

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt Grady – Northants Police
Cllr S Osborne – DDC Portfolio Holder Housing Association
Elaine Ferguson – DDC Affordable Housing Officer
Joanne Richardson – Northants Rural Housing Association
6 Members of the public

08/194 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Pointer, Cllr S Whiffen, County Cllr C Millar and District Cllr N Bunting.

08/195 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

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

Cllr F Wiig declared a personal interest - Member of another Local Authority, Chairman of District Council Planning Committee, Chairman of the Brixworth Village Hall Management Committee.

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

08/196 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 24 June 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 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 7.30pm.

08/197 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady reported that the crime figures for April – June are down to 45 compared to 52 last year. Recent crimes include the following: -

- Theft of motor vehicle in Merry Tom Lane, connected to series of motor vehicle thefts and break ins along Brampton Valley Way.
- Co-op broken into, offenders set the alarm off nothing taken, police have a couple of suspects
- House in Poppy Lees broken into, keys left on view in the porch.
- Moped number plate stolen
- Car in Church car park broken into.
- Rubber matting on St Davids Recreation Ground set alight, one person identified.

- Dogs let out on purpose at a farm
- The George broken into, money from the games and pool machine taken
- Garage door damaged in Oathill Close
- Car key burglary in Grandborough Close, car used in several other crimes
- Push bike stolen from a bicycle rack at the Country Park
- End of Term celebration on the Ashway Playing Field, 150 – 200 youths were dispersed to the Country Park. That night there was damage to the bird hide, to a fence on Northampton Road, and a badge taken from a Mercedes Benz

The Council suggested that perhaps a function could be organised for the young people when they break up next year.

Sgt Grady stated that the team had leaflet dropped residents in the Ashway area, advising them not to leave car keys on display near the front door or window.

Youths had admitted damage to a digger, which had been previously reported, but not setting the hay bales on fire.

A speed survey carried out along the Ashway resulted in 5000 vehicles being logged, with 97 doing over 35mph. The 85% percentile figure is 25 – 29mph. This means that there is no indication of a problem of speeding in this area.

08/198 County Councillors Report

Cllr Millar had sent his apologies.

08/199 Housing Needs Survey

District Cllr Steve Osborne introduced himself as the Portfolio Holder for Housing Association and the Chairman of Long Buckby Parish Council and stated the District Council's commitment to affordable housing. Elaine Ferguson briefly explained that due to housing prices the government is pushing affordable housing. There are two types of sites infill and exception (land private developers would not be able to build on outside the village envelope). Any infill develop above 15 units would need to provide 29% affordable housing within the scheme. 100% of the properties on an exception site would be affordable housing and there is a Section 106 agreement with a cascade, which states who can live in the properties (ie. person living in the village, employed in the village, parents in the village). There are currently 164 properties in Brixworth, which are housing association properties, most of which were District Council stock, which have a right to buy in the future.

28 dwellings were identified as a need in Brixworth, following the housing needs survey, which was carried out in January 2008. Since then Genesis Housing Association has taken over the Holcot Road development and will provide 14 units and the new Rigiflx development which will provide 34 units. The Council asked Miss Richardson and Mrs Ferguson to ascertain how the new 48 properties would affect the needs identified in January and to report back to the Council.

Cllr Monk declared a personal interest as a board member of East Midland Housing Group.

08/203 Report on the Proposed Wind Farm at Lodge Farm (north of Brixworth)

Cllr Lacey reported on the public meeting held on 16 July 2008 in the Library/Community Centre. The meeting was chaired by David Ward the past Chairman of Lamport and Hanging Houghton Parish Council and addressed by professor Michael Jefferson and local MEP Chris Heaton-Harris. An estimate of attendance was between 180-200 people. 105 registered their interest, 78 were not in favour, 1 in favour and 26 were undecided. There was a good representation from neighbouring villages, 36 residents from Brixworth, 13 from Hanging Houghton, 11 from Scaldwell, 10 from Spratton and a number from other surrounding villages. At the end of the meeting there was a voluntary collection, which resulted in a sum of £250.00 to oppose the proposed wind farm. Following this meeting a committee was formed to oppose the proposed wind farm. It was resolved for Cllr Lacey to continue to attend these committee meetings, purely to observe the comments made with regards to planning concerns.

The Parish Council did not wish to make a decision on the proposed wind farm at this time. It has not yet received a planning application, which could be different to the proposed plan and members wanted to see the exhibition, which is being planned for the 11 and 12 August 2008 in the Village Hall by the developers. It was thought that a planning application would be submitted late August. If need be the Council would hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this matter.

Finance

08/204 Income Received for June 2008

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

Received from	Details	£
Freestyle Soccer Academy	Use of St Davids Recreation Ground	29.38
All Saints FC	Use of Ashway C/Rooms & Pitch	35.00
DDC	Contribution to utilities/Cleaning DDC office	132.57
Community Centre	Hall Hire	734.08
NatWest Bank	Interest Apr - June 2008	435.93
		<u>1,366.96</u>

08/205 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2008

The bank reconciliation as at the 30 June 2008 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£7,632.98
Capital Reserve Account	£113,662.75
Less Cheques outstanding	£4,040.66
Balance Carried forward as at 1.07.08	£117,255.07

08/206 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for May and June 2008

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for May and June 2008.

Cllr Monk reported that the Council is 25% (quarter) through the year. It was noted that the cost of £475.00 for last years work to the Parish Council's trees is included in this years expenditure.

08/207 To Approve the Bills for Payment for July 2008

A schedule of payments, to be made in July 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.

<u>Chq. No.</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3786		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary July 2008	1,033.29
3787		Clerk	Clerk's Salary July 2008	1,008.88
3788		Part time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages July 2008	257.90
3789		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages July 2008	223.20
3790		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages July 2008	279.00
3791		Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI July 2008	807.69
3792		NCC	Pension Contribution July 2008	330.29
3793		Mrs J Macken	Postage	16.48
3794		Mr M Nice	Keys cut for Comm. Ctr.	44.00
3795		SMP Playgrounds	Replacement parts for play equipment	75.76
3796	08/058r	Mancraft Fencing	Repairs to fencing - tennis court & play area	522.88
3797		The Mower Shop	Parts for mower	5.88
3798		BACA	Replacement clips for signs Ashway PF	21.60
3799		ESPO	Stationery, Cleaning ,materials	59.01
3800	08/173	ESPO	Junior Freestanding Goal Post & bracket	306.52
3801	08/183	Redstone Computers Ltd	Clerks Software Upgrade	64.63
3802		NCALC	Replacement Chq Training Courses	64.00
3803		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	33.55
3804		British Gas Business	Gas Chg - Community Centre	46.99
3805	08/039r	Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Playground Inspections	151.58
3806		OCS Group Uk Ltd	Qtrly Charge Sanitary Unit - Community Ctr	15.58
3807		E on	Electricity for Street lights - Apr - Jun 08	62.74
3808	08/041r	B & Q	Cordless drill & grinder	225.02
3809		Eurooffice Ltd	Cartridge for Clerks computer	44.28
3810		DDC	Emptying of bins - July - Sept 08	368.46
3811		A H Blason & Son	Fuel, tractor repairs, new battery for Kubota	382.88
				6,452.09

Recreation and Amenities Development

08/208 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 22 July 2008

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 22 July 2008 having been previously distributed were accepted.

As mentioned at the Committee meeting AFC Crown would like to continue using the Changing Rooms and senior pitch for the next season. It was agreed to charge the club £400.00 for a maximum of ten games for the season payable in two instalments, (anymore games to be charged at £40.00 a match). It was also agreed for the club to use the pitch on Wednesdays for training, whilst there is sufficient light.

The Junior Football Club had stated at the meeting that the crossbar was bent and not acceptable for use. A new crossbar would cost £158.00 compared to the cost of a new Goal Post of £225.00. Therefore it was resolved to purchase a new Junior freestanding goal post. It was noted that the Council would look into purchasing socketed goal posts in the future.

It was noted that a new sign for the Ashway Playing Field is required, it was agreed to add the words No Golf. In addition Spratton Road Recreation Ground sign needs to have the additional words No Golf with solid balls added.

08/209 Nominations for New Working Group and To Discuss Terms of Reference

The Council has received the following nominations for the Ashway Playing Field Working Group

Three Parish Councillors	– Three received
Three Ashway residents	– Four received (3 out of 4 to attend meetings)
Three Other residents	– One received
Two Youth Club members	- No named representative, to send a member to the meeting
Two Football Club reps.	- One received

As the group is incomplete it was agreed for the group to co-opt members themselves, and in particular to invite the young people who had been previously involved in the BMX project.

The group is to report to the Recreation and Amenity Committee and a Parish Councillor is to chair the meetings. First meeting to be arranged in August before the bank holiday.

Cllr E and Cllr F Wiig left the meeting.

Highways and Environment- Cont.

08/210 Notification of Carriageway Drainage Maintenance Works in Holcot Road

Cllr Bament reported that the Holcot Road is to close, week commencing 11 August 2008, to repair the drainage system in Holcot Road, traffic will be diverted. There will also be temporary traffic lights in Northampton Road at some point during the work.

08/211 Head Count Survey for A508 Crossing

The Clerk reported that the NCC Rights of Way Manager had contacted her to ask for assistance in organising a head count, of pedestrians and cyclists crossing the A508 to access the country park. The R.O.W Manager is putting together a bid for a pedestrian bridge and needs evidence to support his case. The Clerk has arranged for volunteers to carry out a head count on the 3 August 2008 and 20 August 2008 from 6.00 am to 8.00pm.

08/212 Local GP Merger

Cllr Bament reported that he had attended the public meeting, with regards to the merger of the Pythcley Court and Guilsborough surgery. There will one practice manager, based at Guilsborough running both practices. Guilsborough surgery offers services not currently available at Pythcley Court surgery. There is the possibility of a new building for the Brixworth surgery.

08/213 Environmental Working Group Meeting

The Terms of Reference for the working group had been circulated to members, together with a poster, which is to be displayed asking for volunteers to join the group. The Clerk had sent off a request for the initial set up costs of £200 from the District Council, as part of their Climate Friendly Communities programme. Mrs Paddy Fox is to be asked whether she would like to join the group, since she has shown a keen interest in the past.

Correspondence for discussion

08/214 Letter from Resident – Proposed Wind Farm

It was noted that a couple of letters had been received from residents objecting to the proposed wind farm.

Cllr D Kennedy left the meeting.

08/215 Email from Brixworth Cricket Club – Request for Letter of Support

Further to last months meeting, the cricket club has provided the Council with further information with regards to its request for a letter of support. The Council agreed that it supports the development of facilities for young people in the Brixworth Cricket Club, subject to any project requiring planning permission and approval by the Planning Committee/Council.

08/216 To Receive Reply from NCC – School Crossing Patrol

A reply from the County Council had been received and copied to all members. The County Council states due to various reasons that as soon as the new zebra crossing is installed a School Crossing Patroller will be recruited. The installation of the new zebra crossing has been delayed due to the new development on the former Rigiflex site. The Council was disappointed in the reply and asked the Clerk to ask Cllr Millar for any comments.

08/217 Letter from Shoosmiths – Adoption of Open Public Spaces

A letter from Shoosmiths solicitors had been received, copy of which had been previously circulated to members. The registration of Title has now been completed for the land transfer of the Ridings and The Ashway public open spaces, together with the grass verged areas.

08/218 Northampton Town FC – Ticket Voucher

Northampton Town FC is offering Parish Councils free match vouchers for inclusion in their welcome packs, which are given out to new residents. Unfortunately Brixworth does not provide a welcome pack and therefore cannot take this offer up.

08/219 Thank You Letter from Brixworth Youth Foundation

A thank you letter had been received from Brixworth Youth Foundation for the donation of the palisade fencing for the youth club.

08/220 Letter from NCC – Changes to Local Bus Services during July & August

It was noted that the local bus services have changed from 29 July 2008.

08/221 Four Year Plan

This item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

08/222 Correspondence for information only

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

08/223 Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 26 August at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

It was resolved to continue to hold Full Council meetings in the Village Hall. The Clerk is to book the next six months, with the administrator, which would be in the region of £122.00.

08/224 Urgent Matters For Report Only

There were no urgent matters for report.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 26 August 2008

Notes of matters raised by the members of the public

1. Public Open Space – The Ridings

Three residents of parents in The Ridings / Horseshoe Close estate stated their concerns regarding the request from other residents on the estate for No Ball Games on the Public Open Space. The residents explained that it is predominantly a family estate, the children aged between 5-10 years can play safely on the green, observed by their parents. They felt that a No Balls ban was unnecessary and that children should be encouraged to play out, rather than sit inside and socialise with other children in their area. A petition signed by over 30 residents had been given to the Council in support of the children being able to play ball games on the green.