

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 27 June 2006 at 7.15p.m. in the Olive Branch Coffee shop, Brixworth Library/Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), R Chattaway, T Everard, P Fox, D Kennedy, J McFadyen, J Stubley and S Dobson

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Cllrs E Wiig – District Ward Councillor
Sgt M Grady – Northants Police
Mr M Nice - Centre Manager
Five members of the public

06/195 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Peacock, Cllr R Monk, Cllr P Savage, District Cllr F Wiig & District Cllr N Bunting, County Cllr C Millar and Mrs C Leer.

06/196 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr McFadyen declared a personal interest in item 06/221 – Chairman and volunteer of Brixworth Youth Club.

06/197 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 23 May 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 23 May 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

Questions from the Public

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

Meeting reconvened at 7.35pm

06/198 Police Representative Report

Sgt Grady reported that the crime figures are down 30% compared to this time last year. There are fewer calls coming in from Brixworth. The police have recently seized a quantity of clothing, penalty notice issued for supplying alcohol to an underage youth, an arrest and charge for criminal damage and assault. Sgt Grady informed the meeting that he had requested for the County Council to remove the graffiti on the fencing in the alleyway leading to Eastfield Road from the Ashway. The team has gained Community Safety Team status and are looking for new premises in the village.

It was agreed for the Council to arrange the next date for the Brixworth Action Group meeting.

Sgt Grady reported on the speed survey conducted on Froxhill Crescent in response to complaints received at the Public Meeting held on 12 April 2006 (a copy of which had been circulated to members). The survey was carried out over five days, which

included 3324 vehicles. 1096 had exceeded the 30mph limit and 85% were below 34mph. The maximum speed recorded was 51mph. The results of the survey does not highlight enough of a problem to justify speed cameras or dedicated enforcement, however local officers are aware of the issues and will continue to patrol when possible. Sgt Grady personally thought that the 30mph is too high and suggested for the council to press for a 20mph limit, considering the school and road layout. It was agreed for this matter to be discussed at the next Highways & Environment meeting.

06/199 Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Bob Noden introduced himself as the new Co-ordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch group for the village. There are currently twenty residents participating in the scheme. Mr Noden agreed to write an article for the next edition of the Bulletin Neighbourhood watch notices are to be displayed, on a new police notice board, which is to be located in the foyer of the library. The Council welcomed this new scheme and wished to offer its support to the group. It was suggested that perhaps the group might wish to apply for a grant for financial support to cover any administration costs.

06/200 Bye Election Update

The Chairman reported that the District Council had not received any nominations for the third bye-election. The Clerk confirmed that the District Council needs to receive nominations, for the fourth bye-election, by noon on the 13 July 2006. If it is contested then an election will be held on 10 August 2006.

06/201 Letter to Chairman – Noise Nuisance

This item was brought forward for discussion. A resident had sent a letter to the Chairman, District Council and District Cllr F Wiig regarding the noise nuisance caused by an air intake unit and extractor fan installed on the gable wall of the George Inn. This complaint has been ongoing for the past seven years. The resident confirmed that an Environment Officer from Daventry had been out at the weekend and that District Cllr F Wiig had also contacted him. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Council to ensure that the necessary steps are being carried out to resolve this matter.

Planning

06/202 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 12 June 2006

The Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on the 12 June 2006 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Cllr Chattaway reminded members that the three weekly cycle has been changed, the next planning committee meeting is to be held on 3 July 2006. The Clerk has circulated members with the new dates.

Finance

06/203 Income Received for May 2006

The Clerk reported the Income received for May 2006, which was as follows: -

<u>Received from</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£</u>
Community centre	Hall Bookings	581.45

06/204 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 May 2006

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 May 2006 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£6,726.72
Capital Reserve Account	£195,922.59
Less Cheques outstanding	£2,548.67
Balance Carried forward as at 1.06.06	£200,100.64

06/205 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for May 2006

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for May 2006, which had been previously circulated.

06/206 To Approve the Bills for Payment for June 2006

The list of payments to be made in June 2006 was circulated and signed by all members present. It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment.

<u>Chq No.</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3214	Groundsman	Groundman's Salary June 2006	956.76
3215	Clerk	Clerk's Salary June 2006	1,034.23
3216	Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages June 2006	196.16
3217	Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages June 2006	170.04
3218	Comm. Ctr Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages June 2006	174.40
3219	Inland Revenue	PAYE & NI June 2006	818.65
3220	Clerk	Postage, Clerks Allowance & Mileage	91.20
3221	Mr I Barratt	Chairmans Tel. Allowance Apr - Jun 06	32.50
3222	Groundsman	Groundsman expenses	51.28
3223	Eurooffice Ltd	Printer cartridge - Clerks printer	38.17
3224	ESPO	Cleaning materials	64.99
3225	The Mower Shop	Parts for mower	3.10
3226	Hewitsons Solicitors	Legal Costs - Contribution POS transfer	587.50
3227	Lovell Hardware	Groundsman materials	26.39
3228	ABB Ltd	Street Light maintenance Apr - Jun 06	25.05
3229	IDS UK	Fax printer cartridge	39.99
3230	Anglian Water	Water charges Nov - May 06 Comm. Ctr	328.83
3231	Hunt & Coombs Solicitors	Millennium Garden - Annual rent	95.00
3232	Mr M Nice	Centre Manager expenses, keys & cartridge	62.89
3233	BACA	Rotoflash for tractor	34.66
3234	AH Blason & Son	Fuel for tractor, mower & pick up, puncture repair	266.65
3235	Comm Ctr Cleaner	Caretaking Art classes - Spring & Summer term	93.80
			<u>5,192.24</u>

06/207 Internal Audit Report

The internal audit has been carried out by NALC (a copy of which had been circulated to all members) and the following matters have been brought to the Council's attention.

General Reserves – The auditor states that General Reserves 'should always aim to be at a level of 45-50% of precept for a Council of this size, this is the view expressed by the external auditor', as opposed to the 25% the Council agreed to last year. The Clerk confirmed that the Councils General Reserves at the beginning of the financial year were £79,000, less the amount required for the changing rooms which is £44,000, this leaves a balance of £35,000 which equates to approximately 40% of the precept for this year. The Clerk was asked to seek clarification on this point in time for setting the budget and precept.

Rescission of Decisions – The internal auditor has suggested that the Council's standing orders, relating to this matter, need amending. NALC have confirmed that the Councils standing order No. 41 is as per NALC's model standing orders and therefore does not need amending.

Budget Item – The Council noted the comment that 'items included in the budget does not commit the funding to that heading, as circumstances may change or the Council may not proceed with the particular item'

06/208 External Audit

The external audit carried out by BDO Stoy Hayward has been brought forward. The records are available to members of the public from 26 June 2006 to 21 July 2006 and the audit date is 28 July 2006.

06/209 Renewing Sage Accounts Software Support

The Clerk informed the meeting that the renewal cost for the Sage & Clerk software support, with Avalon Software, is £297.00 per annum. The cost for Sage instant accounts software support, with Sage, is £84.26 per annum. It was resolved to renew the sage software support only.

Recreation and Amenities Development

06/210 Land Transfer for the Ashway Playing Field Public Open Space

The Chairman reported that the Council has received the lease agreement for the land transfer for the Ashway playing field public open space. The Council has agreed to contribute £500.00 to the solicitor's legal fees, Hewitsons had agreed to reduce their costs. It was resolved for Cllr Barratt and Cllr Kennedy to sign the transfer and the Clerk signed as a witness.

06/211 Pedestrian Entrance Ashway Playing Field

The Chairman reported that a resident who lives opposite the playing field is concerned about pedestrian access to the field. The field requires a permanent entrance and proper fencing. It was agreed for this matter to be discussed at the next Recreation & Amenities meeting.

06/212 £14,000 Grant from DDC towards the Ashway Changing Rooms

The District Council has agreed to extend the timescale of the grant, for £14,000 to be used for the Changing Rooms, until 31 March 2007. The Council agreed to the terms and conditions of the grant.

06/213 Palisade Fencing for Spratton Road Recreation Ground

Following on from the previous months meeting, the Council has been unable to prove who owns the chain link fence, which is situated behind the swings. A quotation for £845.00 has been received for the erection of the used palisade fencing along this side. The Council agreed to look at the fencing and hedges on the Recreation Ground when it is considering the regeneration of the area in the near future. Therefore it was decided that the Council could not justify spending this amount of money for erecting a fence to secure one resident's garden. The Council has several public open spaces and other playing fields, which join many residents' gardens, and therefore did not wish to set a precedent.

It was noted that the developers installed the chain-link fence when the houses were built. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident with the Council's comments and suggested in order to prevent dogs and youths entering their garden they may wish to take steps to secure their boundary.

06/214 Spratton Road Recreation Ground Redevelopment

Cllr Fox reported that a public meeting is to be held on 13 September 2006, inviting all residents, in particular those who live next to the Recreation Ground, to come along and discuss the redevelopment of the ground. An article is to be published in the next edition of the Bulletin. The Council wishes to consult with local residents, in particular young people and the local police. The project is estimated to be in the region of £55,000 and the Council will need to apply for funding. The Council will apply to the big lottery – play initiative, Local Network Fund and Biffaward.

Highway and Environment

06/215 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 6 June 2006

The Minutes of the Highway & Environment Meeting held on the 6 June 2006 having been previously distributed were accepted

06/216 Village of the Year Competition

The Council has been invited to attend the presentation event, which is to be held on Tuesday 25 July 2006. This is the date for the next scheduled Council meeting. It was agreed to hold the next Council meeting on Wednesday, 26 July 2006. Cllr P Fox, Mr M Nice and Mrs J Macken agreed to attend the presentation evening.

06/217 Update on Pocket Park

The Chairman confirmed that only one of the two residents had contacted the Clerk to advise her that they had no objection to a gate being erected at the entrance to the pocket park. A letter from Mercedes Benz had been received granting permission for the stonewall to be removed. Concerns were raised with regards to how a member of the public could lock the gate if other members of the public were still inside and

would not get out. It was suggested that the Council would need to contact local residents to identify who would be prepared to lock the gate every morning and night. It was noted that the grounds man is contracted to work Monday – Friday. The police confirmed that there had been no calls from residents within the past 200 days and that the anti social behaviour in the village, in general, has improved. It was suggested that the local residents could become members of the pocket park committee and take responsibility of the park and the locking and unlocking of the gate, if approved. It was noted that planning permission would be required for a fence over two metres. Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed for this matter to be referred to the next Highways & Environment committee meeting in August. The committee was asked to discuss this issue, and make its recommendation to the Council, as to whether or not to approve the erection of an eight-foot fence and gate to the entrance of the pocket park.

A quotation for the re-siting of one of the bollards at the entrance had been received, this will stop vehicles from entering the park. It was resolved to accept this quotation at a cost of £55.00.

06/218 Reply from DDC – CPL Aromas

A reply from the District Council regarding CPL Aromas was noted (copy of which had been previously circulated to members). The letter states ‘to date officers of the Council have not witnessed any odour attributable to CPL, which constitutes a statutory nuisance’. It concluded that residents may contact the officer and he would try to attend straight away.

06/219 Adoption of Additional Areas on the Ashway and The Ridings

A letter from Shoosmiths and Harrison had been received stating that Taylor Woodrow had offered an additional £1,200.00 for the three additional verged areas. This is in addition to the £26,176 for adopting the two public open spaces on the Ridings and the Ashway. It was resolved to accept this sum in respect of the adoption of the additional areas as highlighted on the plan circulated to members.

06/220 Traffic Data for Froxhill Crescent

This was discussed earlier on in the meeting, under police report.

Correspondence for discussion

06/221 Letters from Residents – Youth Club

A couple of letters from residents had been received supporting the youth club and asking the Council to support it as appropriate. (Copies of letters had been previously circulated to members).

06/222 Northants Licensing Partnership – Gambling Act 2005

A letter from Northants Licensing Partnership (copy of which had been circulated to members) had been received advising the Council of the new Gambling Act 2005. The legislation requires the premises to obtain a Licence or permit from the Local Authority.

06/223 NALC – Training Courses

The latest NALC training courses were circulated to members. Anyone interested needs to contact the Clerk.

06/224 Atkins Open Day – 8 July 2006

Atkins annual Open Day is to be held on 8 July 2006 from 11am – 3pm.

06/225 Army Presentation Team Meeting 26 July 2006

An invitation has been received from the Army Presentation Team, inviting members to attend an evening reception on the 26 July 2006.

06/226 Annual Parish & Town Council Meeting 19 June 2006

The Chairman reported that he had attended the annual Parish and Town Council meeting at Daventry. He was told that Daventry District expansion was expected to be largely in Daventry Town area, and that present policy was to build in no village that had not requested it. Of more importance to Brixworth was the planned expansion of Northampton with a far greater number of houses being built. A particular threat could be if the town boundary was expanded. The Chairman explained his fears if a possible North Northampton by-pass was built to complete the ring road and its possible affect on Brixworth

06/227 Correspondence for information only

The Chairman reported that the correspondence file was available for circulation. Members wishing to receive the file should put their name on the sheet; the file will only be circulated to the members on the sheet.

06/228 Date of Next Meeting

As discussed earlier, due to the Village of the Year presentation evening being held on the 25 July, the next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 26 July 2006 at 7.15pm.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

06/229 Brixworth Centre – Disabled Ramp in Millennium Garden

Cllr Kennedy had attended the Centre's AGM, at which the management committee had asked for the Council to write to the Diocese of Peterborough regarding the installation of a disabled ramp in the Millennium Garden.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.....

Dated 26 July 2006

Matters raised by members of the public

1. Following on from the last meeting the resident from Eaglehurst informed the Council that he and another resident from Eaglehurst had spoken to the two residents who had not yet replied, with regards to the erecting of the fence and gate at the entrance to the pocket park. This matter was discussed later on in the meeting.
2. A Couple of residents from Stannard Way complained about the poor condition of the road surface in the street. The road has not been resurfaced for forty years and there are approximately forty pot holes. Cllr Fox confirmed that Atkins have agreed to resurface the road in April 2007. The Clerk was asked to write to Atkins to enquire whether they could resolve this matter earlier than scheduled.