....