

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 31 March 2009 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, S Gilkes, M Lacey, R Low, R Monk, Mrs E Nunn, S Pointer, S Whiffen, Mrs E Wiig and F Wiig.

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Three Members of the Public
Cllr C Millar – County Councillor
Mr M Taylor – Brixworth Resident
Mr D Stimpson – Northants Police
Sgt J Harris – Northants Police

09/466 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr T Everard, Cllr A Gunnett and District Cllr Bunting

09/467 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr E Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority and Member of the District Council Planning Committee

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

09/468 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 24 February 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2009 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 are attached to the minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 7.25pm.

It was agreed to bring the next item forward to discuss whilst the members of the public were present.

Cllr R Monk arrived

09/469 Concerns Raised by Residents – The Ridings/Horseshoe Close Public Open Space

The Chairman explained that following a telephone call from a resident in the Ridings/Horseshoe Close area, he had visited the area and discussed at length with three residents about their concerns over children playing on the Public Open Space. Concerns raised included damages to the hedge, maintained one side by the residents, damage to trees and bushes and noise. These residents are concerned about the noise to the extent that they may report it to the District Council Environment Department.

Following a long discussion and a vote it was resolved to maintain a watching brief and to finally review the situation in six months.

Sgt Harris said that she would ask PCSO J Hillery to patrol the area and mentioned that a Mediation Service is available, which may be useful for the residents to consider.

09/470 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Harris circulated a copy of the latest Crimes reported in Brixworth which are: -

- 07/03/09 Criminal Damage – Brixworth Country Park – Unknown person causes damage to bird hide by smashing six foot fence panels.
- 08/03/09 Burglary Non Dwelling – Ferro Fields – Unknown person has removed bolts from metal perimeter fence and gained entry to yard items taken.
- 09/03/09 Theft – Rigiflex Building Site – Unknown person removes lead flashing from building site.
- 10/03/09 Criminal Damage – Brampton way – Unknown person dents front offside wing of vehicle.
- 11/03/09 Burglary Non Dwelling – Brixworth Primary School – Unknown offenders gain entry to secure site and attempt to steal a safe.
- 11/03/09 Theft – Building Site – Unknown person have removed lead flashing from site.
- 13/03/09 Burglary Non Dwelling – Brixworth Primary school – Unknown offenders attempt to take school safe.
- 14/03/09 Criminal Damage – Spratton Road - Play Ground - Unknown person has destroyed playground equipment by setting it alight causing thousands pounds of damage.
- 16/03/09 Burglary Dwelling – Whaddon Fields – Unknown person forces downstairs living room open, the alarm is activated nothing taken.
- 16/03/09 Criminal Damage – Brixworth Country Park – Unknown persons causes damage to bird hide area.
- 17/03/09 Criminal Damage – St David's Recreation Ground – Unknown person causes damage to wooden fencing and posts.
- 19/03/09 Criminal Damage – Brackenhorough – Person unknown throws small stone causing double-glazed window to conservatory to smash.
- 24/03/09 Interfering with Motor Vehicle – St David's Road - Unknown person have removed lock from sliding door, nothing taken.
- 24/03/09 Interfering With Motor Vehicle – Froxhill Crescent – Unknown person uses unknown instrument to bore into lock, offenders were disturbed by the alarm going off

It was agreed to arrange a separate meeting with members of the Council and Sgt Harris to discuss local issues.

Concerns were raised that members of the public had a problem to get through to the Police on the telephone to report a crime.

Concerns were raised that with the expansion of Northampton there may be a displacement of crime resulting in an increase in Brixworth.

It was agreed to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council funding a PCSO in Brixworth, at the next Council meeting.

Mr Dave Stimpson introduced himself as the Safer Community Team Coordinator for the Daventry District Council area. The new publication Neighbourhood Policing in

Rural Communities will determine what the SCT's do and how they serve the communities.

Speeding and Road parking issues, which are shared with many parishes, will be deferred to one meeting with the District and County Councils. Parishes share the same problems so collectively the problems may be solved. Sgt Harris wishes to access whether she has the right number of officers for the level of crime in the area.

Cllr F Wiig stated that the District Council continue to campaign for an increase in Police resources within the District.

Concerns were raised that Brixworth should not be compared to a small parish and that the Police may need to deploy more resources to Brixworth, compared to neighbouring villages. It was noted that many other nearby villagers use Brixworth facilities.

09/471 Community Speed Watch

It was agreed to invite representatives to the next meeting to discuss the Community Speed Watch programme.

09/472 County Councillors Report

County Cllr C Millar reported that the yellow lines should be completed in the next two weeks. Due to changes at the County Council there is a 'can do' attitude, compared to before, therefore things can only get better.

Congratulations to Creaton who won the Village of the Year competition last year and have competed in the Regional Finals and are currently in the top four Nationally.

09/473 Twinning with an European Village

The Chairman had received a letter from the Mayor of Castel San Pietro Romano, Italy enquiring whether representatives from Brixworth would like to meet with him to discuss the possibility of Twinning the two villages. Castel San Pietro Romano has a population of 900, is famous in Italy and is 42km from Rome. Mr Mike Taylor, a resident from Brixworth, addressed the Council and showed some photos and gave a few details about the village. Mr Taylor has a brother who lives in the village and believes that the two villages are similar in many ways. During a discussion, it was suggested that a Twinning Committee would be required, EU Funding may be available, possibly engage with the school. It was agreed to progress the idea further and the Chairman agreed to reply to the Mayor.

Planning

09/474 Minutes of Meetings 9 & 30 March 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 9 & 30 March 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/475 DDC Approvals and Refusals March 2009

Approvals

DA/2008/1204 35 Saxon House, Brampton Way, Brixworth

Conversion of two storey three bed roomed house to two one bed self contained flats in sheltered accommodation

15.12.08 PC No objection

19.1.09 DDC Approved

DA/2008/1234 CPL Fragrances, Quarry Road, Brixworth

Permanent retention of two storage buildings previously approved under temporary permissions ref. DA/2006/0997 and DA/2006/0998

5.1.09 PC No Objection

27.1.09 DDC Approved

DA/2009/0006 Mr Sanderson, The Lodge, Brixworth Hall Park, Brixworth

Work to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order

26.1.09 PC No objection

3.3.09 DDC Approved

DA/2009/0064 Telefonica 02 UK Ltd, 260 Bath Road, Slough

Brixworth Water Tower, Broad Street, Brixworth

Installation of 3 new antenna affixed by yolk arms to the existing pole mounted antenna at a height of 19.4m to top of antenna supported by pole bracing on the water tower. Installation of 4 Flexi BTS units on a H Frame mounted on the concrete base within the existing 02 compound.

16.2.09 PC Strongly Objects

11.3.09 DDC Approved

Refusals

DA/2008/1265 Mr Jason Bayliss, Eaglehurst Barn, Tantree Lane, Brixworth

New conservatory to rear

26.1.09 PC No objection

20.2.09 DDC Refused

Finance

09/476 Income Received for February 2009

The Clerk reported the Income received for February 2009, which was as follows: -

<u>Received from</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£</u>
BCC	Second instalment of ground rent - St David's	406.25
ASFC	Second instalment of ground rent - St David's	406.25
Community Centre	Hall Bookings	289.72
DDC	Cleaning of DDC Office Jan - Mar 09	107.00
HMR & C	Refund VAT 1.10.08 - 31.12.08	503.62
		<u>1,712.84</u>

09/477 Bank Reconciliation as at 28 February 2009

The bank reconciliation as at the 28 February 2009 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£15,912.15
Capital Reserve Account	£120,360.94
Less Cheques outstanding	£7,616.79
Balance Carried forward as at 1.03.09	£128,656.30

The Clerk reported that the Capital Reserve account has now been closed and the funds have been transferred to the new Reserve Account.

09/478 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for February 2009

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for February 2009.

The Income for the year is 100% actual compared to budget. There are some unspent budgets but generally the actual expenditure compared to the budget is as expected.

09/479 Final Salary Award Increase of 0.30% for 2008/09

Finally the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached an agreement on salaries for the year ending 31 March 2009. An additional 0.30% has been agreed for this year 2008/09 (total pay increase 2.75% for the year), unfortunately the pay increase for next year 2009/10 has not been agreed. Any back pay due to staff is included in the March 2009 pay. This was agreed.

09/480 To Approve the Bills for Payment for March 2009

A schedule of payments, to be made in March 2009 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>Direct Debit Payments</u>		
		British Gas	Elec. Chgs. C/Rooms. Nov 08 - Feb 09	220.99
		British Gas	Gas Chgs. Comm. Ctr. Nov 08 - Feb 09	353.13
<u>Chq No.</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3968		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Mar 2009	1,094.07
3969		Clerk	Clerk's Salary Mar 2009	1,071.63
3970		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Mar 2009	138.53
3971		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Mar 2009	229.30
3972		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Mar 2009	286.50
3973		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Mar 2009	822.33
3974		NCC	Pension Contribution Mar 2009	350.27
3975		Mr I Barratt	Chairmans Tel. Allowance	37.50
3976		Mrs J Macken	Clerks Allowance, postage & stationery	90.96
3977		Mrs E Nunn	Parish Councillor Expenses	21.60
3978		Mr C Bament	Parish Councillor Expenses	26.46
3979		ESPO	Vice, Graffiti remover, paper and bin bags	195.44
3980	09/425	Brixworth Bulletin	Printing and distribution of Winter Newsletter	200.00
3981		DDC	Emptying bins 15.3.09 - 31.3.09	73.42
3982	09/446	RayBell Surfacing	Hire of Skip - St Davids Rec. Grd	126.50
3983		E.ON Uk	Street Light maintenance - 1.1.09 -31.03.09	27.16
3984		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsmen	129.70
3985		Chubb Fire Ltd	Servicing of Emergency Lighting - C/Rooms	156.29
3986		Eurooffice Ltd	Printer cartridge for Clerks computer	60.70
3987		NCC	Elec. Chgs. Comm. Ctr. April 08 - Jan 09	792.28
3988		Euromec Contracts Ltd	Cable for Kubota	20.52
3989		AH Blason & Son	Fuel, check Pick Up (new plugs & filter)	217.01
				6,742.29

Recreation and Amenities Development

09/481 To Accept Minutes of Meeting 17 March 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 17 March 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/482 New Litter Bin on Ashway Playing Field next to Play Area

It was resolved to purchase a new litter bin at a cost of £463.00 from Earth Anchors.

09/483 Extension to Footpath on Spratton Road Recreation Ground

This item was deferred to the next meeting. Clerk still waiting for the receipt of additional quotes.

09/484 Damage to Spratton Road Recreation Ground Play Unit and to Discuss and Approve the Cost for Repairs

The Clerk reported that the Badger Multi Play Unit on Spratton Road Recreation Ground had been set alight in the early hours of Saturday 14 March 2009. The Police and Insurance Company have been informed. The suppliers Play Leisure have visited the site and have quoted £2,594.00 to replace the damaged parts and repair the unit. It was agreed to claim on the Insurance.

The Chairman stated that D.D.H have a pot of money available for Recreational use, details to be passed to the Recreation Committee.

Highways and Environment

09/485 Library/Management Meeting 5 March 2009

Cllr Bament had attended this meeting.

09/486 Update on the Brixworth Library Community Centre – Ten Year Celebration 25 April 2009

The ten-year celebration shall start at 10.00am. It is hoped that the Tae Kwon Do, Army Cadets, Scouts, Brownies and Rainbows will be present, in addition to the BCF Band, School Choir and dancing display. Jim Harker NCC Leader has been invited to attend. The Chairman has been asked to welcome everyone and Rev. Phil Walters will say a few words before Julie Davenport and Sue Verallo (both who officially opened the building ten years ago) break the flag at 10.30am.

09/487 Village Green Meeting

Cllr Whiffen reported that fifteen members had attended a meeting at the school, including Mr Boucher. The group is focusing on the Home Environment, saving money by using solar panels, loft and cavity wall insulation. There will be a stall at the School Fete to launch the project and to get more people involved. The School is interested in getting involved as it is working towards Eco School Qualification.

Correspondence for discussion

09/488 Email from resident – Road Noise in Church Street/Silver Street

Cllr R Monk declared a personal interest as a resident in Silver Street.

A letter from a resident had been received by the Chairman, concerned about the level of noise created by commercial traffic speeding along Church Street and Silver Street. It was suggested that details and records are kept and passed onto DDC Environment Dept. Also this may be an area to be included in the Community Speed Watch

programme, which the Council is looking into. The chairman agreed to reply to the resident.

09/489 Northants Police – Reply from Inspector McSharry

The Council noted the reply from Inspector McSharry, who has since moved onto another Police Force. (A copy of which had been circulated to all members).

09/490 Brixworth Christian Fellowship – The Olive Branch

A letter had been received from Rev Walters enquiring whether the Council would consider waiving the charges for the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, in Lieu of the services provided by BCF and in particular Mike Nice as Centre Manager. Previously the Council waived the charges for BCF to use the Hall for its Sunday Services in Lieu of its services in managing the Community Centre, however currently Sunday Services are held at the Primary School. It was noted that the budget and precept for the next financial year had already been agreed and that the Council had expected to receive an income of £1200 for the Coffee Shop. Following a discussion and a vote it was resolved to charge BCF £600 for the next financial year (which is approximately half the current charge) and reconsider when the Council sets its budget and precept later this year.

09/491 DDC – Northants Touring Arts

Details on the Northants Touring Arts had been received. It was agreed to pass on the details to the Village Hall.

09/492 DDC – Active Ageing Event 15 September 2009

Details of venues in the Parish have been passed on to DDC, who are keen to organise an Active Ageing Event on 15 September 2009.

09/493 NCC – Village Agents Mapping

The Council agreed to find out more about the Village Agent Mapping.

09/494 NCC – Parish Emergency Planning Seminars 2009

Seminars on Parish Emergency Planning to be held in the County.

09/495 NCALC – Royal Garden Party

NCALC had notified the Council that they had received 38 nominations, for attending the Royal Garden Party, of which two had been drawn out of a hat. Unfortunately the Council's nomination had not been successful this year.

09/496 Litter at Bus Stops – Northampton Road

The Clerk was asked to write to Moulton School to report its concerns regarding the amount of litter left behind by school pupils waiting for the school bus and to ask whether the school could remind the pupils to use the litterbins provided.

09/497 Report on NCC Spring Conference

Cllr Nunn reported that she had attended the NCC Spring Conference with Cllr Bament on 18 March 2009, which was well supported and gave a brief overview of what had been discussed at the meeting.

It was agreed for Cllr Bament to attend the Power of Well being training course .

09/498 Quality Parish Council Status Update

The Clerk reported that she had started putting together a portfolio of evidence and had previously circulated a report of what else is needed to complete the criteria required for Quality Parish Council Status (QPS).

The Annual Report needs to be revised this year to satisfy QPS criteria. It was agreed to produce the annual Newsletter separately to the Annual Report. Both will be at a cost of £200.00.

09/499 Annual Parish Meeting 6 May 2009

It was agreed to follow the same format for the Annual Parish Meeting as previous years. Village organisations, to which the Council has given a grant to, will be invited to attend the meeting and give a brief report. It was also agreed to invite the school to attend to give a report. Parishioners are invited to come along and meet their Parish Councillors before the meeting starts. It was agreed to ask BCF to provide the refreshments at 50p a cup and to ask the Co-Op to supply the biscuits.

09/500 Correspondence for information only

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

09/501 Date of Next Meeting

The next Full Council meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 28 April 2009 at 7.15pm in the Community Centre.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

09/502 Harrington Wind Farm Planning Application

The Chairman read out an email he had received from Maidwell with Draughton Parish Council regarding their disappointment in Brixworth Parish Council's response to the Harrington Wind Farm planning application.

09/503 Village Hall Quiz

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Village Hall Quiz is on Thursday 2 April 2009 and that the Parish Council had entered a team.

09/504 Eden Project – Big Lunch July 2009

Cllr Whiffen advised the Council about the Eden Project's Big Lunch which is to be held in July and includes promoting street parties, community engagement and eating local grown produce.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 28 April 2009

Notes of matters raised by the members of the public

Three residents from The Ridings / Horseshoe Close referred to the agenda item 'Concerns Raised by Residents – The Ridings Public Open Space', which was to be discussed later on in the meeting. They were concerned that some residents in the area are still worried about children playing on the public open space.

All three residents are parents of young children who play on the public open space and raised the following points: -

- The area is made up of 3 & 4 bed roomed houses, which are family properties.
- The children who play on the area are between the ages of 6 – 9 years old and are in view of their parents at home.
- There can be 4 – 5 children at one time playing on the open space.
- Parents and older siblings sometimes play with the young children.
- The Government is encouraging young people to switch off the television and game consoles and to get out of the house (change 4 life campaign leaflet was circulated to members)
- The open space is not being vandalised or being used by anti social youths late at night
- Would like to resolve the matter with the neighbours without involving the Parish Council