

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs R Shrive (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, M Rose, Mrs P Wade, Mrs S West, N White, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie.
County Cllr C Smith-Haynes and Borough Cllr J Hakewill.

17/7707 **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Mrs PA Scouse (family commitment), Cllr A Parker (childcare), Cllr O Wyeth, Cllr Mrs H Bull for possible lateness, and Sergeant Offord of Northamptonshire Police whose work pattern prevented attendance.

17/7708 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

17/7709 **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 November 2017, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

17/7710 **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The facility was not used at this meeting.

17/7711 **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** County Cllr Mrs Smith-Haynes mentioned the County budget setting process was still occurring and proving to be a difficult exercise, with consultations running. These included in relation to the library service and to bus services but it was difficult to assess likely impacts for Broughton presently. The Councillor had visited various young person focused support agencies over the last month, and the police and Crime Panel workshop had also been attended.

It was confirmed that the email and social media exchanges arising from the latest accident at Pytchley cross-roads had been seen and whatever efforts were possible to bring any improvement to safety there would be supported.

Borough Cllr J Hakewill noted the refusal of permission for the Grange Road housing proposal, and commented also upon the disappointment felt for the Blacksmiths due to the refusal of their application, where it seemed possible to discern inconsistencies of approach by the planning authority. It was wondered whether a further application might be worthwhile. In respect of the ongoing issues with The Old Willows, the latest correspondence exchanged with the Council had been noted.

The Councillor confirmed he had made supportive representations in response to the Neighbourhood Plan consultation; expressed some embarrassment at what seemed an ineffective police response to the Street Watch initiative but remained supportive if that could be revitalised somehow. Similarly, the Speed Watch initiative was encountering some difficulties in that the co-ordinator had needed to stand back but support was committed for next year if a replacement could be recruited.

On the County Council budget setting process, stakeholders were encouraged to comment fully due to the difficult and far-reaching decisions being considered.

Discussion especially occurred around likely impacts on bus services and winter gritting; members noting that for some reason the A43 slip road was already being omitted from treatment, which seemed pre-emptive.

17/7712

MATTERS ARISING. Arising from the issue of the changes to the Village Hall room hire arrangements, it was noted the new booking agreement had been received together with the latest invoice. It was agreed this represented a reasonable way forward.

Arising in respect of the recent decision not to make specific provision to raise funds for the Village Hall improvement project from the annual precept for 2018/19, it was noted that some disquiet had been voiced on behalf of the Association, including going to the question of whether the Parish Council still supported the development of the site and its amenities.

17/7713

CORRESPONDENCE. The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) A letter received from the Borough Council, providing information about forthcoming consultation events in respect of the County Council budgetary process and how these might be engaged with.
- b) A communication received from the Borough Council concerning the forthcoming meeting of the Independent Review Panel, convened to review Borough Council members' allowances. This was due to occur in February, with representations being invited by 26 January 2018; the outcome being likely to be received in April 2018.
- c) A letter from County Highways, providing a quotation for the relocation of the gate at the Kettering Road approach to the village; being in the sum of £3,277 plus VAT. It was agreed to make this an agenda item for January.
- d) A letter from the Borough Head of Development Services responding to the Parish Council's concerns in respect of The Old Willows site and the planning position there; members noting the continuing intention of the Borough Council to canvass further applications in an effort to resolve matters with enforcing planning controls.
- e) Correspondence exchanged between the Chair and Borough Cllr Hakewill concerning the proposed new planning enforcement policy being considered by the Borough Council; this being thought to be weaker than was needed as evidenced by recent experiences at The Old Willows.

NB Cllr Mrs Bull arrived at this point, at 7:45pm, and Borough Cllr Hakewill left.

17/7714

REPORTS OF MEMBERS ATTENDING MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES. Cllr Shrive reported briefly upon the last meeting of the Rural Forum; members hearing that the key items were that the formal planning consultation system would remain unchanged for now (although electronic access would be available for those

local councils wishing for that), and broadband speeds in rural areas should see targets being increased. In particular, fibre to property connection should become more available. Again, the Forum had spent time considering the County budgetary position.

17/7715 **POLICE REPORT.** No police attendance occurred at this meeting and it was not believed any exceptional incidents had occurred over the last month.

17/7716 **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL.**
Planning applications submitted for comment:-

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

96 Northampton Road House extensions plus garage Mrs Lloyd

The following application was considered and it was agreed to object to the proposal on the basis the extension would result in a tight plot in a densely populated location being over-developed with a consequent unacceptable lessening of amenity both for the occupiers of the application property and for adjacent neighbours:

4 Rathmine Court Two storey rear extension Mr & Mrs Barker

Planning decisions notified:

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

Grange Road (land at) Outline for up to 20 dwellings SnowdonHomes

The following decisions were noted, being approvals subject to conditions:

61 Northampton Road Single storey rear extension Ms Elliott
25 Silver Street Rear extension and loft conversion Ms Burgonsmith

17/7717 **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
Barclays Bank PLC	Commission	(direct debit)	2.00
M Baines	PP maintenance	(101792)	300.00
M Baines	PP one-off brash clearance	(101793)	480.00
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire	(101794)	38.25
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101795)	259.15
HMRC	Income tax	(101796)	142.43
GA Duthie	Telephone and electricity	(101797)	34.80

In respect of the preparation of estimates for income and expenditure for 2018/19, members received a draft budget and agreed to consider this further at the January

meeting.

Members then noted a communication received that advised of the appointment of a new external auditor for the period 2017/18 to 2021/22; the new auditor being PKF Littlejohn LLP.

17/7718 **HIGH STREET RECREATION GROUND.** In the absence of Cllr Mrs Scouse and Cllr Wyeth it was noted that the project continued to be pursued and steady progress was being made.

17/7719 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE.** It was noted there was no substantive update this month due to the post-consultation processes the plan was subject to.

17/7720 **PYTCHLEY CROSS-ROADS.** The recent further accidents at this junction were discussed, with particular concern noted at the costs, apparently in excess of £40,000, incurred by the County Council in repairing fencing over the last 4 years or so. It was questioned why the cost fell to the public purse if drivers were insured and the fence enclosed private land. The effectiveness (or otherwise) of signage and rumble strips etc as recently installed was also discussed, as was the possibility that satellite navigations systems might be erroneously showing priorities at the junction. It was agreed meetings should be pursued with Ian Boyes for the County Council, who should be asked to involve the safer roads team in order that up-to-date statistics could inform dialogue. Also, neighbouring parishes ought to be involved in considering the issue. Information provided by an interested member of the public was placed on circulation.

17/7721 **GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**
Cllr Baxter mentioned that the village map had been cleaned but the display was now fading and was also in need of updating to reflect new developments.

Cllr Mrs West mentioned a car had been parked long term near the Kettering Road allotments; it was thought this might have suffered a break-down.

Cllr Shrive mentioned that there was probably a necessity to update Declaration of Interest register forms; fresh forms to be circulated (unchanged format).

17/7722 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 17 January 2018, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

17/7723 **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed.

17 January 2018
Signed.....