

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 30 January 2007 at 7.15p.m. in the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), R Chattaway, T Everard, P Fox, D Kennedy and J McFadyen, R Monk (arrived at 9.15pm), F Peacock, S Verallo and E Wiig (following Co-option).

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt Grady - Northants Police
Jane Neil & Mark England Spratton Rd Rec. Grd Working Group

07/009 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr L Stevens, Cllr S Dobson, District Cllr N Bunting and County Cllr C Millar.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Council meeting at the Heritage Centre. It was confirmed that the Full Council would meet at the Heritage Centre for a trial period of six months, however Committee meetings are to continue being held at the Brixworth Library/Community Centre.

07/010 Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had received two applications for the three co-option vacancies (copy of the letters had been previously circulated to members). It was noted that the District Council has confirmed that the latest vacancy can be filled by co-option.

The first applicant Mrs Elizabeth Wiig briefly explained her reasons for wishing to come back on to the Parish Council. Following a recorded vote of five in favour (Cllrs Everard, Kennedy, Peacock, Barratt and McFadyen), none against and three abstentions (Cllrs Fox, Chattaway and Verallo) it was resolved to co-opt Mrs Wiig on to the Council.

The second applicant, Mrs Jayne Bunting, was unable to attend due to personal reasons, but had requested that her application is deferred for consideration at the next Council meeting.

07/011 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Member of the Bulletin Team.

Cllr Verallo declared a personal interest – Member of the Bulletin Team

Cllr McFadyen declared a personal interest – Residing adjacent to the Ashway Playing Field (Minute references 07/023, 07/028 & 07/031).

Cllr Everard declared a personal interest – Residing near to the Ashway Playing Field

Cllr Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority

07/012 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 19 December 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2006 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting, after the following additions:-

06/407 Police Report – The local police can lend us a mosquito box for a free trial period.

The Police and the District Council would fund £12,000 towards start up costs, equipment etc.

07/013 Signing of the Minutes of the Grant Application Meeting 23 January 2007

The minutes of the Grant Application meeting held on 23 January 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

07/014 Minutes

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Cllr McFadyen regarding the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 December 2006 (copy was previously circulated to all members). Cllr McFadyen is concerned that the ‘minutes accurately reflect the work of councillors and also deliberations that take place leading up to a decision or resolution, so that residents understand the decision making process and that their interests are being properly considered as part of the democratic process’. Two examples in the minutes were given, minute 06/408 Funding an office in Brixworth for the Police’s Safer Community Team and 06/424 Venue and Access to Parish Council and Committee Meetings. Cllr McFadyen was concerned that the minutes on these two items read as if they were a straight forward debate and discussion.

During a discussion members were reminded that they could ask the Clerk to minute anything specific they wish to be minuted and ask for a recorded vote at the time. The Clerk stated that it was her job to minute the views of the Council and not that of individual councillors, she took on board the comments raised and it was agreed that the Chairman would confirm the Councils views on matters in the future for minuting purposes.

Cllr McFadyen pointed out that he was not being critical of the work undertaken by the Clerk. The Chairman did not wish the minutes to be extended or indeed for the Clerk to take on additional work and stated that the Clerk shows confidence and professionalism in her work.

Questions from the Public

The meeting adjourned at 7.50pm to allow members of the public to address the Council.

A note of the matters raised are attached.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 8.10pm

07/015 County Councillor’s Report

Apologies had been received from County Councillor Chris Millar.

07/016 Police Representative’s Report

Sgt Grady reported that the crime figures are exactly the same as this time last year, majority of which are criminal damage. This month two cars had all their tyres slashed in Oathill Close and Froxhill Walk and there were burglaries in Froxhill Crescent and Shellycoates. Two fixed penalties have been issued to local youths for a theft from the Co-op and a Public Order, costing each of them £80.00. An eighteen

year old is on bail after having entered the Community Centre then stole and destroyed the Christmas decorations.

Mark Chambers has been issued with an ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order) until the 19 February 2007, when there will be another hearing. Some of the conditions include not being allowed to enter the co-op at any time, or the shopping area in Spratton Road and Community Centre from 12 noon until 6am. He must leave a retail outlet if asked to by a member of staff and must not swear or be abusive. If this is breached then it may run for two years.

Sgt Grady confirmed that the police have a mosquito box, which the Library/Community Centre may borrow for a trial period of three months. He handed over a Mosquito box Protocol, which must be adhered to.

The Safer Community Team should be in the new office in Brixworth by the end of February 2007. It was confirmed that there would be a dedicated line for parishioners to ring.

Sgt Grady was asked about policing the illegal parking on the corners of the roads, in particular Kennel Terrace/Northampton Road and Spratton Road/Northampton Road. The County Council have advised the Parish Council that it would cost the Parish £5000.00 to have yellow lines laid down and was more a policing issue rather than a parking issue. (This is to be discussed later). Sgt Grady agreed to look at the parking situation on these corners and issue advisory notices and note down the car registrations for a period of time. Sgt Grady suggested that clearing the corners of parked cars might in fact increase the speed of the traffic.

The Council gave their thanks to Sgt Grady, Frank Wiig, Matthew Cox and a local young man who gave up their time to clear the graffiti off the Fish and Chip shop wall. The Clerk was asked to send a letter of thanks to all those mentioned.

07/017 Letter from Chief Constable Peter Maddison

The Chairman reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Peter Maddison the Chief Constable (copy of which had been previously circulated) for supporting the police by funding an office for the Safer Community Team in Brixworth.

Planning

07/018 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 8 & 29 January 2007

The Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on the 8 & 29 January 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/019 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – January 2007 Report

The planning approvals and refusals for January 2007 were noted as follows: -

Approvals

DA/2006/1168 Mr M Simpson, 25 Knightons Way, Brixworth Single storey extension to rear of dwelling

6.11.06 PC No Objection

8.12.06 DDC Approved

**DA/2006/1199 Mr Biggs & Miss Norton, 8 Waterpike, Brixworth
Conservatory to rear**

6.11.06 PC No observations 22.11.06 DDC Approved

**DA/2006/1271 Mr & Mrs Hutchinson, 63 Broadlands, Brixworth
Work to trees subject of a Tree Preservation order**

27.11.06 PC No objection 21.12.06 DDC Approved

**DA/2006/1277 Mr & Mrs Hodges, 75 The Ashway, Brixworth
First floor extension over garage**

18.12.06 PC No Observations 2.1.07 DDC Approved

Refusals

**DA/2006/1154 Mr Johnson, 10 Kennel Terrace, Brixworth
Conservatory to rear**

6.11.06 PC No observations 11.12.06 DDC Refused

Cllr Chattaway reported that application DA/2006/1397 Land to the rear of 20 Northampton Road, Brixworth for outline application for new detached dwelling had been withdrawn. A new application is expected which reflects the planning officers views and Councils observations.

Finance

07/020 Income Received for December 2006

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

<u>Received from</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>£</u>
Community Centre	Hall Hire	380.39
DDC	Contribution for Cleaning One Stop Shop	100.00
Natwest Bank	Interest Oct - Dec 06	1,301.35
		<u>1,781.74</u>

07/021 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2006

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

Current Account	£11,760.37
Capital Reserve Account	£201,464.94
Less Cheques outstanding	£507.18
Balance Carried forward as at 1.1.07	£212,718.13

07/022 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for December 2006

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for December 2006.

07/023 Valuation One Invoice to Thurstons Building Systems – Changing Rooms

On proposal by Cllr Peacock and seconded by Cllr Chattaway it was resolved to approve the payment to Thurstons Building Systems, for Valuation One Invoice, for the sum of £66,935.09 plus VAT. This sum is for 63% of the contract total, less the 6% deposit. It was noted that Thurston's had agreed for the Council to deduct the sum of £331.00 plus VAT for 'lifting rings' as this amount has not yet been agreed or even discussed.

07/024 To Approve the Bills for Payment for January 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in January 2007 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.

<u>Chq No.</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3356		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Jan 2007	956.75
3357		Clerk	Clerk's Salary Jan 2007	1,034.25
3358		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Jan 2007	212.66
3359		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Jan 2007	122.71
3360		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Jan 2007	285.00
3361		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Jan 2007	559.61
3362		Mrs J Macken	Postage	8.28
3363		Mr M Sugden	Socket set	19.99
3364		Mr M Nice	Centre Mgr expenses - key cutting,diary	15.79
3365		ESPO	Stationery & Cleaning materials	45.13
3366		Eurooffice Ltd	Printer cartridge - Clerks printer	36.34
3367		HFS Timber	Posts - Pocket Park & Holcot Rd	55.44
3368		DDC	Emptying wheelie bins - 1.1.07 -31.3.07	255.12
3369		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	72.77
3370		Powergen	St Light electricity - Nov - Jan 07	39.26
3371		A H Blason & Son	Fuel for pick up	115.06
3372	06/062r	Mancraft Fencing Ltd	Repairs to tennis courts	293.75
3373	07/003	Brixworth Travel Club	Community Grant	600.00
3374	07/004	Brixworth History Society	Community Grant	925.00
3375	07/005	Brixworth Junior Football Club	Community Grant	250.00
3376	07/006	Brixworth Cricket Club	Community Grant	925.00
3377	06/316	Thurston Building Systems	Valuation One - Changing Rooms Ashway PF	78,648.73
3378	06/358	Geo Browns Implements Ltd	Overhaul/Service Gang Mowers	1,928.17
				87,404.81

07/025 Annual Subscription to Campaign to Protect Rural England CPRE

It was resolved to renew the annual subscription to CPRE at a cost of £27.00.

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/026 To Accept Minutes of Meeting 15 January 2007

The Minutes of the Recreation & Amenity Development Meeting held on the 15 January 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/027 Charges for Sports Clubs

The Recreation Committee had recommended charging the village senior football team £35 - £40 for the use of the changing rooms and senior pitch. Outsiders would be charged in the region of £40 - £45. The Recreation committee was asked to

produce a table of charges for the senior and junior football teams, including charges for outsiders. The VAT charge needs to be considered for the use of the changing rooms. It was suggested for the juniors not to pay as much as the seniors, but could also be funded via a community grant by the Council. The Recreation Committee agreed to consider this at its next meeting in March.

07/028 Changing Rooms Development Report

The Clerk reported that the changing rooms' building was delivered on 24 January 2007 and that the roof was completed during the weekend 27/28 January 2007.

Ravensthorpe Construction has been instructed to carry out the work for the sewer connections for the sum of £6,511.19. They will need to connect into the drain located on the David Wilson Homes development. Mr Timlin will send an advisory letter to David Wilson Homes, referring to the Land Transfer Title, which states that the Council has the right to connect into the service media. The start date is yet to be agreed.

John Arnold has been instructed to carry out the pathway and hard standing around the perimeter of the building for the sum of £5410.00. John Arnold feels that the only other suitable finish to the pathway would be tarmac, at a greater cost. He would not recommend compacted gravel as an option. This work is scheduled for mid February 2007. With regards to the soak away for the car park, trial holes will be done at the same time as the pathway, to establish what kind of soak away if any would be suitable, a quote can then be prepared.

Balfour Beatty, Eon energy services contractors, are to be on site week commencing 29 January 2007 to carry out the electrical connections.

Anglian Water is to advise when they will be on site.

Building Inspector to visit the site now the building has been delivered. Still waiting for confirmation that the corelion certificate is acceptable.

Copies of the invoices for the changing rooms have been sent to the County Council and District Council with regards to the funding applications. The District Council have agreed to fund £14,000.00 and the County Council VSSU have agreed to fund £5000.00.

Transco have repaired old gas pipes, which are located under the senior pitch on the playing field. A landscaping company will come in March 2007 to make good and reseed the ground.

The Recreation Committee was asked to consider, at its next meeting, the replacement for the fencing and elder that has been removed near to the changing rooms.

07/029 Revised Budget/Building Costs for Changing Rooms

The Council resolved to accept the increase in the actual building costs compared to the budget for the changing rooms, which are as follows:-

<u>PC Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
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			<u>Building Costs</u>
<u>Building</u>	Total	87,000.00	99,019.75
<u>Foundations</u>	Total	17,500.00	18,436.70
<u>Groundworks</u>	Total	14,400.00	9,971.89
<u>Professional Fees</u>			
Architect (1.5% contract)			1,800.00
Building Regulations			400.00
	Total	4,000.00	2,200.00
<u>Patio & footpath</u>			5,400.00
<u>Contingency</u>	Total	10,000.00	
	Grand Total	132,900.00	135,028.34

07/030 Replacement Fencing for St David's Play Ground

Four quotes had been received for the removal of the chain link fencing on opposite sides of the St David's Play ground and to replace with steel galvanised painted bow top type fencing with one pedestrian gate and one pedestrian/vehicle gate. Quotes received were as follows: -

- Quote One - £5565.00
- Quote Two - £8771.45
- Quote Three - £5900.10
- Quote Four - £4857.00

On proposal by Cllr Everard and seconded by Cllr Peacock it was resolved to accept the quote from East Midlands Fencing for £4,857.00. It was noted that this would be invoiced in March and April 2007.

07/031 Replacement Fencing for the Ashway Playing Field

Three quotes had been received for the removal of the chain link fencing and to replace with a wooden four post and rail type fencing to the entrance to the car park. Quotes received were as follows: -

- Quote One - £675.00
- Quote Two - £755.00
- Quote Three - £832.00

On proposal by Cllr Peacock and seconded by Cllr Wiig it was resolved to accept the quote from Brixworth Landscaping for £675.00.

07/032 Spratton Road Recreation Ground Group Meeting 17 January 2007

Members of the working group had presented their short and long term plans to the Council earlier on in the evening. The next working group meeting is to be held on 21 February 2007, members were asked to attend if possible.

Highway and Environment

07/033 Report on Request for Pelican crossing

Cllr Fox reported that the County Council had confirmed that the application for a Pelican Crossing on the Northampton Road near the roundabout had been successful, at no cost to the Parish Council. In view of the RigiFlex development it was considered vital that the village had this facility. The process shall start in April 2007, which will include consultation with local residents and the police. A road crossing traffic order will need to be obtained. Atkins/NCC Highways will draw up the plans and the Parish Council will be consulted. The overall process will take several months. The Chairman agreed to write an article for the Bulletin.

07/034 Cost for Yellow Lines on Northampton Road

Cllr Fox, as previously mentioned, reported that the County Council had stated it would be appropriate to have yellow lines, to stop people parking on the corners of Spratton Road and Kennel Terrace with Northampton Road. This would cost the Parish Council £5000.00, but there was no guarantee after a consultation and application for a road traffic order (costing £2,700.00) that the application would be successful and therefore the £5000.00 would not be returned. The Chairman confirmed that there are no funds in this year's or next year's budget for this project. A show of hands resolved that the majority of members were not in favour of spending £5000.00 with no guarantee, at this time. Concerns were raised with regards to the local businesses whose customers park on the corners of the road and who may be affected by having yellow lines in these areas. It was stated that the parking is a policing matter and that yellow lines would need to be policed. Cllr Fox agreed to contact Sgt Grady to confirm his intentions on issuing advisory notices for a period of time. The Council agreed to wait for the response to the actions of the police and possibly review it again in the future.

Cllr Monk arrived 9.15pm

07/035 Vehicles Parking on Grass Verges in Parish

A couple of emails had been received from residents with regards to vehicles parking on the grass verge in Holcot Road and causing damage to the grass. One resident had also written to the County Council. The Clerk contacted the Highways Regulations Officer who had inspected the grass verge and had written to one of the owners of the vehicles and had stated that the grass verge should not be used to park vehicles on. She agreed to come and inspect the verge again as other vehicles were continuing to park there, in addition she agreed to look at the Harborough Road and if appropriate she would write to all the residents in the road and request that they do not park on the grass verge.

Concerns were raised with regards to the condition of the grass verge outside the Lodge where building works are being carried out. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to the resident of the Lodge to politely request that they ask their builders to clean and keep the public footpath clear of mud for pedestrians and neighbours to use safely. In addition to ensure that the grass verge is reinstated once the building work has been completed.

07/036 Traffic Calming Northampton Road Area

Cllr Peacock raised her concerns regarding the visibility and congestion due to parked cars on Froxhill Crescent, Brampton Way and Northampton Road, in particular at school 'dropping off' and 'picking up' times. She was also concerned about the excessive speeding of traffic around this area. Cllr Peacock agreed to produce a report regarding her concerns for discussion at the next Highways and Environment meeting.

07/037 Parish Council Logo

At the last Council meeting, members considered three designs for use as the Parish Council logo, these were based on the Saxon Eagle, which can be seen in the entrance to the church and on the Beacon. At the meeting number three was preferred, however the Clerk had been asked for a sample of a letter with the logo on. On proposal by Cllr Chattaway and seconded by Cllr Kennedy it was proposed to adopt design number two. After a discussion and a recorded vote of six in favour, one against and three abstentions it was resolved to adopt design number two. The Chairman agreed to send a letter of thanks to George Hammerschmidt who had designed the logos and who had agreed to create pdf files for the Clerk to use on letterheads, compliment slips etc.

07/038 Mosquito Box for Library/Community Centre

As previously mentioned the police would lend a mosquito box to the Library/Community Centre management committee for a trial period of three months, subject to the mosquito box protocol being adhered to, which had just been given to the Council by Sgt Grady. Normally these devices cost in the region of £600.00. Cllr Fox reported that the County Council's Director of Community Services is keen to try the device as well as the centre manager. Cllr McFadyen raised his concerns with regards to the young peoples human rights and asked for the Clerk to contact the PCT Public Health to find out whether there has been any research into whether the mosquito boxes are detrimental to the young peoples hearing. Members raised their concerns with regards to when and where the device would be used. Following a discussion it was resolved to delegate the decision to support the installation of the mosquito box to the next Highways and Environmental committee meeting, to be held on 6 February 2007. Cllr Fox asked members to contact her with their comments.

07/039 Calor Village of The Year Competition 2007

Cllr Fox reminded members that Brixworth were runners up in the Large Village of the Year competition last year. Cllr Fox, Cllr Verallo and the Clerk agreed to assist with the application.

Correspondence for discussion

07/040 Letter from Resident – St David's Recreation Ground Car Park Gate

A letter from a resident had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated to members), regarding the gate to the car park of St David's Recreation Ground. The resident was concerned that users of the pavilion were not locking the gate and therefore youngsters in their cars were 'wheel spinning' in the car park and causing anti social behaviour. The Clerk was asked to write to all the Sports Clubs and the Central Sports Club to ask the users to ensure the gate is locked on leaving the premises. It was noted that a combination lock is used and therefore there are no key holders.

07/041 Northants Acre – Post Office Network Consultation

Northants Acre are carrying out a consultation on the Post Office Network, in response to the Department of Trade and Industry consultation on proposals for the future of the post office network. It was agreed to send a letter of support for the local post office.

07/042 Letter from Northants Police Authority

A letter from Dr Marie Dickie of Northamptonshire police Authority had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated), regarding the issue of funding for the Northamptonshire Police. 'The Government is committed to restrain public spending and it is possibly that funding for the police could be reduced'. It is mentioned that partnership funding may assist funding Safer Community Teams, which is what the Council has resolved to do. It was agreed to send a letter to Phillip Hollobone MP in support of providing sufficient funding for the local police.

07/043 NCC – Report on White Paper Strong and Prosperous Communities Conference

A report on the meeting held on 28 November 2006 regarding the Local Government White Paper 'strong and prosperous communities' had been received and copied to all members.

07/044 Regional Seminar – 1 March 2007 Melton Mowbray

A seminar on the 'White Paper' is to be held by the Federation of East Midlands Associations of Local Councils on the 1 March 2007 at Melton Mowbray . It was agreed for the Clerk to attend at a cost of £34.00.

07/045 Reply from DDC – Graffiti Removal in District

A reply from the District Council had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated) stated that 'at the present time the budget has not be finalised and therefore the steps to be implemented in respect of graffiti prevention and removal has not been determined. Once the budget is set for graffiti in the next tax year new initiatives can be investigated'.

07/046 Letter from Eon/Central Network – Power Cut Pack

Eon/Central network has issued all parishes with a power cut pack to demonstrate to their resident's useful items to have if they experience a power cut. Residents are encouraged to have an analogue corded telephone (digital cordless phones do not work in a power cut), torch with batteries, wind up mobile phone charger, battery operated radio, foil blanket and a reusable hand warmer.

07/047 Letter from Friends Of All Saints Church – Heritage Centre Charges

The Chairman announced that the charge for the Heritage Centre, as from 1 February 2007, would be £3.50 per hour.

07/048 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.

07/049 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 27 February 2007 at 7.15pm.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/050 Police Meeting - CCTV 27 February 2007

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been arranged by the police, regarding CCTV for the Spratton Road shops and Brampton Way area on Tuesday, 27 February 2007. Local businessmen and members of the Neighbourhood Watch group had been invited. It was noted that this is the same night as the next Parish Council meeting and therefore no members would be able to attend.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

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

Dated 27 February 2007

Matters raised by members of the public.

1. Mr Mark England (Chairman) and Mrs Jane Neil (Secretary) of the Spratton Road Recreation Ground Regeneration Working Group presented the Council with current photos and a proposed plan for Spratton Road Recreation Ground. The plans included a short term and long term plan. Short term involved the removal of existing playground equipment, re-turf and plant trees and shrubs. Long term (within two years) included the installation of picnic tables, preschool play area, a reduced gradient ramp and a kick about area. The working group have agreed that the area is too small for a BMX/skateboarding facility. Alternative and more appropriate sites in the village are to be looked at in the future for this type of facility. The Chairman asked for consideration for teenage facilities to be included in addition to the kick about area. The next working group meeting is to be held on 21 February 2007, currently Cllr Fox and Cllr Barratt attend these meetings.
The Chairman thanked Mr England and Mrs Neil for coming to the meeting and for all their work involved with the regeneration.