

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 29 April 2008 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, T Everard, D Kennedy, M Lacey, Mrs P Fox, R Monk, Mrs S Verallo, S Whiffen & Mrs E Wiig

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Joanne Richardson – Northants Rural Housing Association
A Member of the Youth Club

08/104 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Millar, Sgt Grady and Cllr J McFadyen.

08/105 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr E Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority and member of Brixworth Village Hall Committee.

Cllr P Fox declared a personal interest – Member of the Brixworth Bulletin Team

Cllr S Verallo declared a personal interest – Member of the Brixworth Bulletin Team

Cllr R Monk declared a personal interest in item 08/108 – Resident in Silver Street

Cllr T Everard declared a personal interest in item 08/110 – Lives adjacent the Ashway Playing Fields

Cllr S Whiffen declared a personal interest in item 08/110 - Lives adjacent the Ashway Playing Fields

08/106 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 25 March 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

08/107 Signing of the Minutes of the Grant Application meeting 15 April 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

There were no members of the public present wishing to address the Council.

08/108 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady had sent the following report: -

- Quad bike stolen Silver Street 31st mar – 1 April
- Theft of cable 2nd April 08 - 2 males arrested in Woodsfield in possession of a stolen van, now bailed to re attend the Police Station for charge
- Nissan Navara taken Ferro Fields 2nd April keys in vehicle
- Attempt Burglary dwelling Silver street 4-5th April
- Trampoline taken Woodsfield and dumped across the road 7th April
- 2 x attempt theft of cars Stannard Way, car doors bent back Grass slade and the Knoll and car stolen from Northampton Rd, all linked 7-8th April and offender arrested and on delayed charge bail.
- 4 tyres slashed Northampton Rd 7-8 April
- Dwelling burglary New St, cash taken 7-11 April 08
- Fence Damage Spratton Rd 11-12 April (youths rampaging through gardens).

- Annual crime as mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting down 23% to 187 from 243
- Criminal damage down 52% from 61 to 30
- Vehicle Theft up from 6-14 (keys left in many!)
- Dwelling burglary down from 16 to 14.

The Council mentioned the significant reduction in criminal damage, which is linked to anti social behaviour. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the Chief Constable, for all the effort, which has been made over the past year by Sgt Grady and his team.

08/109 Results of the Housing Needs Survey

Joanne Richardson from Northants Rural Housing Association reported the following:

- The survey forms were hand delivered to all residents in Brixworth and returned during February 2008.
- 349 forms out of 2000 were returned, which is considered a reasonable response.
- The results list includes comments made by residents regarding the lack of facilities and about affordable housing.
- Copies of the survey were circulated to members. The Clerk is to have an email copy for circulation.
- The results to be published in the next edition of the Bulletin.

It was resolved for Councillors to have time to look at the survey results, therefore the Council is to consider the results at the June Full Council meeting, when it is hoped that Elaine Ferguson from the District Council and Natalie Westland from Northants ACRE will also be able to attend.

The following agenda item was brought forward.

08/110 Report on Site Meeting at Ashway Playing Field – BMX Facility

Cllr Everard reported that there had been a site meeting on Saturday, 26 April 2008 on the Ashway Playing Field to look at the area proposed for the new BMX facility. Members of the Youth Club were present to discuss their ideas for the facility. A basic plan of a circular route has been put together by the young people, this will need to be drawn up using ROSPA's guidelines. It is still hoped that 40 tonnes of soil is available for free from a local supplier.

Cllr Everard re-confirmed that he had consulted 34 residents who live adjacent the field and that 24 were for the facility, 5 were against and 5 were not in. Concerns were raised about motorcycles using the ground, it was suggested that a CCTV camera could be installed on the changing rooms.

It was resolved that in principal the Council agree to have a BMX facility on the Ashway Playing Field. The following issues need to be resolved: -

- Is planning permission required?
- To find out the cost of installing a CCTV camera on the changing rooms.
- Whether or not the Council has the free use of a mini digger for a weekend?
- BMX track plan to be designed to Rospa's guidelines.
- ROSPA inspector to look at the plans to see if anything needs to be changed or make recommendations.

The representative from the Youth Club was thanked for coming to the meeting and contributing to the discussion.

Planning

08/111 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 21 April 2008

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 21 April 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

08/112 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – April 2008 Report

The planning approvals and refusals for April 2008 were noted as follows: -

Approvals

DA/2008/0094 NCC, County Hall, Npton, Highways Depot, NCC, Harborough Road, Brixworth

Retention of temporary Office building

18.2.08 PC No objection 19.3.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0095 NCC, County Hall, Npton, Highways Depot, NCC, Harborough Road, Brixworth

Retention of temporary Office building

18.2.08 PC No objection 19.3.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0136 Mr S Stanley, 85 Spratton Road, Brixworth

Two storey extension to side of dwelling

26.2.08 PC No Objection 18.3.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0142 Mr & Mrs Harkness, Hadleigh Cottage, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Dormers in roof of garage, already approved by application DA/2007/0037 to convert roof space into room.

18.2.08 PC No objection 26.3.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0166 Ms Watkins, Beech Hill, 25 Church Street, Brixworth

Demolition of conservatory and outhouse, construction of extensions to house and new detached garage (amendments to DA/2007/0044)

18.2.08 PC No objection 3.04.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0208 Foden Ibex Ltd, Ferro Fields, Scaldwell Road, Brixworth

Construction of new secondary entrance and two car parking places for office accommodation associated with industrial unit

10.3.08 PC No objections 7.4.08 DDC Approved

DA/2008/0224 Mrs Graham, Wood Close, 8 High Street, Brixworth

Detached chalet dwelling with attached single garage

10.3.08 PC No objection 14.4.08 DDC Approved

Refused

None

Finance

08/113 Income Received for March 2008

The Clerk reported the Income received for March 2008, which was as follows: -

Received from	Details	£
DDC	Contribution to utilities - Comm. Ctr	97.31
Community Centre	Hall Hire	421.90
Natwest Bank	Bank Interest Jan - Mar 08	431.11
		<hr/> 950.32 <hr/>

08/114 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2008

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 March 2008 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£5,449.69
Capital Reserve Account	£73,710.82
Less Cheques outstanding	£7,065.50
Plus Cheques not lodged	£58.78
Balance Carried forward as at 1.04.08	£72,153.79

08/115 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for March 2008

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for March 2008. The Income and Expenditure and Reserves reports were discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting.

Cllr Monk reported that this years actual expenditure had been closer to the budgeted expenditure compared to previous years. The actual Income was on target compared to the budgeted Income for the year.

08/116 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 15 April 2008

The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 15 April 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

08/117 To Report on Financial Year End as at 31 March 2008

At the beginning of the year the reserves total was £101,917.10 , £53,743.99 in General Reserves. At the end of the year the reserves total is £62,387.84, £40,459.73 in General Reserves. The surplus income over expenditure for the year, which is to be transferred to the reserves, is £13,540.47.

This means that the General Reserves as at 1 April 2008 is £51,505.20 which equates to approximately 52% of the precept for the year.

08/118 To Approve Payment to Northants Police towards Funding an Office in Brixworth for the Safer Community Team £3,000.

On proposal by Cllr Monk and seconded by Cllr Bament with all in favour it was resolved to approve the payment of £3000.00 to Northants Police, towards the funding of an office in Brixworth for the Safer Community Team.

08/119 To Approve Cost for NALC Internal Auditor for the Year Ending 31 March 2009

It was resolved to approve NALC as the Internal Auditor for 2008/09 at a cost of £242.55.

08/120 To Approve Cost for Annual Subscription to NALC

It was resolved to renew the Annual Membership to Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils (NALC) for the year 2008/09 at a cost of £723.00.

08/121 To Approve Annual Renewal of Insurance

It was resolved to approve the payment for the renewal of the Council's insurance at a cost of £3,081.89 to Allianz Insurance. This is an increase of £200 compared to last year, which includes the insurance for the new play equipment and an inflationary increase.

08/122 To Approve the Bills for Payment for April 2008

A schedule of payments, to be made in April 2008 was available to each member at the meeting. It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment; therefore the Chairman signed the schedule of payments.

Retrospective Approval				
Chq No.	Minute	Payment To	Reason for Payment	£
3701	08/023r	Thurston Group	Outside grills for vents to C/rooms	346.63
<u>Chq. No.</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3702		Mr M Sugden	Groundman's Salary Apr 2008	1,033.49
3703		Mrs J Macken	Clerk's Salary Apr 2008	1,008.88
3704		Mr D Smith	P/T Groundsmans wages Apr 2008	227.20
3705		Mrs B Smith	Litter Picker wages Apr 2008	223.20
3706		Mrs E Bell	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Apr 2008	314.00
3707		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Apr 2008	699.49
3708		NCC	Pension Contributions - Apr 08	330.29
3709		Mrs J Macken	Postage	8.08
3710		ESPO	Cleaning materials / Stationery	86.94
3711		E.ON Energy	Street Light Electricity - Qtr 1.08 - 3.08	62.74
3712		BCF Action Ltd	Refreshments APM 23.4.08	6.00
3713		British Gas Business	Elec. Chgs - C/rooms Apr 08	124.79
3714		DDC	Emptying bins - 1.4.08 - 1.7.08	378.46
3715		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	73.87
3716		Eurooffice Ltd	Printer cartridge for Clerks printer	46.40
3717		Cannon	Comm. Ctr. Sanitary Unit May - July 08	12.23
3718		Kidde Fire Protection	Emergency Light Inspection	149.23
3719		NCC	Elec. Chgs - Comm. Ctr. 26.10.07-28.1.08	314.10
3720		The Mower Shop	New shaft for mower	314.39
3721		BACA	Hand wipes for groundsman	24.50
3722	08/019r	Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement swing seat - Sp. Rd. Rec.	41.71
3723	08/006	Brixworth Village Hall	Hall Hire - Mar 08 - Aug 08	122.76
3724	08/020r	Trevor Iles Ltd	Litter Bin	314.90
3725	08/021	E M Pell	Tree work to Council trees	558.12
3726	08/055	Mark Baker Landscapes	New footpath and entrance - Ashway P F	788.30
3727	08/086	Armadillo Supplies	Replacemnet panes for bus shelter	964.42
3728		A H Blason & Son	Fuel	329.11
3729	08/111	Brixworth Junior FC	Community Grant	500.00
3730	08/109	Brixworth Scout Group	Community Grant	600.00
3731	08/110	Brixworth Toddler Group	Community Grant	150.00
3732	08/106	Brixworth Travel Club	Community Grant	600.00
3733	08/108	Ladybirds Pre-School	Community Grant	200.00
3734	08/107	Brixworth Youth Foundation	Community Grant	5,000.00
3735		Allianz Ins. Plc	Renewal of Insurance	3,081.89
3736		Northants Police	Contribution towards Brixworth SCT office	3,000.00
3737		NALC	Annual Subs / Internal Auditor	965.55
3738		British Gas Business	Gas Chgs 25.1.08 - 31.3.08 - Comm. Ctr	223.76

08/123 To Approve Cost for Production of Annual Report and Inclusion in Bulletin

It was resolved to approve the cost of the printing of the Annual report and inclusion in the next edition of the Brixworth Bulletin at a cost of £160.00.

Recreation and Amenities Development***08/124 Use of Recreation Ground for DDC Summer Sports Roadshow***

It was resolved for the District Council to have free use of the Ashway Playing Fields and changing rooms for its Summer Roadshow on 5 August 2008.

It was also resolved to allow Freestyle Soccer Academy to use St David's Recreation Ground for their soccer days during school holidays at a cost of £25.00 a day.

Highways and Environment***08/125 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 8 April 2008***

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 8 April 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Zebra Crossing Update

Cllr Fox reported that community NCC Highways engineer Nick Gore is doing his best to implement the work on the zebra crossing as a priority. Unfortunately NCC Highways cannot advance the project with the developers Amberley because under the Section 106 planning agreement, they have the right to use the Northampton Road access up to the point when the first house is built. In addition the developers need the access for their utilities. Midsummer Housing Association have terminated their contract with Amberley, however another housing association is now negotiating with the developers. It is hoped that building will recommence at the end of May 2008.

Update on Holcot Road Drains

Work on the drains in the Holcot Road green area are to be programmed into the schedule according to NCC Highways. With regards to the collapsed drains near to Stannard Way NCC have said that it is their responsibility and will be looking at measurements in the near future.

08/126 Obstruction of Access in Broad Street

Cllr E Wiig reported that residents in Northampton Road are concerned that vehicles are obstructing their vehicle access to the rear of their properties and garages in Broad Street.

It was resolved to ask the Police to look into this matter and for the Clerk to look into the cost of having white lines marked on the road.

08/127 Report on Tree Surgeons Inspection of Parish Council's Trees

The tree surgeon has confirmed that he has not come across any Parish Council owned trees that give them cause for concern or that require urgent attention. The Chairman raised his concerns regarding the horse chestnut trees on St Davids Recreation Ground, which he thought may have leaf canker. The leaves are to be monitored once out.

08/128 Questions for the Casualty Reduction Question Time 11 June 2008

Questions from Councillors to be emailed to the Clerk by 8 May 2008.

08/129 Holcot Road Development and Condition of the Grass Verges

Residents have raised their concerns regarding the poor condition of the grass verges caused by the developers of the Holcot Road development. The groundsman has inspected all the grass verges and the area requiring attention is the verge opposite the development, which the developers have agreed to re turf. The other areas have been reinstated with topsoil and the grass will grow through in the next couple of months. The Clerk was asked to contact McInerney Homes to ask when the area is to be re turfed.

08/130 Condition of the Post Box on The Ashway

The poor condition of the post box in the Ashway has been reported to the Post Office.

08/131 Climate Friendly Communities Induction Workshop

Cllr Whiffen attended the Induction Workshop at Sixfields on Wednesday, 23 April 2008 on behalf of the Council. Cllr Whiffen gave a brief report about the workshop. Further information is required regarding limits of the project, funding and support.

Correspondence for discussion

08/132 NCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan

A letter from the NCC Rights of Way had been received with details of the improvement plan for 2007-2011. The plan is to improve the networks around where people live. It also asked for details of any circular walks that could be promoted. The Clerk was asked to reply giving details of the Brixworth History Society's new historic circular walk.

The Clerk was also asked to write to Mr Mallard to enquire whether he would consider reinstating the countryside access arrangements on his land, which was in place several years ago.

08/133 Parish Council Election

The Chairman reported that there are fourteen nominations for the fourteen vacancies for Parish Councillors, this means that there will not be an election and that all persons nominated will be elected unopposed.

Congratulations to Cllr Frank Wiig who has also been elected unopposed as District Councillor for the Brixworth Ward.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Fox, Cllr Verallo, Cllr Peacock and Cllr McFadyen who have not stood again for election, for all their time spent serving the community as Parish Councillor and wished them all the best for the future.

New members to the Council include Mrs Angie Gunnett, Mr Ron Low, Mr Steve Pointer and Mr Frank Wiig.

As previously agreed the new members will have a mentor to assist them during the first few months.

08/134 Correspondence for information only

The Chairman reported that the correspondence file was available for circulation.

08/135 Date of Next Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 14 May 2008 in the Library/Community Centre and the next Full Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 20 May at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

08/136 CPL Aroma

The chairman reported that a resident in Silver Street was concerned that odours from CPL Aroma were being detected again.

08/137 Request for educational support

A letter from a resident had been received enquiring whether the Council would provide financial assistance towards educational study. The Clerk was asked to reply explaining that the Council is not able to give funding to individuals, however to suggest that they contact the Foundation of Thomas Roe which provides funding for educational purposes.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 20 May 2008