

# **BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

***Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 29 August 2006 at 7.15p.m. in the Olive Branch Coffee shop, Brixworth Library/Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth***

***Present:*** Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), S Dobson, P Fox, D Kennedy, J McFadyen, R Monk, L Stevens and J Stubbley.

***In Attendance:*** Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk  
Cllr E Wiig – District Ward Councillor  
Cllr N Bunting – District Ward Councillor  
Sgt M Grady – Northants Police  
PC C Curtis – Northants Police  
Mr M Nice - Centre Manager  
Two members of the public

## **06/266 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Chattaway, Cllr F Peacock, Cllr P Savage, Cllr T Everard and County Cllr C Millar.

## **06/267 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items**

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Member of the Bulletin Team. Also Bill of Payments - Cheque for £3.49 made out to Cllr Fox for payment of supplying a diary to be used as Village Diary in the Information Service.

## **06/268 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 26 July 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Lynn Stevens to the meeting

## **06/269 Chairmans Statement**

The Chairman made the following statement.

‘I am greatly disappointed at the background accusations, counter-accusations and ill-feeling surrounding this Parish Council. Examples of what I mean will become apparent during this meeting.

Speaking generally, we will never all agree on matters or approaches, nor should we – debate and acceptance of the majority decision and the acceptance of our different opinions is the cornerstone of democracy.

What is not acceptable in my strongly held opinion is behaviour falling far short of what should be expected in local politics. Lively debate, yes, but carrying formal personal battles from month to month is, in my view, unacceptable, whether it concerns members or those outside the Council.

Again, speaking generally, as your Chairman, I will not be bullied, pressurised or manipulated away from what I believe to be right. I will continue to promote Parish Council policy and the rules we operate under whenever it is in my power to do so. I will not be diverted from this by pressure on family or myself.

Councillors, and indeed, members of the Public who attend are all unpaid volunteers working to make our community a better place to live in. Unpleasantness between people only detracts from this.

I will remind Councillors of the Code of Conduct we adhere to. I will ask the Clerk to email a reminder copy to every Councillor and I will remind members of the public of their role in a parish Council meeting.

We put aside 15 minutes at the start of a General Meeting for the public to address the Council. A Chairman may allow a discussion or question and answer session, but they don't have to. After the 15 minutes, the general public is warmly invited to remain as observers or of course they may leave.

After the initial 15 minutes, members of the public are not permitted to contribute unless invited by the Chairman. It is my style, on occasions, to invite contributions by members of the public as points of information. It remains my view that the Chairman of each meeting is responsible for that meeting and will have their own style.

I request all concerned to conduct their dealings with each other in a positive and courteous spirit. We have too much talent in these meetings to allow negative actions to interfere with our aim of making Brixworth a better place in which to live'.

### ***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 7.30pm*

### **06/270 Police Representative Report**

Sgt Grady introduced PC Carl Curtis who will be working in the area for eight weeks. Crime statistics are down 26% compared to last year. The largest crime is criminal damage, which includes the damage to the Library/Community Centre building. There have been convictions for a theft of a motor vehicle and possession of drugs, an arrest and interview in connection with a theft at the Co-op, a seizure of a motor vehicle and a warning issued both with regards to anti social behaviour caused by the owners of the vehicles.

Sgt Grady stated that he was not aware of the particular problems at St Davids Recreation Ground as described by a resident earlier on in the meeting, but agreed to the police patrolling the area late at night.

A new Police Notice Board has been placed on the wall inside the foyer of the Library/Community Centre for information.

Cllr Fox asked Sgt Grady his views on the parking in Northampton Road, as commented by the Vicar in a letter to the bulletin. Sgt Grady pointed out that it is an offence to park on the footpath, however it would be impassable if everybody parked on the road, therefore discretion is required. Following a discussion it was agreed to defer the issue raised by the Vicar to the Highways and Environment committee's next meeting.

#### ***06/271 Bye Election Update***

The Chairman reported that the District Council needs to receive nominations, for the fifth bye-election, by noon on the 8 September 2006. If it is contested then an election will be held on 5 October 2006. There is one remaining vacancy.

#### ***Planning***

#### ***06/272 To Approve observations and Accept the Minutes of Meeting 14 August 2006***

The meeting held on the 14 August 2006 was not quorate, therefore observations have been recommended for Council approval. The observations of the Planning committee meeting were approved, these were as follows:-

#### **DA/2006/0782 – Mr. R. Bell, 1 Litchfield Close, Brixworth:**

Single garage to front of dwelling (amended plan):

***No observations***

#### **DA/2006/0817 – Mr. & Mrs Barrow, 22 Knightons Way, Brixworth:**

Single-storey rear extension:

***No observations***

#### **DA/2006/0811 – Mr. & Mrs D. Sparkes, 10 Hall Farm Close, Brixworth:**

Two-storey rear extension:

***The following observation was made: There is concern that the proposed extension may block light from the adjoining property. It should therefore be ensured that the 45 degree sight line is not infringed.***

#### **DA/2006/0868: Brixworth Parish Council, Land adjacent to the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth:**

Work to tree in a conservation area:

***No observations, but the work should be carried out by a qualified tree surgeon.***

#### **DA/2006/0876: Mr. & Mrs Pickle, 4 Juniper Thorn, Brixworth:**

Single-storey extension to side and rear:

***No observations***

#### **DA/2006/0883: Mr. M. Porter, The Old Vicarage, 14 Church Street, Brixworth:**

Listed building consent for relocation and replacement of the existing kitchen:

***No observations***

#### **Premises License – Sale of Alcohol – Fleur Fields Ltd. Hill Farm House, Northampton Road, Brixworth:**

The Parish Council supports this application.

## Finance

### ***06/273 Income Received for July 2006***

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

<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>£</b>
Community Centre	Hall Hire	533.62
Mr S Macken	Refund of email call charges 28.9.05 - 30.4.06	61.27
DDC	Cleaning DDC Office Apr - June 06	100.00
Hewitsons (David Wilson Homes)	Adoption of Ashway Public Open Space	<u>12,000.00</u>
		<u><b>12,694.89</b></u>

### ***06/274 Clerk's Email Call Charges***

The Clerk explained that, unknown to her, additional email call charges had been charged to the Council's account, due to personal use, this amount has now been refunded in full. On proposal by Cllr Monk and seconded by Cllr McFadyen it was resolved for the Clerk to use the Council's Broadband connection, which is located at the Clerk's home, for personal use as long as any additional charges are refunded in full.

### ***06/275 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 July 2006***

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

Current Account	£23,324.99
Capital Reserve Account	£186,883.82
Less Cheques outstanding	£10,975.07
Balance Carried forward as at 1.08.06	£199,233.74

### ***06/276 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for July 2006***

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

Cllr Monk asked Committees to plan their spending for the remainder of the year.

### ***06/277 To Approve the Bills for Payment for August 2006***

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

<b>Chq. No.</b>	<b>Payment To</b>	<b>Reason for Payment</b>	<b>£</b>
3259	Groundsman	Groundman's Salary August 2006	956.74
3260	Clerk	Clerk's Salary August 2006	1,034.24
3261	Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages August 2006	245.20
3262	Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages August 2006	212.66
3263	Community Centre Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages August 2006	218.00
3264	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI August 2006	844.37
3265	Mrs J Macken	Postage	11.53
3266	Mrs P Fox	Village diary	3.49
3267	BDO Stoy Hayward LLP	External Audit for Year Ending 31.3.06	646.25
3268	BT	Clerks telephone, broadband	160.05

3269	Verdant & Bright	Annual Service Mill Gdn irrigation system	124.32
3270	Wicksteed & Leisure	Replacement swing bases	249.88
3271	ESPO	Toilet rolls & stationery	29.26
3272	Brixworth Landscaping	Trimming of Spratton Rd Rec. Grd hedge	381.88
3273	ABB Ltd	Street light maintenance July - Sept. 06	25.05
3274	AH Blason & Son	Fuel & puncture repairs	184.24
			<b>5,327.16</b>

***06/278 To Consider Financially Supporting Northants ACRE***

It was resolved to financially support Northants ACRE for the following year at a cost of £32.00.

***06/279 Letter from External Auditor – Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2006***

A letter from BDO Stoy Hayward the external auditor has been received, copy of which had been previously circulated to all members. The audit for the year ending 31 March 2006 has now been completed and there were no matters, which came to the auditor's attention.

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 the Clerk for her work throughout the year, which has resulted in the auditors having no matters arising in the audit.

***Recreation and Amenities Development***

***06/280 Plan for Ashway Playing Field Development***

The Chairman reported that Cllr Chattaway has informed him that he does not wish to take on the leadership of the group for the Changing Rooms Development.

It was agreed at the next Recreation and Amenities meeting to establish the sports clubs needs and to ask them to be involved with the project. Cllr Dobson, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Monk and Cllr Barratt agreed to be involved with the development group. Options need to be presented to the clubs, it was suggested to arrange a meeting before the committee meeting to agree these options, perhaps before the committee meeting starts.

Cllr Bunting offered his assistance, which was greatly appreciated.

***06/281 Site Meeting to Agree Location of Fencing Adjacent to Spratton Rd Recreation Ground***

Following a discussion it was resolved for the palisade fencing, which is to be donated to the resident, to be installed alongside the original fenceline. It was agreed for the Clerk to meet the resident and contractor on site to arrange this.

***Highway and Environment***

***06/282 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 1 August 2006***

The Minutes of the Highway & Environment Meeting held on the 1 August 2006 having been previously distributed were accepted

***06/283 Report on Pocket Park and Request for Fencing***

The Pocket Park Officer had attended the meeting and had advised the committee that preventing 24 hour access could lose the Pocket Park status if it contravened the Section 106 conditions when it was handed over. The area needed a ‘sense of place’ and to be ‘positively managed’ by the community.

It was agreed that the idea of erecting a fence and gate at the entrance had not been ruled out, but the Council wished to explore alternative measures to deter anti social behaviour in the park.

Therefore it was resolved to approve the recommendations made by the Committee, which is as follows: -

1. To facilitate the setting up of the Pocket Park Committee with Parish Council membership. Cllr Dobson agreed and was appointed the Pocket Park Representative.
2. To arrange a meeting with the Community Safety Officer and the Committee.
3. To seek immediately quotes for fencing off the two ‘escape routes’ at the far end.
4. To continue to encourage Neighbourhood Watch in the area.

The Clerk advised the Council that there is sufficient palisade fencing in storage to fence off the ‘escape routes’, which could be fitted by the part time groundsman. This was agreed.

Cllr Dobson reported that he had been in contact with Moulton College and the RSPB both of which stated that they would be interested in being involved. An article has been put in the Bulletin asking for volunteers for the management group. Cllr Dobson agreed to produce fliers for distribution to nearby residents.

***06/284 DDC – Parish Council Charter and Enforcement Strategy***

The District Council has compiled an Environmental Cleansing Council Charter and Enforcement Strategy following consultation with Parishes. The main themes are partnership working, environmental cleansing standards and enforcement of environmental crime. The District Council has adopted a Environmental Cleansing Charter and is asking all Parishes to sign up to the Charter and work in partnership with the authority to improve local environmental quality.

It was resolved for the Parish Council to sign up to the Charter as long as it does not have an impact on the precept. The Chairman signed the agreement.

Cllr Fox stated that the District Council would support litter picking in the village by providing litter picker sticks.

***06/285 Report on the Removal of the Planters on Spratton Road***

The Community Engineer at Atkins has advised the Council that the planters on Spratton Road are to be removed by March 2007. There will not be any structures in place only reflective posts.

***06/286 Work Required on Parish Council Trees***

Cllr Fox informed the meeting that she and the Clerk had spent a morning with a contractor who had inspected the Parish Council's owned trees. It was agreed to seek two additional quotes for the work required, as the cost was over £500.00.

***06/287 Village Diary***

Cllr Fox reported that she had purchased a diary for use as a Village Diary. The diary is to be kept in the Information Service and organisations can write the date of their events, which will hopefully prevent any clash of dates.

***06/288 Parish Plan Questionnaire***

It was noted that a date, for a Public Meeting, needs to be arranged to discuss the results and comments from the parish plan questionnaire. It was suggested that an introduction to the results could be presented to the Public meeting to be held on the 13 September 2006.

***06/289 Village Hall Quiz - 8 September 2006***

Cllr Fox, Cllr Monk, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Barratt and Cllr Dobson were interested in attending the Village Hall Quiz.

***Correspondence for discussion***

***06/290 NCC – Sustainable Transport School Workshop***

As part of the County Council's aim to promote / organise safe and healthy alternatives to travelling to and from school in cars, it has enlisted a company called 'Big Wheel' who specialise in children's theatre. The company offer a show titled 'Go Go Go' which aims to tackle school-run gridlocks and raise awareness of environmental issues amongst pupils and parents. The County Council has asked the Parish Council whether it would provide the funding for a show for a school in the area, cost of which is in the region of £350.00. (Copy of which had been previously circulated to members).

It was agreed that the Parish Council is sympathetic to the idea however does not currently have the funding available.

***06/291 NCC – Countywide Byway Survey***

A Countywide Byway survey has been received by the Rights of Way department (copy of which had been previously circulated to members). Cllrs may complete the paper copy or complete the survey online.

***06/292 DDC – Brixworth Museum***

An email from the District Council had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated to members) asking for details about the proposed Brixworth Museum. It was suggested to pass on these questions to the History Society.

***06/293 Northampton General Hospital – Foundation Trust Application***

It was noted that a letter from the Northampton General Hospital had been received, (copy of which had been previously circulated to members) informing the Council that they are applying to become a foundation trust. This status will provide more flexibility and control over finances. The hospital needs to consult with the local community as part of the process. Leaflets with further information are available.

***06/294 Letters from Standards Board – Notification of Allegations Received***

Letters dated 24 & 25 July and 7 August 2006 have been received from the Standards Board advising the Council of recent decisions, of allegations made against a Parish Councillor. The decisions in all cases were that the allegations are not to be investigated.

***06/295 Letter from Brixworth All Saints Football Club – Use of St Davids***

A letter from the All Saints Football Club had been received, (copy of which had been previously circulated to members), with regards to the Red Lion Football Club using the senior pitch at St David's on a Sunday. The Red Lion Club is unable to play on the Ashway Playing Field this season as they require changing rooms. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that as the All Saints Club pay ground rent for the use of the pitch that they should have control of it this season. The Clerk was asked to reply and request that the All Saints F C, the Red Lion F C and Brixworth Junior F C come to a threeway agreement with regards to the matches to be played on a Sunday and by which team, the arrangements in case of cancellations and the cost arrangements. The Council was concerned that a decision would be required urgently due to the start of the football season, therefore the matter was delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

It was suggested that formal agreements would be required in the future between the Council and the sports clubs.

***06/296 Letter from Resident – Local Facilities***

An email from a resident had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated to members), with regards to the roundabout at the entrance to the village by the Ashway. The resident was enquiring whether this roundabout could be planted. It was agreed for this matter to be referred to the next meeting of the Highways and Environment Committee.

***06/297 NALC – Annual General Meeting 17 October 2006***

Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils NALC AGM is to be held on 17 October 2006 at the County Council's Council Chamber. Cllr Peacock would be asked if she could attend as the Parish Council's representative.

***06/298 NALC – Parish Constables***

NALC in partnership with Northants Police will be holding a meeting in October to discuss the recruitment of Parish Constables. Cllr Stubbley agreed to find out further details.

***Urgent Matters For Report Only***

***06/299 Replies following consultation on Ashway Playing Field Access***

The Chairman reported that he had received several replies from residents regarding the accesses to the Ashway Playing Field. Some residents were in favour and some were against the existing accesses.

***06/300 Brixworth Action Group Meeting***

The Chairman stated that the meeting scheduled for the 22 August 2006 had been cancelled. This group is independent from the Parish Council.

***06/301 Standards Board Training – Code of Conduct***

The Chairman reminded members of an email, which had been circulated to members with regards to Standards Board Training.

***06/302 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.

***06/303 Date of Next Meeting***

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 26 September 2006 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

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

Dated 26 September 2006

### **Matters raised by members of the public**

1. Two residents raised their concerns again with regards to the anti social behaviour being experienced on St David's Recreation Ground late at night. The Chairman declared a personal interest as a resident in Froxhill Crescent. The resident passed on the car registrations, owned by the youths, causing the nuisance to the police present. It was suggested that additional signage was required to reinforce the fact that the area is an Alcohol Free Zone. The Police agreed to patrol this area.