

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 20 September 2017, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, M Rose, Mrs S West, N White, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.  
County Cllr C Smith-Haynes  
Five members of the public

**17/7659** **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllr A Parker (caring duties), Cllr R Shrive (away), and Cllr O Wyeth (unwell). It was also noted the Borough Cllr J Hakewill was likely attending a Borough Council meeting this evening.

**17/7660** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**17/7661** **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 July 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**17/7662** **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The meeting heard from four members of the public who advised councillors, in connection with their opposition to the proposed allocation of the allotment site for housing development, that research had revealed the possible existence of a historic lease relating to the site. It was thought that the Boughton Estate leased the land to the parish in 1917 (copy held), and that lease might have been renewed upon its expiry in the 1930s (no copy held). Those attending asked whether the Parish Council retained this document or whether it held any archive that could be searched as there was a possibility the lease continued.

The Clerk advised that although retained records could be checked, this was not a 'live' document that had come to notice in the time since his appointment in June 1995, and nor had the Parish Council ever administered any allotment related business in the at time, so it was thought very unlikely there was a continuing tenancy in favour of the Council. It was also the case that the structure of local government had been subject to fundamental reorganisation on occasions since the 1930s and the Parish Council in its current form did not actually exist as a legal entity at the relevant time; it being most likely the functions of the Council then had been assumed by the now disbanded Kettering Rural District Council.

Accordingly, if this line of research was to be pursued, it might be best for the same to be followed up with the County Records Office, which was most likely to have acquired any redundant records on dissolution of the obsolete authorities.

In response to other comments concerning the potential relevance of any such lease to present planning policy position, the Clerk then explained that the existence of any contractual arrangements (such as a surviving historic lease) would likely be of very limited weight as a material planning consideration; the process being more concerned with spatial suitability of the land rather than whether the necessary proprietary rights existed for a promoter to deliver development. These being

private matters for the parties concerned.

Cllr Mrs Bull then took the opportunity of this discussion to update those present on the present position with the Neighbourhood Plan. The meeting heard that the finalised plan was close to being submitted, together with its underpinning evidence base, to Kettering Borough Council for pre-referendum consultation to be undertaken by the Planning Authority. Given the plan was the first such in the Borough, KBC were being cautious but there was general optimism that the document and its preparation were both as robust as possible; local people being urged to engage fully with the consultation when it occurred and, most especially, with any related referendum that results.

### **17/7663**

**REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Smith-Haynes provided a report of activity over August, which had been fairly quiet. A meeting of the Kettering Rural Forum was to be attended tomorrow evening, with a particular item of interest likely to be the proposed move away by the police from sending representation to individual parish council meetings, instead focusing on reporting to the Forum at its meetings. It was mentioned that something of a spate of crime appeared to be affecting Burton Latimer lately and this was to be raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the forthcoming meeting with councillors.

The County Council budget position was then touched upon; members noting that the current local government funding model had resulted in quite exceptional pressure for Northamptonshire that was being responded to by the seeking of additional funding such was the impact on service delivery. Discretionary funding especially was liable to be curtailed and this might include individual councillors' own empowerment fund budgets.

The meeting noted that the roll-out of decriminalised civil enforcement powers had caused some local difficulties with Kettering Borough Council, due to that authority's preferred ways of working. Efforts were being taken, however, to try and reconcile approaches in order to achieve consistent practices.

An event was to be held at Grendon Hall to celebrate local groups such as the various cadet troupes etc; and Cllr Smith-Haynes advised she would be shadowing the fostering team for a while, which would be professionally interesting as well as providing perspective to her role as a councillor.

Cllr Rose then queried the current position with the review of safety measures at Pytchley cross-roads. The meeting heard that the solar powered interactive sign there was not working and that the rumble strips that had been installed were also ineffective. There had been at least two recent accidents at the junction and pressure should be maintained for these issues to be addressed and for further improvement too such were the safety concerns. Cllr Smith-Haynes confirmed these issues were known and she would continue the related dialogue initiated by her predecessor.

### **17/7664**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Arising in respect of the High Street recreation ground improvement project, members noted that a grant request to the Central England Co-operative making a Difference scheme had been unsuccessful due to the level of

interest. More positively, the Tesco token drop was now underway in the local store, and it seemed possible that, for the Grantscape scheme, the necessary Contributing Third-Party donation to allow access to the scheme could be sourced from the Redrow development S106 contributions for open space improvement and this was under discussion with the Borough Council.

Arising in respect of grounds maintenance issues in the village, members noted a significant tree in Gate Lane had been removed and caused some local upset. Enquiries had confirmed appropriate notifications had been given to the Planning Authority but the Parish Council had not been consulted as the matter was considered to turn on expert assessment of tree health and condition.

On a similar theme, the meeting heard that since the last meeting, a bough had fallen from a tree on the boundary of the pocket park that had resulted in the adjacent stock fence being breached and an escape of cattle that then had to be recovered, including from a private garden in Church Street. It was believed that the only real damage resulting from the incident was to a car door mirror but the event had caused some distress for the affected householders. The fence had now been repaired.

Cllr Shrive had reported that he had again been asked and had supported a grant application by the Village Hall Committee to access funding to assist with the cost of the Village Show.

Arising in respect of the Village Hall improvement and extension project, members noted a request had been received and agreed to for the latest planning application to be submitted in the name of the Parish Council (as custodian trustee and legal owner of the building); this enabling a reduced application fee to be paid.

Arising in respect of the Old Willows caravan site issues, the meeting heard that it appeared dialogue was now occurring between the owner's agent and the Borough Council with a view to a further retrospective application being made. Attempts to raise the issue at the August planning committee meeting had not resulted in any discussion of the concerns that resulted so the issue had been flagged with the Portfolio Holder given the expectation that current overcrowding of the site, with attendant health and safety risks, should now result in enforcement action. Members agreed the Borough Council should be asked to explain why this was not considered expedient in the circumstances.

Arising in respect of grass cutting and weed control, members noted that the Borough Council had been requested and agreed to undertake an early season spray and strim in April.

Arising in respect of Operation Springbloom, there was a brief discussion as to how best to progress with a carpet display. It was agreed to pursue a bulb order and investigate whether the landscape contractor engaged for the pocket park work might be able to undertake some mechanised planning at the various gateway locations. In respect of the Coxs Lane/Cransley Hill corner, it had now been confirmed that Redrow had agreed to reinstate that planting disrupted by their development works.

**17/7665**

**CORRESPONDENCE.** The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A communication received from NACRE, publicising a social media workshop to be held on 4 October.
- b) A communication received in respect of a consultation relating to the Northamptonshire pharmaceutical needs assessment. It was noted this was open until 4 October 2017.
- c) Material received from the Borough Council intended to raise awareness of the annual canvass for the Register of Electors.
- d) An email circulated by the local Head of Policing, providing security advice in light of the current heightened sensitivity resulting from recent suspected terrorist attacks affecting the country.
- e) Statistical reports received from the police for July and August, showing 7 incidents referred in the former (a burglary, 2 thefts and the rest being domestic violence complaints); and 10 in the latter (a further burglary, 3 assaults, 2 vehicle crimes, a criminal damage, a malicious communication, a perverting justice, and a sexual offence).

**17/7666**

**REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.**

None were presented at this meeting.

**17/7667**

**POLICE REPORT.** No police attendance occurred at this meeting.

**17/7668**

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**

**Planning applications submitted for comment:-**

The following application was considered and it was agreed that no observations should be made:

Village Hall, Gate Lane                  Extensions to side elevations                  Broughton PC

The following application was made and it was agreed to object to the proposal on the basis that the building as had been built without consent was over-dominant/prominent in the street scene and therefore detrimental to the character of the area.

The following application was considered and it was resolved that a comprehensive objection should be made on grounds rooted primarily in it being contrary to policy (being located outside the village framework) and in the deficiencies of the access, together with other concerns as mirrored the recent scheme refused at the rear of Bentham Close (which was directly comparable):

Land at Grange Road                  Outline for up to 20 dwellings                  SnowdonHomes

**NB – in respect of the above item, the Chair was assumed by Cllr Mrs H Bull**

**after Cllr Mrs P Scouse declared a non-pecuniary interest given the proximity of her home to the proposed development and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was discussed.**

The following application was considered after it was reported the Borough Council had confirmed the application had been made in time despite the dates recorded on the planning register indicating otherwise, and it was resolved to object on grounds there was inadequate provision within the scheme for HGV parking, and no apparent micro-generation provision contrary to a commitment previously given by the Borough Council for such schemes:

Old Cransley Ironworks      Reserved matters for mixed scheme      St Francis Group

**Planning decisions notified:**

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

41 Northampton Road      Single storey rear extension      Mr D Murray

The following decision was reported being a refusal with reasons:

The Old Willows      10 mobile homes for gypsies      Mr P Rooney

**17/7669**

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

**Income**      **£**

None was reported at this meeting.

**Expenditure**      **£**

Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit )	4.79
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Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit )	2.00
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire fees	(101774 )	48.89
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101775 )	259.15
HMRC	Income tax	(101776 )	142.43
GA Duthie	Telephone expenses	(101777 )	35.02
BDO LLP	Audit fee	(101778 )	120.00
Mark Baines	Pocket park maintenance	(101779 )	300.00
R Baxter	Magnets for notice board	(101780 )	5.98

Members then received and noted the audit report for the annual statement of accounts for year 2016/17. Only one issue had been raised by the auditor, relating to the date of approval of the statement of accounts, which was after the date of commencement for the electors' inspection period.

**17/7670**

**HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND.** Councillors further discussed the various fundraising avenues being pursued and, in particular, the technicalities around the Grantscape scheme with its necessity for a Contributing Third-Party payment to be made. There was also some discussion of a suggestion made by the Borough Council that equipment be installed by contractors engaged specifically for the purpose, rather than by the supplier, as this was generally more cost-effective.

**17/7671**      **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE.** This had been provided earlier in the meeting (at 17/7662).

**17/7672**      **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned that there appeared to be a pony (or possibly two) being ‘shared’ between various addresses in the Podmore Way area. It seemed to be the case that the animal/animals were being kept in domestic gardens and moved around for some reason.

Cllr Mrs West mentioned 2 street lamps being obscured by overgrowth, at Northampton Road, and at Podmore Way.

Cllr Mrs West also mentioned an issue with brambles in a hedge overhanging the footway at Dawkins Close.

The Chair mentioned a trailer that had been left on the pavement at Carter Avenue.

A query was raised as to whether any update had been received in connection with the former post office on High Street. None had so this was to be followed up.

In respect of the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of former Cllr Van De Water, members noted that the public notice period was shortly due to expire and no call, so far, had been received for an election. Accordingly, it was resolved to appoint Mrs Pamela Wade of Baker Avenue to the vacancy by co-option once the statutory period had expired. Members noted the first meeting date Mrs Wade would be able to sit from would be 18 October, subject to this.

**17/7673**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 18 October 2017, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

**17/7674**      **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:22pm.

18 October 2017

Signed.....