

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 19 December 2006 at 7.15p.m. in the Olive Branch Coffee shop, Brixworth Library/Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), T Everard, P Fox, D Kennedy and J McFadyen

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Mr M Nice - Centre Manager
Sgt Grady - Northants Police
Chief Inspector Tresias – Northants Police
Cllr Millar County Councillor
Two members of the public

06/403 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L Stevens, Cllr R Chattaway, Cllr R Monk, Cllr S Verallo, Cllr F Peacock, District Cllr N Bunting and District Cllr E Wiig.

06/404 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Millennium Garden and also being a member of the Bulletin Team.

Cllr McFadyen declared a personal interest – Trustee of Brixworth Youth Foundation

06/405 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 28 November 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 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.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.45pm

06/406 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Millar referred to the recent White Paper, which will have an affect on Parish Councils, devolved powers would allow Parishes to control some local services. The County Council would prefer a three tier enhanced system.

The District Council's Concessionary Fares will revert back to the previous system, as many people were worse off with the new system. This takes affect as from the 1 November 2006. It is envisaged that over 65's will have free bus passes in the future.

The management process regarding graffiti removal in the district is under review; currently there is no service.

It was noted that in the future it might be possible for residents to build extensions without planning permission.

06/407 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady reported the current crime figures, overall they are 10% down on this time last year. (139 – 149 last year). Good news is that three youths have been arrested for criminal damage, including the graffiti artist. Someone had been arrested and charged for the theft at the Co-Op. An offender was pending bail in connection with a break in at the Library/Community Centre.

The use of a mosquito box on the Library/Community Centre, was mentioned. This box produces a high pitched sound heard by only those aged 11-25 years old, which is apparently uncomfortable to hear. This has been used in several counties by different organisations for deterring young people from 'hanging out' outside public buildings. It was suggested for a member of the Police to attend the next Library/Community Centre management meeting to discuss. The Local Police can lend us a Mosquito box for free for a trial period.

Chief Inspector Tresias introduced himself; he is responsible for delivering Safer Community Teams throughout the County. Unfortunately the team had to move from Spring Hill twelve months ago, due to high rent costs, but would like to return to the area, in particular Brixworth. Brixworth is the largest village and has the most policing issues in the area. Sgt Grady has negotiated an annual rental of a suitable office in Brixworth for £3000.00 per year, for the next two years. The police and District Council would fund £12,000.00 towards start up costs, equipment etc, however the rental for the property is required and the Police asked whether the Parish Council would consider funding this. The benefits to the village include improvement to the visibility and presence of police officers, either on foot or in a car, as anti social behaviour is a concern to villagers. The office would not be open to the public, but regular police surgeries would be held, probably in the Library/Community Centre. Sgt Grady, two police officers, two PCSO's and the specials would be based there. There would be a dedicated line, with answer phone, for parishioners to ring.

06/408 Funding an Office in Brixworth for the Police's Safer Community Team

This item was brought forward on the agenda for consideration.

It was noted that the results of the recent Parish Plan Questionnaires showed that anti-social behaviour by youths around the village was clearly the issue that was most important and of greatest concern to the people of the village. Also there was a strong comment from the respondents that there should be more visible police presence around the village.

On proposal by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr McFadyen, with all in favour, it was resolved to support the local Safer Community Team for the next financial year, by funding a office in Brixworth at a cost of £3000.00; Under the Crime Prevention section of the Local Government Rating Act 1997. This amount would need to be added to the budget and precept for next year.

06/409 Parish Councillor Resignation and Vacancies Planning

The Chairman reported that Cllr Jackie Stubley had resigned due to personal reasons, the Clerk was asked to advise the District Council. There are currently two other vacancies; to date no applications have been received.

06/410 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 18 December 2006

The Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on the 18 December 2006 having been previously distributed were accepted.

06/411 East Midlands Regional Assembly – Draft Regional Plan Consultation

At the Planning Committee meeting it was agreed not to comment at this time.

06/412 DDC – Consultation Drafts

- i) Energy and Development Supplementary Planning Document
- ii) Site 6 Middlemore, Daventry
- iii) Daventry Country Park Local Nature Reserve Management Plan

The Planning Committee have made no observations.

Cllr Fox reported that the County Council is looking to privatise the Country Parks and Pocket Parks and is currently seeking tenders for the end of February 2007.

Finance

06/413 Income Received for November 2006

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

Received from	Details	£
Community Centre	Hall Hire	591.73
NCC	Contribution for Cleaning foyer and toilets	582.96
BJFC	First instalment of rent - St Davids	379.25
HM Revenue & Customs	Refund VAT 1.8.06 - 31.10.06	784.74
		<u>2,338.68</u>

06/414 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 November 2006

The bank reconciliation as at the 30 November 2006 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£20,025.34
Capital Reserve Account	£215,063.59
Less Cheques outstanding	£16,673.91
Balance Carried forward as at 1.12.06	£218,415.02

06/415 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for November 2006

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

06/416 Renewal of Annual Subscription to Society Of Council Clerks (SLCC)

On proposal by Cllr McFadyen and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to approve the payment to SLCC for the Clerks annual subscription for the sum of £135.00.

06/417 To Approve the Bills for Payment for December 2006

A schedule of payments, to be made in December 2006 was copied to each member. It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment; therefore the Chairman signed the schedule of payments.

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Chq No.	Minute	Payment To	Reason for Payment	£
Retrospective Payment				
3336	06/382	Anglian Water	New Sewer connection - Changing rooms	184.00
3337	06/382	Anglian Water	New Water connection - Changing rooms	2,007.37
Payment To Reason for Payment				
3338		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Dec 2006	956.95
3339		Clerk	Clerk's Salary Dec 2006	1,034.23
3340		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Dec 2006	98.08
3341		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Dec 2005	170.04
3342		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Dec 2006	174.40
3343		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Dec 2006	790.71
3344		Mrs J Macken	Clerks Allowance, Postage & stationery	100.86
3345		Mr I Barratt	Chairmans & Telephone Allowance	32.50
3346		Post Office Ltd	Vehicle Licence renewal - Pick up	175.00
3347		Lovell Hardware	Tools & materials for groundsmen	186.58
3348		ABB Ltd	Street Light maintenance Oct - Dec 06	25.05
3349		ESPO	Stationery	25.75
3350		Avenue Agricultural	Materials for groundsman	182.01
3351		The Mower Shop	Service parts for mowers	134.80
3352	06/063r	Earth Anchors Ltd	Replacement litter bins/liners	468.30
3353	06/318	EM Pell & Partner	Tree and hedge work - St Davids Rec. Grd	564.00
3354		AH Blason & Son	Fuel for pick up	33.00
3355		SLCC	Annual Subscription	135.00
				7,478.63

It was noted that cheque number 3352 for £468.30 was for replacement litter bins recently vandalised.

06/418 Budget and Precept for 2007/08

On proposal by Cllr Everard and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to accept and approve the budget and precept for 2007/08, recommended by the Finance Committee, with the addition of the £3000.00 sum for Police Support.

The Budget for 2007/08

Expenditure

Salaries, Wages and Employers National Ins	£42,780
Finance / Admin	£19,780
Highways and Environment	£ 9,600
Recreation & Amenities Development	£24,800
Projects	£10,000
Police Support	£ 3,000
Total Expenditure	£109,960

Income

Bank Interest	£2,500
Sports Clubs	£3,000
BCF Coffee Shop	£1,500
Community Centre	£6,355
DDC Cleaning Office	£ 412
Pocket Park Grass Cutting	£ 250
Total Income	£14,017

The Precept for 2007/08

Expenditure	£109,960
Less Income	£14,017
Precept Request	£95,943

It was resolved that the Parish Council do precept upon Daventry District Council in the sum of £95,943, to be paid in two instalments in April and September 2007.

It was noted that this was an increase of 6.43% compared to a decrease of 2.53% this year. This means that the Council Tax for parish purposes for next year will be £57.56 for a band “D” property, compared to £54.09 this year. Without the Police Support the increase would have been 3.1%.

Recreation and Amenities Development

06/419 Report on Changing Rooms Development

The Clerk referred to the report, which had been previously circulated, on the site meeting with Thurston Building Systems, Consolidated Mechanical Services (CMS), Peter Timlin and herself held on the 12 December 2006. The foundations are due to start week commencing 18 December 2006.

CMS have quoted for a footpath to run from the car park to the changing room at a cost of £10,200.00. This figure is considered to be high, Peter Timlin will obtain further quotes. Quotes will be obtained for the connection of the drainage system from the boundary line to the main sewers. Due to timescale it was resolved to delegate the responsibility of appointing contractors for the necessary work required for the Changing Rooms development to the Recreation and Amenity Committee meeting to be held on 15 January 2007.

It was resolved to approve the green sample (12C39) for the doors of the changing rooms.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from the District Council confirming that they approve to the brick slip and roof tile samples. However, it was noted that before the car park and access is started that the fencing details need to be submitted and approved before commencement. The Planning Officer would like the new car park and access to be carried out as soon as it is reasonably possible.

Highway and Environment

06/420 Request for Walkway from St Davids / Parkfield Road to Honeyholme

A letter and petition signed by 54 local residents had been received, (a copy had been previously circulated), requesting for a walkway from Parkfield Road/St David's Road to join Honeyholme. This walkway would be through an existing garden, owned by the District Council and which is not currently occupied. A letter from a neighbour had also been received objecting to this proposal. With all members in favours it was agreed to send a letter of support for this walkway, to the District Council.

06/421 Report on meeting with NCC Highways Officer – Safe routes to school/ Pelican crossing

Cllr Fox reported that NCC Highways have confirmed that they have put the request for a Pelican Crossing, in Northampton Road, on the reserve list. Depending on budgets and consultation with neighbours it may go ahead next year.

06/422 Replies from DDC & NCC - Graffiti Removal In Parish

Letters from the District Council and County Council have been received with regards to the graffiti removal in the parish (copies had been previously circulated). The County Council confirmed that they are responsible for the exterior of the Library/Community Centre and have provided the Council and Library staff with a help line telephone number for any matters concerning the exterior. The District Council confirmed that it removes graffiti from Council owned property throughout the District. However under new legislation enforcement action can be taken, by the District Council, against offenders of environmental crime including graffiti. District Cllr F Wiig is arranging for the District Council to clean the graffiti from the Fish and Chip shop wall. It was noted that the District Council has set aside some money, for graffiti removal in the District, in its budget for next year, it was agreed to write a letter to the Council to enquire how this would work.

06/423 NCC Highways/Atkins Report November 2006

The gullies and drains in Brixworth are to be cleaned in January 2007.

06/424 Venue and Access to Parish Council and Committee Meetings

Concerns have been raised at Council and Committee meetings regarding the access to the meetings, when the side door is locked to prevent youths from entering the building and causing a disturbance or vandalising the building. On occasions Councillors and members of the public have not been able to access meetings, or have had to wait outside for a considerable length of time before being able to enter the building. Members are concerned that all Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. Cllr Fox reported that the small hall in the Village Hall is available on Tuesdays, however step aerobics would be on in the main hall until 8.00pm, this is available at a cost of £6.35 per hour. The Heritage Centre is currently available for £2.50 per hour. On proposal by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Kennedy and following a vote it was resolved to hold the Full Council meetings at the Heritage Centre for a trial period of six months, starting in January. Committee meetings shall remain at the Library/Community Centre. It was noted that the Heritage Centre is not available on Monday evenings, Planning and Recreation Committee meetings are held on Mondays.

06/425 Parish Council Signs and Logos

Suggestions for a new Parish Council logo had been previously circulated to members. Members preferred number three. The Clerk was asked to arrange for a sample of the logo on a letterhead for consideration at the next Council meeting.

06/426 Parish Path Warden Report

The Parish Path Warden, Mr Shaun Macken, had recently completed an inspection report to the NCC Right of Way regarding footpath CG10. Concerns had been previously raised regarding landowners confusing signs, which may discourage users from using the CG10 footpath. Mr Macken's conclusion is that the landowner has provided very clear well maintained access, and for safety reasons has mounted additional sign's. Mr Macken has also put up new fingerposts and has requested that NCC put up a new fingerpost sign outside Atkins yard to make the footpath even clearer. The Chairman agreed to send Mr Macken a formal letter of thanks.

Correspondence for discussion

06/427 Letter from Resident – Newlands Road Safety

This item had been discussed earlier on in the meeting and is to be referred to the next Highways and Environment committee meeting.

06/428 Letter from resident – St Davids Recreation Ground Gate

A letter from a resident had been received reporting the damage caused to his fence by users of the Central Sports Pavilion securing the gate, to the car park, on his fence. This was during a social event held on the 8 December 2006. The Clerk reported that the groundsman has repaired the resident's fence. The Chairman declared an interest, as a resident in Froxhill Crescent, and stated that this event was a particular noisy event, held in a marquee on the Recreation Ground until 12.15am. On proposal by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was resolved to write to the Central Sports Club to raise the Council's concern regarding the noise generated by this social event, which carried on until after midnight, and hopes that this was a one off and will not be a regular occurrence.

06/429 Letter from DDC – Parish and Town Council Meeting 16 January 2007

The next Parish and Town Council meeting is to be held on 16 January 2007 at 6.30pm. The Chairman stated that he intends to go.

06/430 Reply from NCC – Review of Subsidised Bus Service

A reply from the County Council had been received,(a copy had been previously circulated), regarding the review of subsidised bus services. Unfortunately the County Council's financial position will not allow any further improvements at the present time, including late evening journeys between Brixworth and Northampton.

06/431 Reply from Philip Hollobone MP – Brixworth Post Office

A reply from Philip Hollobone MP, had been received,(a copy had been previously circulated) regarding the future for Brixworth Post Office. Recently Mr Hollobone had participated in a debate in parliament on this issue, and conveyed the strong views of local people to the Post Offices Minister.

06/432 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.

06/433 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 30 January 2007 at 7.15pm.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

06/434 Letter from Brixworth Youth Foundation

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from the Brixworth Youth Foundation regarding the dates which the Council considers grants. Currently the Council considers grants in July and January and the suggestion was to change this to April and October, to assist local organisations with their budgets. It was agreed for this to be discussed at the next Grant Application meeting to be held on the 23 January 2007.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

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

Dated 30 January 2007

Matters raised by members of the public.

1. Mr Nice, advised the meeting that 350 people had attended the Brixworth Christian Fellowship's annual Carol Service which was held outside the Library/Community Centre. Anglia news had filmed and reported the event and thanks to the police for providing cover during the service. Over 2600 Operation Christmas Child boxes have been collected and sent. Congratulations to all those involved.
2. Two residents referred to their letter to the Council, which was to be discussed later on in the meeting. They expressed their concern with regards to the size and weight of vehicles using Newlands as a short cut to Creaton and Holcot, in addition to cars speeding. It was reported that satellite navigation systems divert traffic down through Newlands instead of using the main roads. Cllr Millar confirmed that this was a problem shared by many villages. Possible suggestions were for a highway survey to be carried out, additional street signs (such as SLOW), a speed limit of 20mph or a one-way system. It was noted that a 20mph area would mean road humps. Sgt Grady agreed to arrange for a road speed survey to be carried out in Newlands. The two residents agreed to put together a report for NCC Highways. It was agreed for this matter to be referred to the next Highways and Environment meeting 6 February 2007.