

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 20 October 2009 at 7.15p.m. in the Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, Mrs A Gunnet, M Lacey, R Low, R Monk, Mrs E Nunn, S Pointer, S Whiffen, Mrs E Wiig and Mr F Wiig. Mr M Ward (following cooption)

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
PCSO G Lewis - Northants Police
Mr Taylor - Resident
Two Applicants for Councillor Vacancy
Two members of the public

09/727 Apologies for absence

Members apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr S Gilkes

Apologies were also received from County Councillor C Millar

09/728 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 the District Council Planning Committee.

Cllr S Whiffen declared a personal interest – Member of Brixworth Youth Foundation Committee

09/729 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 22 September 2009

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 September 2009 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

The meeting adjourned to allow 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

09/730 Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman thanked the two applicants for applying for the vacancy. Unfortunately there is only one vacancy, which can be filled by co-option.

Each of the two applicants had sent a letter to the Council (a copy of which had been previously circulated to all members), giving brief information about themselves and why they would like to be a Parish Councillor. Each one then had the opportunity to expand on their letter at the meeting.

The applicants were asked to leave the room, to enable the Council to vote.

It was agreed to vote by signed ballot. Following a vote, it was resolved to Co-opt Mr Mervyn Ward as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Low agreed to mentor Cllr Ward

Everybody was invited back into the room and Mr Ward joined the members and continued the meeting as a Parish Councillor, after signing his declaration of acceptance.

Cllr R Monk left the meeting

09/731 Report on Twinning

Mr Mike Taylor reported that he had visited Castel San Pietro Romano, who are still keen to twin with Brixworth. Apparently the Italians can obtain EU funding so it may not cost Brixworth residents any money, leisure and social trips could be funded.

Several members raised concerns regarding the distance to the Italian village, which could only be reached by an aeroplane.

It was noted that the Council has resolved to set up a working group, to include members of the Council, four interested residents and Mr Taylor. In addition the Council would like the working group to look at alternatives. Meeting to be arranged before the next Full Council meeting.

09/732 BMX/Skate Park Project

Cllr F Wiig thanked members for their card and best wishes.

Cllr Wiig wished to express his concern regarding the site meeting, which he was unfortunately unable to attend. (Details of the meeting discussed later on in the meeting). He stated that all Parish Council projects need a project leader or champion, to follow it through and should not be left for the Clerk to deal with on her own. Site meetings should be chaired by a Parish Councillor. This was agreed.

09/733 Police Representative's Report

PCSO G Lewis reported the following: -

- Anti social behaviour in the village is minimum
- Do not leave valuables visible in your car
- 3.10.09 Cat shot with airgun in Parkfield Road
- 5.10.09 Criminal Damage – Car scratched in Swansnest
- 5.10.09 Arson. Fires of grass started on item of play equipment at the Country Park
- 14.10.09 3 Burglary non dwelling
- 15.10.09 Criminal Damage car scratched in St Davids Road
- 15.10.09 Burglary non dwelling – Moto X bike stolen from Tantree Way, subsequently recovered by owner
- 17.10.09 Criminal Damage window broken in Silver Street
- 18.10.09 4 allotment sheds broken into on Station Road believe there may have been more
- Since 1 October 33 calls received from Brixworth, only 2 have been ASB related

PCSO Lewis stated following the August meeting he had carried out some speed checking on the A508 bypass near to the pedestrian crossing. Even though the

majority were within the limit, there were a number of vehicles above the limit. Therefore there has been a request for a data logger to be placed in this location.

It was noted that the new parking restriction sign for the layby in Spratton Road has now been erected. PCSO Lewis was asked for this to now be Policed, as there are a couple of cars that park in the lay for several hours at a time.

09/734 County Councillors Report

Cllr Millar had sent his apologies.

Planning

09/735 Minutes of Meetings 12 October 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 12 October 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Finance

09/736 Income Received for September 2009

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

| Received from | Details | £ |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| DDC | Precept - Second instalment | 48,720.00 |
| DDC | Contribution to utilities & Cleaning DDC Office | 146.86 |
| Community Centre | Hall Hire | 699.70 |
| BCC | First Instalment Grd Rent - St Davids | 406.25 |
| Bective Wanderers | Hire of Ashway PF Pitch & C/rooms | 200.00 |
| Natwest | Bank Interest - July - Sept 09 | 11.37 |
| BCF Action Ltd | Second instalment Rent Olive Branch | 150.00 |
| Central Sports | Peppercorn Rent for Pavilion | 1.00 |
| ACRE COMMA Fund | Grant - BMX / Skate Facility | 8,000.00 |
| | | <u>58,335.18</u> |

09/737 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September 2009

The bank reconciliation as at the 30 September 2009 was reported and accepted as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Current Account | £24,170.97 |
| Reserve Account | £158,854.44 |
| Less Cheques outstanding | £1,931.57 |
| Balance Carried forward as at 1.10.09 | £181,093.84 |

09/738 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for September 2009

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for September 2009. The Income is inline with the budget.

The Clerk explained that the Income variance values were incorrect due to a computer error in the calculation, which the Clerk has not yet been able to resolve. However the Income budget and actual values are correct.

09/739 Donation for Parish Council Poppy Wreath

It was resolved to donate £16.50 to the British Legion towards the purchase of a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday, under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

09/740 To Approve the Bills for Payment for October 2009

A schedule of payments, to be made in October 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.

| Retrospective Approval | | | £ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| | 4123 Danetre Garage | Vauxhall Combovan | 5,233.50 |
| Standing Order | | | |
| | D M Wood | Peppercorn Rent | 0.05 |
| <u>Chq No.</u> | <u>Payment To</u> | <u>Reason for Payment</u> | £ |
| 4124 | Groundsman | Groundman's Salary Oct 2009 | 1,141.44 |
| 4125 | Clerk | Clerk's Salary Oct 2009 | 1,130.78 |
| 4126 | PT Groundsman | P/T Groundsmans wages Oct 2009 | 179.76 |
| 4127 | Cleaner | Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Oct 2009 | 256.70 |
| 4128 | Litter Picker | Litter Picker wages Oct 2009 | 200.70 |
| 4129 | HM Revenue & Customs | PAYE Tax & NI Oct 2009 | 853.29 |
| 4130 | NCC | Pension Contribution Oct 2009 | 379.52 |
| 4131 | Mrs J Macken | Postage & Mileage | 32.28 |
| 4132 | Mrs E Bell | Cleaners Tabard | 6.89 |
| 4133 | RBL Poppy Appeal | Poppy Wreath - Donation to Poppy Appeal | 16.50 |
| 4134 | BDO Stoy Hayward | External Audit for year ending 31.03.09 | 632.50 |
| 4135 | Complete Weed Control | Spray weeds- Sports fields | 586.50 |
| 4136 | Brixworth Landscaping | Repair to fence - St David's Recreation Ground | 155.25 |
| 4137 | Park Leisure | Replacement Cradle Seat | 155.25 |
| 4138 | BCF Action Ltd | Refreshments for Training Course 5.10.09 | 6.00 |
| 4139 | NCC | St Davids & Ashway Playing Fields Signs | 101.85 |
| 4140 | Eon | Street Light Electricity Chg - 1.07.09 - 30.09.09 | 62.74 |
| 4141 | Lovell Hardware | Groundsman materials | 54.02 |
| 4142 | B & Q Financial Svs | Materials for groundsman | 74.10 |
| 4143 | Hassett Fencing | Timber for benches | 185.17 |
| 4144 | ESPO | Stationery and cleaning materials | 131.89 |
| 4145 | BACA | Materials for groundsman | 25.34 |
| 4146 | The Mower Shop | Service parts for mowers | 377.38 |
| 4147 | Avenue Agricultural | Roundup & sealant | 158.03 |
| 4148 | AH Blason & Son | Fuel | 123.99 |
| 4149 | NCALC | Well being Training Course 5.10.09 | 57.00 |
| | | | <u><u>7,084.87</u></u> |

09/741 External Auditor's Report for the Year End 31 March 2009

The Clerk reported that she had received the notification of the conclusion of the Audit for the year ending 31 March 2009, from BDO Stoy Hayward the External Auditors. There were no matters arising from the Annual Return. However there was one issue raised which needs to be addressed, which was once again the current level of the Council's Fidelity Guarantee Insurance. It was noted that the Council had increased the Fidelity Guarantee Insurance level to £150,000 this year. This level will be reviewed when the insurance policy is renewed early next year.

The Council approved and accepted the Annual Return, which will now be displayed for fourteen days together with the Notice of Conclusion of Audit on the notice board.

The Council thanked and congratulated the Clerk for her work throughout the year, which has resulted in the auditors having no matters arising in the annual return.

09/742 To Accept the Minutes of the Meeting 13 October 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 13 October 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Concerns were raised with regards to certain aspects of the draft budget and precept proposal. It was resolved to discuss the merits of the proposed items of expenditure at the next committee meeting.

Recreation and Amenities Development

09/743 Report on Site Meeting for BMX Facility/Skate Park Project on 9 October 2009

Cllr Whiffen reported that he had attended this site meeting along with Cllr Bament, Cllr Pointer, Cllr Chataway and the Clerk. The Crime Prevention Officer, Community Safety Officer, Wicksteed and representatives for the local businesses and adjacent landowner were also present. After introductions the local businesses expressed their disappointment in the lack of consultation with themselves. They also raised their concerns with regards to the siting of the BMX/Skate facility. The landagent stated that his farmer has a right of way along the road, which is to be used for the BMX dirt track, even though he has two accesses to the field, which will be kept clear.

The Clerk informed the Council that she had questioned this with NCC Highways and their solicitor had confirmed that although the traffic order 'prohibits that section of highway by motorised vehicles, it does allow access to adjacent properties. Therefore the farmer has the legal right to use this particular access' if he chooses to.

It was agreed that this situation needed to be clarified further before the Council could proceed. It was resolved to ask County Cllr Millar for assistance and for Cllr Whiffen to discuss this matter with him.

09/744 Annual Maintenance of the Gang Mowers

It was resolved to accept the quote for the annual servicing of the Gang Mowers from the Mower Repair Shop at a cost of £450.00 (£150.00 per roller). It was noted that the cost did not include any additional parts that will need replacing.

09/745 Litter on Spratton Road Recreation Ground

The Council has received several complaints regarding the amount of litter accumulating on Spratton Road Recreation Ground. (Due to the sensitive nature of the discussion it was resolved to exclude the public and press to discuss this matter further. Matters discussed are minuted in a confidential minute).

It was resolved for the Clerk to meet with the Litter picker at Spratton Road Recreation Ground to discuss.

Highways and Environment

09/746 To Accept Minutes of Meeting 6 October 2009

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 6 October 2009 having been previously distributed were accepted.

09/747 Options Available for the Community Centre to become a Charitable Organisation

The Council noted the recommendation made by the committee. It was agreed to wait for the committee meeting in December, when ACRE's Village Hall Advisor will be present to discuss the various options in more detail, before making a decision.

09/748 Quotes for Maintaining the Millennium Garden

Cllr Bament reported the various quotes and options received for the ongoing maintenance of the Millennium Garden.

- Option 1. Local Charity using volunteers £250.00 per day (2-3 times a year)
- Option 2. Garden Contractor £260.00 per day (2-3 times a year)
- Option 3. Local resident 2-4 hours per week during growing season £10.00 per hour

It was resolved to accept option 1, which is BTCV, a local registered charity which uses volunteers. It was noted that the existing volunteers would be welcome to assist on the day. It was resolved to ask BTCV to carry out an Autumn tidy up at a cost of £250.00. In addition BTCV will be asked to carry out a Spring and Autumn tidy up next year, with perhaps another day if required.

09/749 Saxon church Sign in the Pound

Cllr Bament reported that the Saxon Church sign in the Pound had been damaged and possibly needed replacing. Nobody knows who owns the sign. Following a discussion it was resolved to order a new aluminium sign, with the same sign writing from Nordis at a cost of £64.00. Sign to include the PC logo.

Correspondence for discussion

09/750 Brixworth Youth Club – Babysitting Courses

As there was no representative from the Youth Club present and the Council had limited information, it was agreed to defer this matter to the next Council meeting

09/751 Brixworth Carnival – 3 July 2010

A letter from the Carnival Committee had been received asking whether the Parish Council would like to be involved. It was agreed that the Parish Council would have some representation on the day. (Copy of letter had been previously circulated to members)

09/752 NCC – Self Directed Support Consultation

Cllr Whiffen made no comment to this document, as he is involved with this through his work.

The Council is changing the way it delivers care and support to adults living in social care in Northamptonshire. It was noted that a questionnaire is available on line. (Copy of email had been previously circulated to members)

09/753 NCC – Informal Adult Learning Project

NCC are setting up an online bank of information which will inform adults of all the activities available locally. The Clerk was asked to send a list of the local organisations in the village. (Copy of letter had been previously circulated to members)

09/754 Ospre Consultation

The Police Promotions Team, wished to seek the views from community members with regards to the assessment centre exercises used to promote, constables to sergeants and sergeants to inspectors. There is an online questionnaire, which members could complete. This was noted. (Copy of email had been previously circulated to members)

09/755 The Rural Service Network

An email had been received from the Rural Service Network offering free membership into the community group. (Copy of email had been previously circulated to members) It was agreed that should a member wish to discuss this further to ask for it to be put on the next agenda.

09/756 Correspondence for information only

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

09/757 Parish Council Newsletter

The contents for the next Parish Council Newsletter was agreed. The cost for the printing and distribution of the newsletter, through the Bulletin, would be £200.00.

09/758 Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2009

It was reported that Reverend Watkins would like the Uniformed organisations to march into church and for the flags to be accepted at the altar, followed by a short service and presentation of wreaths at the War Memorial. All groups would meet at the Buttercross at 10.15am.

09/759 Date of Next Meetings

The next Full Council Meeting is to be held on 24 November 2009 in the Community Hall, Library/Community Centre.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

09/760 NCALC Larger Council Meeting

The next Larger Council Partnership meeting will take place on Wednesday, 11 November 2009 at the Police HQ, Wootton Hall. The Chairman and Clerk hoped to attend.

09/761 All Saints Football Club

The football club had enquired whether it could use the Ashway Playing Field for a fundraising match in November. The Council agreed to allow the club to use the ground free of charge on this occasion.

09/762 Tree at 27 Broadlands

The District Council had advised the Parish Council that a tree, (with a TPO) located adjacent No. 27 Broadlands is to be felled. The tree had recently lost a limb due to high winds and the subsequent damage and with the likely failure of a further damaged limb, the County Council has agreed to fell the tree. The residents have agreed to replace this tree with the same or a similar type.

09/763 Parish Council Christmas Dinner

Cllr Lacey agreed to organise a Parish Council dinner.

09/764 Congratulations to Mercedes Benz

The Clerk was asked to send a letter of congratulations to Mercedes Benz for their recent success in manufacturing and supplying the engine to Brawn GB, which resulted in them winning both the constructor and drivers World Championship in Formula One.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 20 October 2009

Notes of matters raised by members of the public.

1. A resident stated that he was disappointed that the Council had changed its support for the Harrington Wind Farm planning application, to no objection. It was explained that the Council had changed its view following the receipt of information from the English Heritage regarding the Thor missile sites.

The gentleman enquired whether or not the Parish Council had agreed to set up a Council website. The Chairman confirmed that the Council had resolved to set up a website, using a facility which would cost the Council in the region of £25.00 per year. It is currently being developed.