

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Chairman: Cllr P.A. Scouse.

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Local Government Electors in the Parish of Broughton

Wednesday 15th March 2023

Councillors Present:

Cllr P. Scouse.

Cllr R. Shrive.

Cllr M. Rose.

Cllr H. Bull.

Cllr C. Taylor

Cllr J. Manning

Cllr M. Gray.

County/Borough Councillor present:

Cllr J. Manning

Cllr J. Currall

23/01. Apologies. (1)

No apologies were received

23/02. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting. (2)

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th March 2022, copies were made available, approved and consequently signed by the Chair.

23/03. Matters arising from minutes. (3)

None were raised

23/04. Annual Report of the Parish Council. (4)

Report from Chair Cllr Scouse

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council Team. We were sorry to lose a valuable member of our team Isabel Robson and we thank her for her contribution. We were also pleased to welcome a new member, Cllr Mark Gray.

There has been a full calendar of meetings and conferences where councillors have represented Broughton making sure that your voice is heard on a range of matters.

The Parish Council joined a number of other parishes in a large scale venture to record and map all the assets present in communities across North Northants. This provided detailed information which will prove valuable in managing service and maintenance in future.

We continue to work with Northants Highways to find a workable solution to the traffic issues that the village experiences. This is proving to be a challenging problem but one which we are determined to resolve. The Parish Council also continue to monitor the situation at the Pytchley Crossroads and work with Highways to improve the safety of the junction. The Kettering Rd/A43 junction is also creating problems as the volume of traffic on A43 increases so discussions are taking place with Highways on this subject.

The Pocket Park regeneration project moved another step forward during the year. The perimeter of the pond was planted with a variety of native plant species which we hope will become established and provide an attractive edge for both wildlife and people. The area in front of the dipping platform was becoming quite boggy so it was improved with a permeable membrane topped with stone which will provide firmer footing.

With the changes in farming practices and the loss of old barns which previously provided nesting sites for owls it was decided to install nest boxes suitable for Barn owls and Tawney owls. These are specialised structures to suit the needs of these birds so after research and consultation with experts, two Barn Owl boxes and one Tawney Owl box were installed. Now that the pond will attract a greater number of insects it is hoped that it will become a valuable feeding ground for bats so three bat boxes were also installed around the perimeter to provide summer daytime shelter.

The Old Memorial Garden off the High St park was a rather sad and unloved space so a project is underway to create an attractive corner with year round interest. NNC improved the access by removing the steps which had become unsafe and replacing them with a ramp. A generous donation from a Broughton resident contributed to the purchase of an ornamental tree which has been planted in the centre and further planting will take place during the forthcoming year.

The Parish Council collaborated with the Broughton Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee and NNC to provide an Outdoor Gym in the Village Hall Playing Field. This equipment is free to use and the hope is that with household finances being stretched at the moment this facility will encourage people to take some exercise and enjoy the fresh air.

I'm pleased to say that the Broughton News is back. It was decided that a quarterly newsletter would be produced but would be mainly online. Paper copies will be made available in key locations for those who prefer it.

The old red phone box in the High St has been repurposed into a library – donations of books are welcome but please don't put any other items in there.

And finally – you can see the range of activities that the Parish Council undertake. If you would like to be involved in making your village a better place then why not join us? No experience is necessary.

23/04. Statement of Parish Council Accounts 2020/21. (5)

A statement of the Parish Council's accounts comprising a copy of the Annual Return for financial year ended 31 March 2022 was submitted and noted after an opportunity for questions was given.

23/05.Accounts of Parochial Charities. (6)

Statements of accounts in respect of the Broughton Charities of Bentham for the year up to 31st December 2022, and the Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association for the year up to 31st March 2022, were submitted and noted.

Bentham Charities – After many years, the trustees and the clerk contacted the Parish Council to let know their intentions to resign. It was **resolved** unanimously to appoint Cllrs Hilary Bull, Mark Gray, Martin Rose and Robin Shrive as the new trustees and Cllr Scouse will manage the clerk role.

23/06. Reports from NNC Councillor’s for the division/ward covering the Parish. (7)

None were submitted.

23/07. Reports of representatives of organisations within the Parish. (8)

Broughton Playing Field & Village Association submitted a Chairpersons report which is attached to the end of these minutes.

23/08. Consideration of proposed resolutions submitted by Electors. (9)

None were submitted.

23/09. Local Development outcomes against Neighbourhood Plan expectations. (10)

Neighbourhood Development Order – BT exchange on track. An engineer confirmed these type of exchanges will be redundant in 4/5 years.

Neighbourhood plan is due for review. An internal meeting will be organised in the summer.

Members asked the ward councillors if there is any progress with the NNC Local Plan as KBC had a housing allocation until 2031. It was confirmed they are looking at it now in conjunction with the Advisory Planning Policy.

23/10. Local initiatives. (11)

Other than the local initiatives that have already been undertaking this year, see 23/04, new local initiatives for the coming year were discussed. Suggestions included were:

Allotments – Could a stall be set up in the village for the purpose of selling excess produce from allotment residents.

High Street park – new play equipment, more for younger generation. Pyramid net climbing frame could be considered. Would need to out to consultation.

Treasure trail around village for kids

Heritage trail around village for adults

23/11. Any additional matters that the Chair considers to be appropriate for consideration by the meeting. (12)

A resident expressed their thanks via Cllr Manning for all the work the council has done this year.

The Chair thanked all present for their contributions and the meeting was closed at 8:55pm

Signed:

Dated: