

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 15 November 2017, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, A Parker, M Rose, R Shrive, Mrs S West, N White, O Wyeth, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
Mr C Gresham – Chair of Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association.

17/7691 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Mrs JC Chester (working away), Cllr Mrs P Wade (away), and County Cllr C Smith-Haynes (unwell).

17/7692 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

17/7693 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 October 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair after it was noted that apologies section had been amended to reflect Cllr Shrive being present, and minute 17/7688 had been amended to substitute Mrs Shrive for Cllr Baxter.

17/7694 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The meeting was addressed by Mr Clive Gresham, Chair of the Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association, who gave a presentation to members to outline the next steps planned in connection with the hall improvement and extension project.

In respect of the extension, councillors heard the principal windows serving the Meachem Room were planned to be enlarged to compensate for the fact that the creation of additional storage space by extending the building in that area would unavoidably result in some loss of light.

The need for additional storage space was being driven by increased level of usage of the hall itself, already experienced, and by a likely increase in demand for outside sports facilities.

In broad terms, the costs associated with the extension and resulting changes was in the order of £400,000, which would be partly met by the Section 106 contribution resulting from the Redrow development. The Association already had amassed and committed £40,000 from its own coffers but was looking to other funding sources additionally; the Borough Council perhaps being one of these. Members noted that this was not straight-forward, however, in that financial support toward ‘just’ storage space was not as immediately attractive to sponsors as the provision of primary facilities, despite the enabling nature of the improvements.

In due course, it was likely that a caretaker role might need to be created and funded for too, such was the increasing need for building management and maintenance.

Mr Gresham then described a parallel proposal under consideration for the refresh of

the skating ramp facilities and creation of a new multi-use games area ('MUGA'). Again, the necessity to attract funding was requiring some thinking about in that the area for these facilities was outside the demise of the land leased to the Association; this immediately presented a barrier to grants being easily accessed where funds being applied for were not to be used to provide or enhance 'owned' property.

For this reason, the Association was considering the possibility of taking a lease of the relevant area so that the new and improved MUGA and skate park would become part of the property vested in the Association. Given the Parish Council act as custodian trustee at the direction of the management committee, this would need PC participation to effect if progressed in this manner.

Some discussion ensued after Mr Gresham dealt with members' questions; a particular concern being the extent to which a new lease as envisaged would result in an ongoing maintenance liability for the Association that would likely be onerous in future years. At present, the existing sports and play equipment (including the current skate ramps) were maintained by the Borough Council along with the wider playing field grounds despite provision having been largely funded by the community, through Broughton for Youth. Councillors were anxious undue maintenance burdens were not assumed if alternative structures to taking legal ownership might exist.

Mr Gresham left the meeting at 7:25pm, having been thanked by members for his comprehensive briefing.

17/7695

REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS. None was given at this meeting.

17/7696

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from the special Rural Forum meeting held on 23 October as attended by the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner, members noted a set of notes had been prepared and issued by the Committee Administrator. These were placed on circulation.

Arising in respect of The Old Willows, councillors noted a further exchange had occurred with the Borough Council. In response to the Parish Council's concerns continuing to be pressed, it had been stated that matters would not be allowed to go on indefinitely and that discussions with the site owner were occurring that might result in a new planning application. Councillors again were unhappy with this response, feeling that the breaches of planning control at the site were serious and long-standing; so now needed to be properly addressed. It was agreed to escalate by the Chair writing to the Borough Council managing director.

In respect of the pocket park maintenance programme, it was confirmed that the scheduled end of year cut would be undertaken next week, and that arrangements were being made for the ad-hoc brash clearance work to be put in hand.

Arising in respect of the war memorial refresh, it was reported that although the memorial stonework had responded well to a clean-up and repaint, it had been advised that enamelling of the inscriptions was not appropriate as the stone was quite

porous and there was, accordingly, a high chance that the coating would bleed and create inadvertent unsightliness. It was noted the text was quite legible after the clean-up that had been undertaken however, and the fact this had been possible to complete prior to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday had been appreciated.

Arising in respect of the High Street recreation ground project, members were pleased to note that the grant application made to the Maud Elkington Charitable Trust had been successful, and the sum of £1,500 awarded towards the planned improvements.

Arising from the proposed bus shelter provision to be funded by Redrow from S106 derived monies, the Chair confirmed a satisfactory way forward had been settled that avoided unnecessary additional shelters being installed and should result in the enhancement of existing facilities. This was now being pursued direct between the Borough Council and the company.

In respect of the Redrow perimeter hedge at Cox's Lane, it was reported this had now been cut and it had been confirmed, in the longer term, maintenance of this should become better co-ordinated as a grounds maintenance contract had apparently been let that would include this work on a programmed basis.

In respect of the kind offer by Mr and Mrs Manning of Church Street to plant a tree at the green there, it was reported that the Parish Council's preferred alternative as communicated was being thought about.

17/7697

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) Correspondence exchanged with the Treasurer of the Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association concerning the annual precept and a request for financial support in the event that precepted monies have not been fully utilised this year. Some discussion ensued from this and in the light of Mr Gresham's presentation earlier in the meeting, with it being agreed the request would be considered as part of the current budget setting process.
- b) A further communication received from the Village Hall Association raising the issue of changes it wished to effect to the room hiring terms, especially around invoicing.
- c) A statistical report received from the police for October, showing 6 incidents, comprising 2 injury causing assaults (both domestic), 2 reports of criminal damage, 1 arson involving a car left on the A43, and 1 burglary affecting an unoccupied house.

17/7698

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES. Cllr Mrs Bull reported on the business considered at the last meeting of the Rural Forum; members heard the attendance of the Chief Constable and PCC at this had done little to reassure forum members that the policing emphasis would be anything other than upon major crime only going forward.

Cllr Shrive reported briefly upon the Armistice Day ceremony; members noting this had once again been very well supported as had become traditional.

17/7699

POLICE REPORT. No police attendance occurred at this meeting.

17/7700

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

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

61 Northampton Road Single storey rear extension Ms Elliott

Planning decisions notified:

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

22 Cransley Hill Convert workshop/new dwellings Mr James

Members were concerned and disappointed to see this decision as it was known the same was commercially important to the blacksmith business if the same was to remain viable to operate from the village. It had been considered this scheme had successfully overcome the previous objections to housing development on the site and its refusal would be quite a blow if it resulted in the business relocating. Accordingly, members agreed that in the event an appeal against the refusal was brought, the Parish Council should make supportive representations to the Planning Inspectorate.

17/7701

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

| Income | | £ |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| M Elkington Trust | Grant for High Street recreation ground | 1,500.00 |
| NCC | County Councillor empowerment grant | 1,500.00 |
| Expenditure | | £ |
| Zen Internet | Web hosting charge (direct debit) | 4.79 |
| GA Duthie | Salary and WP (101784) | 259.15 |
| HMRC | Income tax (101785) | 142.43 |
| GA Duthie | Telephone (101786) | 17.39 |
| Mr & Mrs Bedford | Bus shelter ground rent (101787) | 65.00 |
| Royal British Legion | Poppy wreaths (101788) | 34.00 |
| Mrs HJ Bull | NP promotion expenses (101789) | 1,048.74 |
| AJ Mills Masons Ltd | War memorial refresh (101790) | 486.00 |
| Poppy Print | Broughton News printing (101791) | 130.00 |

In respect of the preparation of estimates for income and expenditure for 2018/19, members heard that the Chair and Clerk had been working to capture information on current initiatives with a view to making the process as robust as possible. Councillors considered the headline items and noted that the Parish Council reserves were presently in the order of £33,300 less the expenditure detailed above; a draft

budget should be available for consideration at the December meeting.

17/7702

HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND. The Chair and Cllr Wyeth presented some initial illustrative proposals for updated play equipment that had been informed by an exercise in canvassing users, focused on the under 5 age group. Particular equipment had been identified as being especially well-liked, and a structured approach was being adopted to the layout of this in order to give as much future-proofing as possible for potential expansion of facilities if/when funding permits. In connection with funding, income was now being received with various applications having been favourably determined and others pending. Councillors endorsed the work that had been done and it was agreed to progress in the same vein.

17/7703

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE. Cllr Mrs Bull reported that the formal consultation was now in week 3 and would run until 29 November 2017. Members were asked to encourage comment by parishioners.

17/7704

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

The Chair updated the meeting on the need for a dropped kerb at the Manor Farm corner of Gate Lane, where access difficulties still existed. Ian Boyes of the County Council had advised the relevant budget for such works had been used this year but the need had been noted in case it became possible to progress by other means.

Cllr Shrive mentioned that a hedge at the corner of Baker Ave and Wellingborough Road was spreading so as to obstruct the adjacent footway. A particular difficulty had been observed with a mobility buggy there.

Various street lamp with problems were noted.

17/7705

DATE OF NEXT MEETING. It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 20 December 2017, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

17/7706

URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR. None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:10pm.

20 December 2017

Signed.....