

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, M Rose, R Shrive, O Wyeth and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
Borough Cllr J Hakewill
County Cllr C Groome
PCs Miller and Mycz of Northamptonshire Police
Two members of the public

17/7558 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllrs M Van de Water and N White.

17/7559 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

17/7560 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 January 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

17/7561 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** No use was made of this facility at this meeting.

17/7562 **POLICE REPORT.** The attending officers introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting. Members heard that 2 incidents had been reported for the preceding month; comprising a theft from a motor vehicle at an address outlying the village, and a burglary in Wellingborough Road. The meeting was informed that proactive patrolling continued in the parish, including officers from the Response Team and the Rural Team.

Whilst this was welcomed, councillors did query whether the national crime mapping statistics for the village, which demonstrated the level of recent offending being suffered locally, indicated that more resources still should be applied. Members conveyed to the officers the intense level of frustration being expressed by residents, especially around the perceived lack of feedback when intelligence and reports were submitted. There was a consensus amongst councillors that what was happening presently was simply not enough; the response seemed disjointed and particular gripes were common in respect of the 101 telephone service, which users had experienced to be ineffective and even off-hand when used.

These issues were discussed in some detail in the context of applicable resource constraints, and it was mentioned that the Community Team was presently looking for an alternative base to operate from. It was wondered whether premises in Broughton might exist, perhaps at the Village Hall. If so, this might be a worth exploring as a means of increasing local police presence whilst meeting the current accommodation need.

17/7563 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**
Borough Cllr Hakewill presented his report, first mentioning that the Streetwatch and Speedwatch initiatives were both progressing, with a co-ordinator now having been

identified for the latter. Cllr Hakewill then touched upon issues including the re-issued consultation around the proposed move to electronic notification to local councils of planning applications, the availability of equipment to support community litter pick initiatives, the selective response to a particular fly-tipping report (where an adjacent deposit had been left on the subject one being cleared), the evolution of the 'pollinator' strategy, and a request being made for a site visit to inform the determination of the Northampton Road caravan site application.

County Cllr Groome then provided a report to members that added to his circulated written report by updating on the County Council budgetary position by advising that last year's budget had not been delivered and this intensified the severed problems being faced. In addition to the headline issues of social care and education, members noted that highway repair demands for potholes had increased by approximately 25% but the budget allocation for this work had not kept pace. County Cllr Groome then mentioned the Redrow S106 contribution for the Cransley Hill junction improvements and indicated that discussions were ongoing as to how these monies could best be applied. An update was given in respect of Highcroft Farm, and it was also described that the policing issues affecting the village were common to other local communities too; members noted that attendance of the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner at the Rural Forum was being sought to explore the reasons for the deterioration.

17/7564

MATTERS ARISING. Arising out of the planning application relating to the Old Willows proposed caravan site development, it was reported that the Borough Council had responded to the Parish Council's observations on the application by asserting validation had properly occurred but that amended plans were anticipated that would also be consulted upon when received. In respect of the outstanding enforcement action sought, it had been indicated that the expediency of this would await determination of the pending application.

Arising in respect of the budget consultation meeting held by the Borough Council on 26 January, members had received a summary as circulated by Cllr Shrive who had attended together with Cllr Wyeth.

Arising in respect of the measures under consideration to try and improve safety at the Pytchley crossroads junction, members noted the continuing dialogue between County Cllr Groome and highway engineers, including the suggestion being pressed for 'give way' there signs to be replaced by mandatory stop signs and associated markings.

Arising in respect of street lighting, Cllr Baxter mentioned that the defective lamp in Silver Street remained out of service despite repeated reports and reminders.

It was noted that a fly tipped deposit had been left in Kettering Road and reported. This prompted discussion as to whether the spur being the line of the former road that now served as the allotments access could be better secured, subject to any residual highway rights being stopped up.

In respect of the issue of the Local Development Scheme, or lack of, adopted by the

Borough Council, the meeting noted an exchange of emails where the Borough Council had been asked but so far declined to disclose the legal advice being relied upon to assert lawfulness of the latest round of planning policy proposals following the resolutions of the Planning Policy Committee in November 2016.

17/7565

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A communication from the Borough Council restating and consulting upon that authority's intention to generally commence notifying local councils of planning applications received by electronic means rather than in paper form. It was suggested this would not invariably be the case and that for some applications with voluminous supporting material, either paper or CD based copies could be provided. After some discussion, it was agreed what was proposed would likely prove unwieldy and would put the onus on recipient councils to invest in hardware they might not otherwise need to view and consider the material. Whilst accepting the change was perhaps inevitable now, councillors agreed to make representations that the cost of the necessary equipment should be borne by the Borough to facilitate the change if it proceeded.
- b) An email received from Mrs J Long, raising concerns about the impact of school run traffic upon West Street and Ivydene Terrace; it being suggested that passage to and from Cransley Hill for residents was becoming impossible at around 3pm on school days. Members noted the representations and noted also the Chair had responded by acknowledging that matters were difficult, but that the nature of the area made a solution elusive where many parents seemed unprepared to walk their children to school (although many now did). It had been explained the Parish Council was sympathetic to the problems suffered by residents, and had regularly sought assistance from school and police alike to try and alleviate the issue; also that a proposal to introduce yellow lines had not proved viable.
- c) A communication received from the Borough Council advising of changes to the arrangements for reporting faults with street lighting, including the existence of a dedicated email address for this purpose :
streetlighting@kettering.gov.uk.
- d) Communications from the Borough Council, advising of the withdrawal of two planning applications commented upon recently, relating to 1 Rectory Gardens and 31 Silver Street.
- e) A letter from the Social Inclusion Team Leader of the Borough Council, advising of details of her role and providing display material to encourage the take-up of benefits for housing and council tax assistance.
- f) A letter from the Borough Council, providing details of a town and parish council planning training event to be held on 22 March 2017 from 6pm. It was agreed that Cllrs Rose and Wyeth would attend.

- g) Finally, a communication received with regret from Cllr Reverend Withington who, after tendering apologies for unavoidable non-attendance at the meeting, had indicated that his increasing pastoral workload and associated diary conflicts had meant he had concluded it was right to resign his membership. Councillor noted this and wished to record their gratitude for his assistance and support whilst in office, which had proved very valuable to the council and of great benefit to the community. The meeting noted that the resulting casual vacancy had been notified to the Elections Manager and if no by-election was claimed as a result of the same being advertised, then the council would be free to co-opt to the vacancy.

17/7566

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.

Planning applications submitted for comment:-

The following application was considered, being a re-submission following withdrawal of the earlier proposal, and it was resolved that no observations need be made:

1 Rectory Gardens Single storey rear extension Mr Fisher

The following application was considered, also being a resubmission, and it was resolved an objection be notified as, with previous proposal, KET/2016/0893, it was felt the scheme still 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, resulting in adverse effects on highway safety and residential amenity. Cox Lane is used by large vehicles including farm and delivery bound HGVs, and refuse freighters etc. Any parking on Coxs Lane in the vicinity of the application site would obstruct passage for such vehicles and cause excessively long reversing manoeuvres that are contrary to the guidance in Manual for Streets due to potential risks to safety.

31 Silver Street Conversion/creation of bungalow Mrs Benbow

Planning decisions notified:

None were reported at this meeting.

17/7567

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

Income			£
None was reported			
Expenditure			£
Zen Internet	Web hosting charge	(direct debit)	4.79
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	2.00
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101747)	256.96
HMRC	Income tax	(101748)	145.98
GA Duthie	Telephone/electricity exps	(101749)	43.94
KBC	Festive lighting costs	(101750)	628.80

In respect of the festive lighting recharge, members noted the amount invoiced and agreed this should be queried given only one string of lights was illuminated on the High Street trees this time, rather than the three that had customarily been done for similar cost. It had been the case that a repair had been necessary but prior to that being effected, it had been agreed that replacement lights could be provided if needs be that would have resulted in fuller display for much the same outlay.

17/7568

HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND. Cllr Wyeth presented a draft letter he had prepared for consideration, seeking support from recipients with the fundraising necessary to progress the improvements to younger children's play provision at the recreation ground. In addition, a helpful letter of support had been secured from the Borough Council that confirmed that authority would adopt and maintain any equipment provided by the initiative. After discussion, it was agreed this material provided a very solid base for making approaches to potential benefactors and final honing could take place between interested councillors.

17/7569

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GANGS. In respect of this initiative, it was agreed that a bid should be made for work to be undertaken to further advance the siding-out of the footways at Glebe Avenue, and also at the Grange Road estate generally.

17/7570

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE. Cllr Mrs Bull provided an update and members noted that a healthy crop of responses had been received from a variety of stakeholders, including from the Borough Council and from various promoters of sites. These were now being carefully assessed in order to identify what amendments to the draft plan might be necessary to address the comments made.

17/7571

WEBSITE. Given the recent difficulties in uploading and making available the Neighbourhood Plan consultation material on the council's website, it was discussed whether changes needed to be made to the hosting arrangements to prevent recurrence. It was clarified that the difficulty was not actually one of inadequate capacity on the host server but one of over-tight upload limits set in the software that the site was written in. Although it was possible to increase these, this was not technically straight forward and there was a good chance of corrupting the established layout of the site if attempted changes failed. In practice, large documents could now be hosted off-site and linked to (as had been done with the Neighbourhood Plan material) and this avoided the problem.

17/7572

GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.

It was suggested that general ADSL internet speeds in the village appeared to have become slower since the commencement of the fibre service.

It was commented that the verge at the access track from Kettering Road near Paston House was becoming very congested with parked vehicles.

A query was raised concerning the removal of a garden fence and tree on the adjacent public open space at Podmore Way; to be raised with the Borough Council.

The need to remind the Borough Council of the desire for additional weed spraying to enable this to be programmed.

17/7573 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 15 March 2017, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, followed by the annual meeting for local government electors at 8.00pm.

17/7574 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:20pm.

15 March 2017

Signed.....