

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 28 April 2009 at 7.15p.m. in the Library/Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth

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

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Mr M Nice - Centre Manager
Member of the Public

09/513 Apologies for absence

Members apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr R Chattaway, Cllr S Whiffen, Cllr T Everard and Cllr S Pointer.

Following advice received from NCALC, as a point of order, it was agreed that in future, reasons for absence from Parish Councillors should be given for non attendance. The Council would then consider whether to accept the apologies.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr C Millar, District Cllr Bunting, Sgt Harris and PCSO J Hillery.

09/514 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 R Monk declared a personal interest in item 09/531 – Board member of the East Midlands Group

09/515 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 31 March 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

09/516 Signing of the Minutes of the Grant Application Meeting 21 April 2009

The minutes of the Grant Application meeting held on 21 April 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

The meeting adjourned to allow the member of the public to address the Council. A note of the matters raised are attached to the minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 7.35pm.

09/517 Police Representative's Report

Apologies had been received.

09/518 Community Speed Watch – Deferred to May 2009 meeting

09/519 Funding a PCSO for Brixworth

The Chairman reported that it would cost the Parish Council £15,775 to fund a PCSO this year. Details of the agreement, which had been received from the Police and emailed to members, were discussed.

The Council has not budgeted to fund a PCSO this financial year and was concerned that if it did it would not have any control of who was employed, the hours worked, what their priorities would be etc. In addition PCSO's have limited powers.

It was agreed not to take any further action at this time, but to seek improvement in the existing service provided by the Brixworth Safety Community Team.

09/520 County Councillors Report

Apologies were received from Cllr Millar

Cllr R Monk left the meeting.

Planning

09/521 Minutes of Meetings 20 April 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 20 April 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Recreation and Amenities Development

09/522 Tenders for BMX Facility/Skate Park Project

Tenders have been received for the BMX/Skate facility by a couple of contractors. Unfortunately a couple of contractors had declined to quote, as this project was not their usual field of work, one other had not replied. In addition prices just for the fencing had also been received.

Following a discussion it was agreed to ask the two contractors to present their plans to the Council as several questions had been raised by members, which needed answering. One contractor would be invited to attend the Recreation and Amenities Committee meeting on the 12 May 2009 and the other to attend the next Full Council meeting on 19 May 2009.

The Clerk stated that the Money4Youth application needs to be sent in as soon as possible as the District Council were concerned that there is a limited amount available. Planning permission would be required beforehand. Cllr F Wiig agreed to speak to the Planning Department about whether we could submit an application before deciding on a supplier.

09/523 Funding of BMX Facility/Skate Park Project

This item to be deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

09/524 To Consider Whether to Purchase a New Ride on Mower or Repair Existing Kubota

The Kubota ride on mower is not currently working and in need of repair. The Council agreed that it would be more economical to purchase a new Kubota. The current machine Kubota G18, which is eight years old, has served the Council well.

The Clerk circulated prices quoted from various suppliers for a Kubota G21: -
Supplier One : - £7,040
Supplier Two : - £7,350
Supplier Three: - £7,040

Road Registration Tax £90.00

It was noted that the existing machine would be part exchanged and the Council would receive in the region of £500.

Following a vote it was resolved to purchase a new Kubota G21 from supplier one, Browns of Daventry for the cost of £7,040, less the amount for part exchange, plus the cost of road registration and VAT.

Highways and Environment

09/525 Minutes of Meetings 7 April 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 7 April 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/526 Replacement Bench for Woodsfield

It was resolved to replace the bench in Woodsfield with a similar type to what had been removed, which would be made and installed by the Council's part time grounds man.

09/527 Use of Bird Scarers

The Council had received concerns by a resident about farmers using bird scarers in the early hours of the morning (after 6.00am). According to the National Farmers Union NFU bird scarers may be used from sunrise to sunset, but not before 6.00am. In addition they should be 200 metres from any residential properties, which on these particular ones are. It was noted that any complaints about noise nuisance should be reported to the District Council's Environment Health Department.

09/528 Use of Pocket Park by Army Cadets

The Army Cadets, based in Brixworth, had enquired whether they could use the pocket park to practice pitching tents. The council agreed that the cadets could use the pocket park a couple of night to pitch their tents, as long as they did not sleep in them over night. Consideration to be given to the residents in the area and other users of the park.

09/529 DDC – Business Rates Deferral Scheme 2009/10 (Community Centre)

A letter from the District Council stated that the government has announced plans to allow business ratepayers to defer 60% of the increase in their rates bill for 2009/10 for repayment over the next two financial years. Currently the Community Centre receives 100% discretionary tax relief on the rates.

Correspondence for discussion

09/530 DDC – Parish & Town Council Meeting 17 June 2009

The next Town and Parish Council meeting is to be held on 17 June 2009 at the District Council offices. The Chairman and Cllr Bament agreed to attend.

09/531 WNJPU – Draft Supplementary Planning Document – Affordable Housing

This item was deferred to the next Planning Committee meeting.

09/532 NCALC Larger Council Meeting 15 July 2009 7.00pm Duston Community Centre

The next Larger Council's meeting is to be held on 15 July 2009. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to attend. Other members are invited to attend.

09/533 Equality and Human Rights Commission – Public Sector Equality Duties

Information about the Public Sector duties had been received from the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Cllr F Wiig agreed to contact an officer at the District Council who could give a short presentation, to explain the relevance of the document.

09/534 MGWSP – Contact Details – Local Farmers

It was noted that MGWSP was putting together a list of local farmers that might be able to assist them in the future, during times of bad weather.

09/535 Moulton School – Change of Status to a Foundation School

Moulton School is undertaking a period of consultation regarding the proposed change of school category from community to foundation. Statutory notices are to be displayed in the parishes, local paper and Council notice board. The proposal ends on Friday 22 May 2009.

09/536 EON – Kelmarsh Wind Farm Public Exhibition

EON are looking at the suitability of developing a wind farm on land south west of Kelmarsh (seven turbines). Proposals are available for viewing on 5 May 2009 at Naseby Hall and 6 May 2009 at Clipston Village Hall.

09/537 Summer 2009 Newsletter

The Summer 2009 Parish Council newsletter is to be included in the next Brixworth Bulletin at a cost of £200.00.

09/538 Parish Council Website

Currently the Parish Council publishes its minutes and information on the Community Centre website Brixworth Online. It was suggested that perhaps the Council should have its own website. It was resolved to set up a working group to investigate the cost of setting up and maintaining a Parish Council website. Cllr Bament, Cllr Gilkes, Cllr Barratt and Cllr Lacey agreed to look into the various options available and report back to the Full Council.

09/539 Well Being Training Course

Cllr Nunn, Cllr Lacey and Cllr Bament had attended the NCALC Well Being Training Course. Cllr Lacey had emailed members to give a general overview of the Power, which was clarified at the meeting.

This power given to Town/Parish Councils expands their abilities beyond that allowed by Section 137 and permits things to be actioned that would previously not have been possible.

A Council does not have to acquire Quality Status in order to acquire the Power of Wellbeing. There are four requirements in order to qualify for this power. These requirements are to be resolved by a meeting of the full council and are:

1. Ensure at least two thirds of the total number of seats on the council (excluding appointed councilors) are filled by candidates who stood for election at the last ordinary elections.
2. Confirm the Clerk is appropriately qualified (CiLCA 2008 Section 7)
3. Ensure at least 80% of councilors have attended training in the Power of Wellbeing and are certified by NALC
4. Have a published statement of intent for community engagement

Lastly in deciding to use the Power, the council must be satisfied that the proposed activity, be it a statue or otherwise, is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the parish and, as a matter of good practice, the council should also record its reference to the Daventry Sustainable Community Strategy in taking a decision using the power. A Council can not commit a future Council financially, which means that any projects must be completed within the term of the current Council.

The Training Officer for NALC suggested that she could arrange a training course in Brixworth for the Councilors and Clerk. The Clerk was asked to enquire what the cost would be for this course.

Cllr R Monk returned to the meeting.

Finance

09/540 Income Received for March 2009

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

Received from	Details	£
DDC	Rent of Olive Branch - 4th instalment	290.96
Community Centre	Hall Hire	634.25
Natwest Bank	Bank Interest Jan - Mar 09	30.23
Earls Barton FC	Hire of Ashway PF C/Rooms & pitch	40.00
AFC Crown	Hire of Ashway PF C/Rooms & pitch	200.00
DDC	Contribution to utilities - Comm. Ctr.	56.99
Freestyle Soccer Academy	Hire of St Davids Rec. Grd	57.50
		1,309.93

09/541 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2009

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 March 2009 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£16,846.76
Reserve Account	£113,391.17
Less Cheques outstanding	£8,293.69
Plus Receipts not banked	£1,279.70
Balance Carried forward as at 1.04.09	£123,223.94

09/542 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for March 2009

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

09/543 To Approve the Bills for Payment for April 2009

A schedule of payments, to be made in April 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>Chq. No.</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3990		Mr M Sugden	Groundman's Salary Apr 2009	1,055.90
3991		Mrs J Macken	Clerk's Salary Apr 2009	1,042.49
3992		Mr D Smith	P/T Groundsmans wages Apr 2009	211.60
3993		Mrs B Smith	Litter Picker wages Apr 2009	183.40
3994		Mrs E Bell	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Apr 2009	229.20
3995		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Apr 2009	775.49
3996		NCC	Pension Contributions - Apr 09	347.97
3997		Mrs J Macken	Postage	7.70
3998		Mr C Bament	Parish Councillor Expenses	24.00
3999		Mr J Daley	Postage - Comm. Ctr. Treasurer Expenses	7.20
4000		Northants CALC	Annual Subs / Internal Auditor	1,016.73
4001		E.ON Energy	Street Light Electricity - Qtr 1.09 - 3.09	61.22
4002		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	156.00
4003		Avenue Agriculture	Combination lock	32.78
4004		Brixworth Village Hall	Hall Hire 19.5.09 & 23.6.09	45.00
4005	09/026r	Brixworth Landscaping	Repairs to fence - St Davids Rec. Grd.	304.75
4006		ESPO	Cleaning materials / Stationery	42.81
4007		Northants CALC	Well Being Training Course 22.4.09	87.00
4008		NCC	Legal costs for RTO & signs - A508 land	2,000.00
4009		A H Blason & Son	Fuel	194.66
4010	09/508	Brixworth Youth Foundation	Community Grant	5,000.00
4011	09/507	Brixworth Travel Club	Community Grant	600.00
4012	09/511	Brixworth Cricket Club	Community Grant	3,000.00
4013	09/509	Brixworth Junior FC	Community Grant	700.00
4014		Mrs E Bell	Caretaking Art Classes	35.00
4015		Anglian Water	Water Chgs 3.2.09 - 23.4.09 Comm Ctr	267.65
				<u>17,428.55</u>

It was noted that the cheque number 4008 to NCC refers to the legal costs for the Road Traffic Order relating to the licence for the A508 road. County Cllr Millar was funding the legal costs from his empowerment fund, which was paid to the Parish Council and in return the Parish Council had to pay it back to the County Council.

09/544 Minutes of Meeting 21 April 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 21 April 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/545 Financial Year End 31 March 2009

At the beginning of the year the reserves total was £75,928, £51,505 in General Reserves. At the end of the year the reserves total is £104,060, £50,825.35 in General Reserves. The surplus income over expenditure for the year, which is to be transferred to the reserves, is £48,591.25.

This figure includes Earmarked Reserves £4,500 Staff Pension Contribution £2,000 is for the Kubota/Pick Up Replacement Fund, £2,000 Ashway Playing Field Car Park Fund. It was agreed to transfer £1000.00 to the Community Centre Refurbishment Earmarked Reserve. (A condition of the lease is for the Council to decorate the

Community Centre every seven years). The remainder surplus £10,958.80 will be transferred to the General Reserves.

The General Reserves are 60% of the Councils precept for the year. The Council ensures that the General Reserves is maintained at a three months operating level, in the case of an emergency and that the District Council failed to provide the Parish Council with the precept set.

09/546 Renewal of the Council's Insurance £3,600

The Council's insurance is due for renewal as of 1 June 2009. The Clerk has received three quotes for the renewal, which were circulated to members at the meeting.

These were as follows: -

Allianz	£3,105.89
Zurich	£2,872.58
Norwich Union	£2,626.20 (£2,494.89 3 year contract)

Following a vote it was resolved to accept Norwich Union's quotation of £2,626.20 for one year and review the policy next year.

09/547 Standing Order of £10,000 from Reserve Account to Current Account

It was resolved to set up a standing order for £10,000 a month to be transferred from the Reserve Account to the Current Account. A signed letter is to be sent to the bank confirming this monthly transaction.

09/548 NCALC Internal Auditor for the Year Ending 31 March 2010

It was resolved to approve NCALC as the Internal Auditor for 2009/10 at a cost of £254.68.

09/549 Annual Subscription to NCALC £762.05

It was resolved to renew the Annual Membership to Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC) for the year 2009/10 at a cost of £762.05.

09/550 Correspondence for information only

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

09/551 Date of Next Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting –	6 May 2009 Community Centre
Annual General Meeting –	13 May 2009 Community Centre
Full Council Meeting -	19 May 2009 Brixworth Village Hall

In addition there is a Carnival meeting on Tuesday, 05 May 2009 in the Olive Branch at 7.30pm.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

09/552 Letter to Mayor -Castel San Pietro Romano

The Chairman reported that the Mayor from Castel San Pietro Romano had not received his letter and would therefore send another one.

09/553 Library/Community Centre Ten-Year Celebration – 25 April 2009

The Parish Council thanked Mr M Nice for organising the successful day for the Ten Year celebration of the Library/Community Centre. The Clerk was asked to send thank you letters to all those who had participated.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 19 May 2009

Notes of matters raised by the members of the public

A resident from St David's Close raised his concerns that members of the sports clubs, playing on St David's Recreation Ground are parking their cars in St David's Close and not using the car park behind the pavilion. Some members are also causing an obstruction in the Close by the way they park their vehicles, in the road and across corners. Residents are concerned that the vehicles are causing an obstruction in the road and that if the Emergency Vehicles are required they would not get through. The majority of the residents in St David's Close are elderly and need access to their properties.

Members suggested writing to the Sports Clubs to remind them to use the car park and not to park in St David's Close. Police to be asked to look at vehicles obstructing the road.

This matter to be discussed further at the next Recreation and Amenities committee meeting.

Highways and Environment Committee to look into the possibility of residents parking only.