

## **BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

### ***Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 June 2008 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth***

**Present:** Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, T Everard, A Gunnett, D Kennedy, M Lacey, R Monk, S Pointer, S Whiffen, Mrs E Wiig and F Wiig

**In Attendance:** Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk  
PC P Houghton-Draeger – Northants Police  
39 Members of the public  
Cllr C Millar - County Councillor

#### **08/164 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Low and District Cllr N Bunting.

#### **08/165 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items**

Cllr E Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority

Cllr F Wiig declared a personal interest - Member of another Local Authority and Chairman of District Council Planning Committee.

Cllr S Whiffen declared a personal interest – Resident adjacent the Ashway Playing Field

Cllr T Everard declared a personal interest – House overlooks the Ashway Playing Field

Cllr R Monk declared a personal interest – Agenda items 08/175 & 08/176

#### **08/166 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 20 May 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2008 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

*The meeting adjourned to allow the members of the public to address the Council. A note of the matters raised is attached to the minutes.*

*The meeting reconvened at 8.04pm.*

#### **08/167 Police Representative's Report**

PC Paul Houghton-Draeger introduced himself to the meeting and reported the latest crimes in Brixworth which included the following: -

- Arson in Scaldwell Road, two youths have been identified
- Several petty criminal damage, smashed car windows, broken aerials both carried out usually on a Friday and Saturday night.
- Car burglary in the Ashway
- Car key burglaries
- Trade thefts – three vehicle trailers stolen
- Theft from a car parked in Brampton Valley Way
- Theft of Motor Vehicle – Man dealt with

- Car stolen – found burnt out. There is a dedicated team who work on car crime.
- Local youth arrested for damage and theft

The priority cards were issued to the members of the public present. The current main three priority issues are speeding, juvenile nuisance and parking. It was noted that young drivers speed along the Ashway, late at night and during early hours in the morning. The Police have the power to issue warnings to these youngsters, which could lead to them having their vehicle taken away from them.

The SCT has its own safety camera and spot checks are carried out when ever possible. It was noted that the team only deal with speeding in residential areas.

### **08/168 Recreation and Amenities Development**

#### ***08/169 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 19 May 2008***

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 19 May 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

#### ***08/170 Correspondence Regarding the Proposed BMX Facility***

The Chairman has received in the region of twenty letters of objection for the proposed BMX facility on the Ashway Playing Field. Copies of all the letters together with the reply sent by the Chairman had been copied to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

#### ***08/171 Discussion on the Proposals for a BMX Facility***

Having heard the residents comments earlier on in the meeting and following a discussion it was resolved to form a working group, to examine and develop the use of the Ashway Playing Field for all sectors and areas of the community with regards to the provision of suitable facilities for older children/young teenagers, to include the feasibility of an off road cycle facility. It was suggested that the working group to include three residents from the Ashway area, three residents from elsewhere in the village, two representatives from the Youth Club, two representatives from the football clubs and three Parish Councillors. The group to be chaired by a Parish Councillor and is to report to the Full Council. The Clerk to put up a Notice on the Notice Board asking for nominations. To be discussed at the next Full Council meeting. Working group to determine its Terms of Reference.

Cllr Everard was thanked for all his time and effort spent on looking at the feasibility of this proposal, which was all carried out in good faith.

#### ***08/172 DDC Play Rangers Service for Brixworth***

The Clerk stated that DDC Play Rangers would like to come to Brixworth during the school holidays. For a couple of hours they would provide arts, crafts and sports equipment for the children to use and play. It was resolved to allow the Play Rangers free use of the playing fields for their events. The Clerk had arranged a provisional meeting with the Play Rangers on 26 June 2008 to discuss dates and venues.

***08/173 Replacement Junior Freestanding Goal Post***

The Clerk reported that a new Junior freestanding goal posts was required on the Ashway Playing Field. It was resolved to purchase a new one for the sum of £225.00. It was also noted that the two senior and the other junior goal post need welding. The Clerk has had a mobile welder quote in the region of £100.00 for this work. This was agreed.

**Planning**

***08/174 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 2 June 2008***

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 2 June 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

***08/175 DDC Approvals & Refusals – June Report***

**Approvals**

**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*

10.03.08 PC No Objections

7.4.08 DDC Approved

**DA/2008/0267 Charles Wells Pub Co., Bedford**

**The George Inn, Northampton Road, Brixworth**

*Extension to conservatory lobby and reposition lobby door. Add pair of doors from conservatory to patio, form opening between bars and add new fireplace.*

21.3.08 PC No Objections

25.4.08 DDC Approved

**DA/2008/0268 LB Charles Wells Pub Co., Bedford**

*The George Inn, Northampton Road, Brixworth*

*Extension to conservatory lobby and reposition lobby door. Add pair of doors from conservatory to patio, form opening between bars and add new fireplace.*

21.3.08 PC No Objections

25.4.08 DDC Approved

**DA/2008/0356 Mr Sercombe, 87 The Ashway, Brixworth**

*Retention of wind turbine on a permanent basis*

21.4.08 PC No objection

11.6.08 DDC Approved

**DA/2008/0383 Mr & Mrs Coles, 5 Iron Pikes, Brixworth**

*Two storey extension to front of dwelling*

21.4.08 PC No objection

13.6.08 DDC Approved

**DA/2008/0403 Mercedes Benz Technology Centre, Morgan Drive, Brixworth**

*Single storey building to provide facilities (office secure storage etc.) for trackside race technicians to replace temporary storage containers currently sited on hard standing area.*

21.4.08 PC No objection

15.5.08 DDC Approved

## **Refused**

### **DA/2008/0347 Mr N Collyer, 43 Froxhill Crescent, Brixworth**

*Detached double garage at front of dwelling*

21.4.08 PC No objection

12.5.08 DDC Refused

### **DA/2008/0435 Mr Richard Monk, Horton House, Silver Street, Brixworth**

*Demolition of existing garage and replacement with new garage with access onto Hall Farm Close*

20.5.08 PC Objects

2.6.08 DDC Refused

Cllr Chattaway reported that the application for Haywards Barn – Erection of a Bowls Clubhouse is to be considered by Daventry Planning Committee and the officer's recommendation is for approval. In addition the committee is to consider the two applications for the flats above 1 & 2 Hunters Way, both of which the officer's recommendations is for refusal.

### ***08/176 Report on the Proposed Wind Farm at Lodge Farm (north of Brixworth)***

The proposal is for seven turbines 125m high between Brixworth and Hanging Houghton. Cllr Chattaway reported that he had attended a meeting, at which representative from Lamport & Hanging Houghton, Haselbech and Holcot were present to discuss the proposal. The group believe that this is not a suitable site for various reasons. The group has a further meeting arranged for the 26 June 2008 and a public meeting is to be held on the 16 July 2008 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre Hall, Spratton Road. It is thought that the Council may receive a planning application in August.

Cllr F Wiig declared an interest as Chairman of the District Planning Committee and stated that he would not predetermine any applications.

### ***08/177 County Councillors Report***

County Cllr Chris Millar reported that it is hard to turn down planning applications for wind turbines and that the Council would need to drum up local support as soon as possible. The County is the lowest wind area in the UK, which would mean bigger blades and higher turbines would be required.

Unfortunately the County Council is unable to provide a STOP sign as requested on the Northampton Road / Holcot Road junction.

Cllr Millar has contributed to the Brixworth Travel Club using his empowerment budget.

It was reported that there has been an applicant for the Lollipop vacancy at the primary school, however due to County Council staffing issues there is no one to interview them. Cllr Millar finds this unacceptable and is chasing this up. It was resolved for the Clerk to write to Cllr Liz Tavener, who is looking into this matter, to support Cllr Millar and request that the County Council uses its resources urgently to resolve this matter. A copy of the letter to be sent to the school.

## Finance

### **08/178 Income Received for May 2008**

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

<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Community centre	Hall Bookings	419.30
Shoosmiths Solicitors	Land Transfer - Ashway & Ridings POS	30,282.18
Red Lion FC	Hire AW Changing Rooms and Pitches	175.00
		<u>30,876.48</u>

### **08/179 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 May 2008**

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

Current Account	£35,583.41
Capital Reserve Account	£88,226.82
Less Cheques outstanding	£626.37
Balance Carried forward as at 1.06.08	£123,183.86

### **08/180 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for May 2008**

The Council accepted the reserves report for April 2008. Unfortunately the Clerk is unable to print off the Income and Expenditure report as explained in minute reference 08/183.

### **08/181 To Approve the Bills for Payment for June 2008**

A schedule of payments, to be made in June 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.

<b>Chq. No.</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Payment To</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>	<b>£</b>
3757		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary June 2008	1,022.81
3758		Clerk	Clerk's Salary June 2008	1,008.88
3759		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages June 2008	206.40
3760		Comm. Ctr Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages June 2008	223.20
3761		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages June 2008	178.60
3762		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI June 2008	777.44
3763		NCC	Pension Contribution - June 08	330.29
3764		Clerk	Postage	8.28
3765		Mr C Bament	Cllr expenses - mileage & printer cartridge	25.55
3766		British Gas Business	Changing Rooms - Electricity May 08	51.29
3767		Sage UK Ltd	Renewal Support & Upgrade Sage Instant Accounts	167.95
3768		Eurooffice Ltd	Printer Cartridge - Clerks printer	44.16
3769		Kidde fire Protection	Service of Fire Extinguishers - C/Rooms	82.25
			Water Charges - Mill Gdn & Comm. Ctr. Nov - May08	579.64
3770		Anglian Water		
3771		British Gas Business	Gas Chgs - Comm. Ctr Apr 08	175.05
3772		Lovell Hardware	Groundsman materials	73.63
3773		ABB Ltd	Street Light maintenance Apr - Jun 08	27.75
3774		ESPO	Cleaning & stationery materials	199.09
3775		NCC	Comm Ctr Electricity Charges Quarter 1	448.56

3776	The Mower Shop	Parts for mowers	79.80
3777	NCALC	Training Courses - C Bament 4.6.08 & 18.6.08	70.00
3778	Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement Cradle Seat & Repair to Firemans pole	296.69
3779	Brixworth Bulletin	Annual Report insert in bulletin June 2008 issue	160.00
3780	08/086 BSP Property Maint.	Replace windows in Npton Road Bus Shelter	293.75
3781	AH Blason & Son	Fuel for tractor, mower & pick up, welding work	394.48
3782	Brixworth Red Lion	Reissue of Chq No. 3608 - Grant issued in Nov 08	250.00
3783	Mr I Barratt	Chairmans Tel. Allowance Apr - Jun 08	37.50
3784	Clerk	Clerks Allowance Apr - Jun 08	70.00
3785	Mr & Mrs J Daley	Treasurer expenses - Comm Ctr	12.71
			<u>7,295.75</u>

It was noted that the Red Lion football club had requested the amendment of their grant cheque to read Brixworth Red Lion. The original cheque had been received and a new cheque is to be issued.

The Clerk confirmed that the total Anglian Water bill was made up of £493 for the Community Centre and £86 for the Millennium Garden.

***08/182 Internal Auditors Report for the Year End 31 March 2008***

A letter from the Internal Auditor had been received, a copy of which had been circulated to members, stating that ‘the audit was satisfactory and there are no issues relating to the accounts’. The auditor had spent two days with the Clerk looking through the accounts, minutes and other paperwork.

The Council thanked the Clerk for all her hard work during the year and was delighted that there were no issues raised.

***08/183 ‘Clerks’ Computer Software Upgrade***

The Clerk reported that following the purchase of the Sage Accounts Version 14 software, she found that the ‘Clerks’ computer software which produces the Income and Expenditure reports was not compatible with version 14 and needed upgrading, in order to work. It was resolved to purchase the ‘Clerks’ annual support and upgrade at a cost of £55.00.

**Highways and Environment**

***08/184 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 3 June 2008***

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 3 June 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

***08/185 DDC Environment Audit around Brixworth***

The District Council has offered to meet with the Parish Council and carry out an environmental audit, which involves a walk-about the village to look at issues such as litter bins, fly tipping, graffiti, street sweeping. It was agreed to arrange a meeting. Cllrs Bament, Everard, Monk and the Clerk showed an interest in attending.

***08/186 Quote for Blinds for Community Centre Hall***

Cllr Bament reported that the Council has received requests from Community Centre Hall users for blinds to be fitted to the windows at the rear of the hall. A quote has been received, which would also assist in reducing the amount of heat transmitted into the hall. It was suggested that the Council should write to the County Council to first seek approval for the blinds to be fitted and secondly to ask if they would pay for the blinds.

Cllr Bament stated that a meeting had been arranged at the Primary School on Monday, 30 June 2008 at 1.30pm to discuss the Safer Routes to School scheme.

### **Correspondence for discussion**

#### ***08/187 Email from Brixworth Cricket Club – Request for Letter of Support***

A request from the Cricket Club had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated to all members) asking for the Council to write a letter of support, which the Club would use in support of funding applications. The Council supports the work of the Cricket Club, however did not wish to provide an open ended letter. The Clerk was asked to write for further clarification, with a possible suggestion of the wording required.

#### ***08/188 DDC – BT Payphone Consultation – Your Chance to Comment***

A letter from the District Council had been received (a copy of which had been previously circulated to all members) consulting the Parish Council with regards to the proposal for the removal of the telephone kiosks in Spratton Road and Church Street. The Council objects to both these proposals. These are the only two telephone kiosks in the village and both are located in the Conservation Area. The kiosk in Church Street is a traditional red telephone box. Not everyone has access to a phone and therefore following a vote it was resolved to object to the removal of both of the telephones.

#### ***08/189 WNJPU – Parish Council Survey – Rural Issues for Core Strategy and DPDs***

The West Northants Joint Planning Unit (a copy of which had been previously circulated to all members) are conducting a survey and need information relating to services and facilities in each village. Cllr F Wiig warned the Parish Council to monitor the WNJPU work, as it has identified Brixworth as worthy of further development. This item to be referred to the next planning committee.

#### ***08/190 British Red Cross – Dial a Wheelchair Service Northamptonshire***

A letter from the Red Cross (a copy of which had been previously circulated to all members) had been received advising that they provide a Dial A Wheelchair service. Details have been posted on the Notice Board and provided to the DDC Information Service.

#### **08/191 Correspondence for information only**

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

**08/192 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Full Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 29 July at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

**08/193 Urgent Matters For Report Only**

The Chairman reported that in the local press recently it was reported that 26 units for a Housing Association are to be built in Brixworth, using a special government grant. It was assumed that this would be the Rigiflex site.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 29 July 2008

## **Notes of matters raised by the members of the public**

### **1. Proposed BMX Facility for Ashway Playing Fields**

Mrs Martin addressed the Council as a representative of the unified residents who border the Ashway Playing Field. The Chairman was thanked for replying to all the individual letters sent to him objecting to the BMX facility. A petition signed by 130 residents was presented to the Council opposing the proposed BMX facility. The residents believe that the facility is a good idea, however strongly felt that the Ashway Playing Field was not a suitable location. The residents produced a map showing an aerial view of the playing field and indicated the houses, which were opposed, for or had no response to the proposal. The majority of the houses highlighted, 63 in total, were opposed to the proposal. There have been two resident meetings to discuss this proposal.

Concerns and questions raised by the residents included :

- Noise and anti social behaviour in the evening, residents have had problems in the past
- Why the location was chosen?
- Motor cycles using the track
- What fencing and security would there be?
- It would be close to the football pitch
- What is the timescale?
- Enjoy the open green space as it is at the moment
- The Market Harborough Press article indicated that the scheme was going ahead
- Further clarification required of plans
- that they had not been consulted

The Chairman reported that at a public meeting in 2006 twenty or so youngsters requested a Skateboard/BMX facility in the village. The Council has been looking for suitable parcels of land, one of which it looked at was agreed to be too large, outside the village and the Police confirmed that it would be hard to Police. Another area along the old A508 road the County Council would not approve of. The Joint Action Group lead by the local Police appointed Cllr Everard to conduct a straw poll to see if it was feasible to have an off road cycle facility on the Ashway Playing Field. Cllr Everard stated that he visited 34 houses and asked the question that he intended to suggest to the Parish Council to provide mounds of soil for the children to ride over and he showed a picture of a similar facility in another village. 22 people agreed, 5 disagreed and 7 were not at home. The Parish Council has not consulted residents as it does not have any plans as such, only drawings that members of the Youth Club have come up with. The Council have agreed in principle to have a BMX facility on the Ashway Playing Field, for the youngsters of the village, and has contacted its insurers and ROSPA for guidance. The facility would be made from soil.