

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 21 February 2018, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, M Rose, R Shrive, Mrs P Wade, Mrs S West, O Wyeth, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
Borough Cllr J Hakewill

18/7741 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs JC Chester (work commitment) and Cllr A Parker (caring responsibility). County Cllr Mrs C Smith-Haynes apologised for likely absence due to a council diary conflict.

18/7742 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

18/7743 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 January 2018, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

18/7744 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The facility was not used at this meeting.

18/7745 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Councillors received a report from Borough Cllr Hakewill, who first confirmed that the Borough had now set its budget with the result that there would be no increase in Council Tax resulting from that authority. In respect of the County Council, it was becoming ever clearer this body was in a very difficult position due to its financial challenges and in no little part due to the amount of publicity being received. Members noted the formal budget setting process had been paused until next week as a result of input from the external auditor, but it seemed very likely a Council Tax rise of 5.98% would be settled, including the ring-fenced levy allowed for social care costs. It was confirmed the Government Best Value Inspection report would issue by 16 March 2018.

Turning to other matters, Cllr Hakewill confirmed that a series of questions for the Head of Development control had been prepared in respect of the Old Willows issues; and, pleasingly, the Street Warden initiative was finally up and running with patrols having commenced. There still remained a need for a co-ordinator/administrator (including for the parallel Speed Watch initiative too); mainly to organise rostering of volunteers.

After dealing with questions, Cllr Hakewill left the meeting at 7:20pm.

18/7746 **MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from the recent report of a potentially abandoned car left on Kettering Road, councillors heard that a member of the public had also raised this as a concern and details had been passed on to the police. However, by the time the registration number had been confirmed, the car had been removed.

Arising from recent exchanges between members and the relevant KBC portfolio

holder concerning emerging planning policies for caravan sites, the meeting noted that the Borough Council were again working to formulate such policy. A needs assessment exercise was to be commissioned jointly with Corby and Wellingborough; it being indicated the adoption of the resulting policy might take as long as 2 years to occur. It had been advised that KBC had land to promote toward the purpose of meeting any provision identified as being necessary.

Arising in respect of the Pytchley crossroads issue, the Chair reported upon a site meeting held with representatives of the County Council and their highways contractor. This had been organised to try and identify possible causes for the accidents and near-misses now regularly occurring at the junction, and a number of factors were apparent, including visibility, signage, traffic speeds and numbers of movements. In respect of the latter elements, councillors head a traffic monitoring study was now underway and the data collected from this would be advised in due course. Feedback had been provided to a concerned member of the public who had been lobbying for improvements.

Arising in respect of the Borough Council budget setting, Cllr Shrive mentioned he had attended the recent consultation meeting for this. Headline points coming from the event were that it was hoped to avoid having to raise the Council Tax for district purposes, services should be maintained, planning fees were to be raised by 20%, joint working with Corby on waste collection was planned, the Crematorium was to be used for functions apart from funerals, homelessness figures had increased over the last year, and council house rents were to decrease by 1%.

Arising in respect of the High Street recreation ground project, members noted that the various different strands for this were now pulling together, and quotations for equipment supply and installation had been received and discussed with the Borough Council; that authority having now agreed to release its contribution toward the costs. Orders would shortly be placed.

18/7747

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A letter received by the Chair from Cllr White, regrettably communicating his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect due to changes in personal and professional commitments that curtailed the time he was able to devote to the role. Members were disappointed to note this but understanding of the position; they wished their thanks for Cllr White's contributions and advice whilst in office to be recorded. It was agreed to canvass potential candidates for co-option on the assumption that the resulting casual vacancy did not cause a by-election to be asked for by voters once notified.
- b) A letter received from NACRE, publicising the annual Best Village competition promoted by that body.
- c) A communication received from the Village Hall Committee, advising of some temporary changes to the cleaning routine for the hall to cover holiday arrangements.

- d) Publicity received from the Borough Council in respect of the Mayor's Charity Gala Evening, to be held on 28 April 2018, the invitation for this being placed on circulation.
- e) A letter from Kettering Borough Council, publicising and providing copies of a sports facilities questionnaire intended to assist in refreshing that body's sports facilities strategy. Copies were circulated.

18/7748

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES.

Cllr Wyeth reported upon the initial meeting of the fledgling Youth Council on 7 February, which had been very well attended. Members noted that business at this had particularly included consideration of sports provision in the village, which was a concern for young people. It was agreed that the information captured in respect of this would be very useful to the Playing Fields and Village Hall Association in respect of the MUGA project being undertaken by that body. Another related concern raised at the meeting was the current level of dog fouling being experienced in the village, affecting sports and open spaces. The Chair confirmed that the KBC dog warden service had been asked to extend patrols in the village. It was noted the next meeting of the new council would be held on 14 March 2018.

Cllrs Shrive and Mrs Bull then reported upon the meeting of the Rural Forum held on 1 February. Key issues considered at this included changes in police statistical reporting practices and an apparent shift in focus for the police to resolvable and serious crime at the expense of matters perceived as being pettier. Initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch and My Community were being promoted to try and gap-fill for this but the changes were causing disquiet. The Forum also spent some time hearing about the financial situation confronting the County Council, with a presentation being made on the subject by Philip Hollobone MP.

18/7749

POLICE REPORT. No police attendance occurred at this meeting. Given the change in reporting practices, it was agreed this standing item on the agenda should be renamed 'Policing' going forward.

18/7750

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

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

15 Donaldson Avenue	Rear and side extensions	Mr Waring
96 Northampton Road	Extensions and replacement garages	Mrs Lloyd
1 Brookhaven	Rear conservatory	Mr MacFarlane

Planning decisions notified:

The following decision had been notified, being an approval subject to conditions:

A14 Westbound Little Chef	Bin store and windows etc	Euro Garages Ltd
---------------------------	---------------------------	------------------

Pre-application consultation:

Members considered a pre-application enquiry received from BHC Architects of Northampton, relating to a proposed bungalow development at number 5 Church Street, where the informal views of the Parish Council were being sought. Members were generally supportive of the proposal subject to no more than 5 units being provided on this site, parking being accommodated within the site confines, and design and appearance being as traditional as possible to complement the conservation area. Councillors were appreciative of the opportunity to comment on the scheme but also mindful of the necessity not to fetter their ability to respond formally if and when a planning application was submitted and consulted upon.

18/7751

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

Income

£

None reported

Expenditure

£

Zen internet	Web domain renewal	(direct debit)	5.99
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	2.00
Barclays Bank PLC	Store fee	(direct debit)	1.00
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire	(direct debit)	10.20
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101805)	259.15
HMRC	Income tax	(101806)	142.43
GA Duthie	Telephone expenses	(101807)	16.99

Bank balances

£

As at 9 February, the Parish Council had to its credit the following sums (less the payments above):

Community account	21,011.49
Deposit account	11,440.17

18/7752

HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND. The Chair updated the meeting on the latest costings and equipment design proposals that had been discussed with the Borough Council, with illustrations of the equipment being shown. Consideration was given to surfacing and proposals from two providers; Kettering Playsafe and Elite Surfacing. That of the latter was preferred, and members noted that the Borough Council had agreed to remove and dispose of the redundant material, which helped constrain costs.

18/7753

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. Cllr Mrs Bull reported that the Inspector had unfortunately been unwell during January, so assessment of the plan had been slightly delayed but was now in hand.

18/7754

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

Cllr Shrive reported a fallen tree at Butts Lane.

The Chair commented that the Pocket Park was starting to show signs of daffodil and aconite bulbs shooting, and the appearance was much improved due to recent vegetation clearance works.

Cllr Baxter mentioned that the High Street recreation ground wall had now been cleared of its Ivy overgrowth and looked much better as a result.

Cllr Mrs West raised an issue with a tree obscuring a street lamp near 78 Northampton Road, and mentioned again that a light remained out in Podmore Way.

Cllr Wyeth mentioned a public seat existed in Wellingborough Road that required repair (or removal if redundant).

Cllr Wyeth raised the issue of Armistice Day this year and reminded members this would be the centenary of the end of First World War hostilities so might be worthy of especial marking.

Cllr Mrs Bull raised an issue with chicken manure being stored at Mile End Lane, which was unpleasant to walk by. Following some discussion, it was agreed there was unlikely to be a remedy for this given the location was on private farmland and no public right of way existed despite public usage of the track there.

18/7755 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 21 March 2018, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

18/7756 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:22pm.

21 March 2018

Signed.....