

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 April 2007 at 7.15p.m. in the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), T Everard, P Fox, D Kennedy, R Monk, F Peacock, S Verallo and E Wiig.

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt M Grady - Northants Police
Cllr C Millar - County Councillor

07/138 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Chattaway and Cllr McFadyen.

07/139 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Member of the Bulletin Team, Husband Parish Council Representative for the Thomas Roe Foundation and resident of Harborough Road.

Cllr Verallo declared a personal interest – Member of the Bulletin Team and School Governor.

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

07/140 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 27 March 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

07/141 Signing of the Minutes of the Grant Application Meeting 17 April 2007

The minutes of the Grant Application meeting held on 17 April 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

The meeting continued, as there were no members of the public present.

07/142 Spratton Road Recreation Ground Working Group's Presentation

The Chairman of the group had asked for this item to be deferred to the next Full Council meeting in May 2007.

07/143 Parish Councillors Vacancies

The Clerk reported that she had received two enquires for the Parish Councillor vacancies. One resident will be writing to the Council and the other is still considering it. The District Council is yet to confirm that the Parish Council may Co-Opt to fill the third vacancy. It was suggested for applicants to attend a Council meeting before being considered for Co-Option the following month.

07/144 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Chris Millar reported the following: -

- The Consultation on the Minerals and Waste Development has now closed, however responses are still being accepted. A copy of the Councils reply is to be sent to Cllr Millar.

- Daventry District Council is looking to achieve to recycle 50% of household waste, it currently recycles 40%. The possibility of a new waste disposal process is currently being looked at for the new housing development in Daventry. This is an underground system, developed in Sweden, which is built at the same time as the houses and means that there is no need for waste collections.
- Atkins Open Day – 30 June 2007
- The County Council is concerned and is looking at how to fund the backlog of road repairs, which are needed in the County. Currently it would take 200 years to clear the backlog under the current funding system. Cllr Millar agreed to chase the road repairs for Stannard Way, which is due for repair this financial year.
- The District Council continues to offer Free Car Parking in Daventry.

Cllr Millar left the meeting.

07/145 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady reported the following: -

- 6% increase in reported crime figures for this year (242) compared to the previous year (230). Main crimes include violence, burglary dwellings, motor theft and criminal damage.
- Out of the 242 crimes reported 90 of those had offenders dealt with.
- During the past month crimes included damage to the cricket sight screens, tyre slashing in Newlands, and theft of a trailer, digger and seven bar gate on the Holcot Road.
- On the 21 April 2007 Mark Chambers's ASBO was extended for two years until 2009. However some conditions expire later this year.
- The issuing of parking warning notices on vehicles at the junction of Kennel Terrace and Northampton Road had resulted in several complaints by residents. The local Police have now put down Police Cones preventing vehicles to park on the junction. Letters have been posted to nearby residents and notices are being displayed by the shopkeepers asking people to keep this corner clear. The cones will be in place for two weeks. After this period anyone parking on the junction will receive a parking ticket.
- Recent crimes include the theft of copper and lead, from roofs and signs on the A14.
- Safer Community Teams Launch – Thursday 26 April 2007 in the Community Hall.

Cllr Fox enquired whether a report of the recent critical accident on the Spratton Road bridge had been sent to the County Council. Sgt Grady confirmed that a report is created for the County Council Highways Department but the data is not specifically fed through.

Sgt Grady left the meeting

Planning

07/146 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 2 & 23 April 2007

The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 2 & 23 April 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

A copy of a letter sent to residents of Boughton by the Chairman of Boughton Parish Council together with a letter from County Councillor Judy Shephard concerning a Planning Application for Boughton Quarry was shown to Councillors at this meeting.

Brixworth Fish Bar Planning Application had been withdrawn. The Parish Council had objected and the District Council had refused the application. The Clerk confirmed that she writes to all applicants advising them of when their applications are to be considered by the Planning Committee.

Rigiflex Development – Cllr Chattaway and Keith Thursfield are looking into the proposed footpath, through the development, to the school. The Council is concerned about the different ground levels.

07/147 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – April 2007 Report

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

Approvals

DA/2007/0135 Mrs Richards, The Beech House, 35 Tantree Way, Brixworth

Work to tree subject of a TPO

19.2.07 PC No Observations 28.3.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/0142 Mr Kyme, 79 The Ashway, Brixworth

Alterations to garage to form garden store and side extension to kitchen

19.2.07 PC No Observations 2.4.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/0195 Mrs P Graham, 8 High Street, Brixworth

Work to trees subject of a Tree Preservation Order

19.2.07 PC No Observations 28.3.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/1278 TK Cable Ktd, Suite 31 Burlington House, Wellingborough Road, Northampton

Staveley Way, Ferro Fields, Brixworth

Erection of 2.4m high security fencing and gate

18.12.06 PC No observations 10.1.07 DDC Approved

DA/2006/1305 Mercedes Benz High performance Engines, Quarry Road, Brixworth – Wood Park, Morgan Drive

Temporary restaurant facility 9.6m x 24m (required for approximately 3 years)

18.12.06 PC No observations 10.1.07 DDC Approved

DA/2006/1333 Mr & Mrs Reed, 11 Stonehill Way, Brixworth

First floor extension to side of property

18.12.06 PC No observations 16.1.07 DDC Approved

DA/2006/1351 Mr Longbottom, 24 Broad Street, Brixworth

Ridged roof over existing rear extension. Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

18.12.06 PC No observations 10.1.07 DDC Approved

Refusals

None

Finance

07/148 Income Received for March 2007

The Clerk reported the Income received for March 2007, which was as follows: -

<u>Received from</u>	<u>Details</u>	£
Community Centre	Hall Hire	611.62
Natwest Bank	Bank Interest Jan - Mar 07	<u>867.30</u>
		<u>1,478.92</u>

07/149 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2007

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 March 2007 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£36,119.01
Capital Reserve Account	£62,507.00
Less Cheques outstanding	£18,345.93
Balance Carried forward as at 1.4.07	£80,280.08

07/150 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for March 2007

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for March 2007. The Income and Expenditure and Reserves reports were discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting.

Cllr Monk reported that this years actual expenditure had been closer to the budgeted expenditure compared to previous years. The actual Income was on target compared to the budgeted Income for the year.

07/151 To Approve the Bills for Payment for April 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in April 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.</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for</u> <u>Payment</u>	£
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3424	Mr M Sugden	Groundman's Salary Apr 2007	974.15
3425	Mrs J Macken	Clerk's Salary Apr 2007	1,052.94
3426	Mr D Smith	P/T Groundsmans wages Apr 2007	174.24
3427	Mrs B Smith	Litter Picker wages Apr 2007	172.58
3428	Mrs E Bell	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Apr 2007	176.96
3429	HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Apr 2007	814.72
3430	Mrs J Macken	Postage	8.64
3431	Powergen	Street Light Electricity - Qtr	38.83
3432	NALC	Training courses 13.6.07 & 20.6.07	56.00
3433	The Mower Shop	Parts for strimmer	23.51
3434	Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsman	33.09
3435	Friends of All Saints	Hire of Heritage Centre 27.3.07	10.50
3436	DDC	Bye - Elections Cost 2006	259.96
3437	British Gas Business	C/Rooms Electricity 5.3.07 - 16.4.07	47.62
3438 07/013f	British Gas Business	Community Ctr Elec. 1.1.07 - 31.3.07	1,646.14
3439	HFS Timber	New roof for Npton Rd Bus Shelter	270.43
3440	Cannon	Comm. Ctr. Sanitary Unit May - July 07	12.23
3441	Allianz Cornhill Ins Plc	C/Rooms insurance 1.4.07 - 31.5.07	81.49
3442 07/136	Brixworth Junior FC	Community Grant	250.00
3443 07/135	Brixworth Travel Club	Community Grant	600.00
3444 07/133	Brixworth Youth Foundation	Community Grant	4,000.00
3445	DDC	Four copies LGIU Plannign Guide	38.00
3446	AH Blason & Son	Fuel - Pick up, tractor & Kubota	102.53
3447	Mr Peter Timlin	Architects Fee 1.5% - Changing Rooms	1,972.07
3448	John Arnold	Footpath and patio - Ashway P F	9,807.72

22,624.35

The Chairman commented on the good work done by the grounds men on replacing the bus shelter on Northampton Road, the Clerk was asked to pass on the member's thanks.

The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Ray Bell to thank him for cutting and maintaining the grass verge along the Harborough Road near to the monument.

07/152 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 17 April 2007

The Minutes of the Finance Meeting held on the 17 April 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/153 Report on Financial Year End as at 31 March 2007

Cllr Monk confirmed that the year-end situation had been discussed at the Finance committee meeting.

At the beginning of the year the reserves total was £171,755.89, £79,261.88 in General Reserves. At the end of the year the reserves total is £73,091.25, £36,218.14 in General Reserves. The surplus income over expenditure for the year, which is to be transferred to the reserves, is £28,825.85. £10,000 is from the Spratton Road Recreation Ground regeneration budget, it was agreed to transfer this sum to the Play Equipment Earmarked Reserve. Therefore the Total Reserves as at 1 April 2007 is £101,917.10.

It was noted that the Council had £13,453 liabilities outstanding as at the 31 March 2007, majority being costs due for the Changing Rooms. These costs are to be deducted from the General Reserves during the next Financial Year.

This means that the total available General Reserves as at 1 April 2007 is in the region of £40,290.99. This sum equates to 42% of the precept for the year

07/154 To Adopt Compassionate Leave Policy

Cllr Monk had previously circulated a Compassionate Leave Policy for consideration by members. Following a discussion it was resolved to adopt the policy after the following amendment. To add the words 'such as' after 'close relatives'.

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/155 Report on Changing Rooms Development

The Clerk reported the following: -

- The Changing Rooms have been handed over to the Parish Council, a snagging list has been produced which Thurstons will complete before the final payment is sent. Health and Safety manuals and electrical certificate are outstanding.
- The pathway and drain to the car park is now complete.
- The building inspector has been requested to make his final inspection and hopefully issue a completion certificate.
- Fencing and planting of shrubs to be done this week.
- Anglian water has confirmed that the water does not need chlorinating. This is required when there are long service runs present. There is a formula stating the length and diameter of pipes for which chlorination is a requirement and the Changing Rooms are below this. Potable water in the building (to the hand basins) may need to be left running a little while to clear the system of flux/solder etc. It has been suggested to avoid any problems to fix signs saying not drinking water. It was agreed that the Council might need to have the water tested.

It was resolved to purchase anti-graffiti paint at a cost of approximately £70.00 for 5 litres (20 litres would be needed).

07/156 Report on Insurance for Changing Rooms

The insurance for the Changing Rooms from 1 April 2007 until the renew date of 1 June 2007 is £81.49. The Council's total insurance cost, which includes the Changing Rooms, has increased by £500.00. The estimated insurance cost, by the insurance company, for the building was £1,100.00.

07/157 Caretaking and Cleaning Arrangements for the Changing Rooms

The Community Centre Cleaner has agreed to also clean the Changing Rooms weekly, whilst in use. It is thought that between 1-2 hours a week would be sufficient. The users would be expected to clean up after themselves.

The Groundsman has agreed to caretake the building and open and lock the building for outside users. It was resolved to pay the Groundsman an additional sum each week, which would be reviewed in six months.

There is a separate confidential minute.

Highways and Environment

07/158 Minutes of Meeting 3 April 2007

The Minutes of the Highways and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 3 April 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/159 Residents Parking on Grass Verges

The Council is concerned that certain grass verges in the village are becoming unsightly. Therefore it was resolved for the Parish Council to adopt a policy to send letters to residents, requesting that they do not park on the grass verges.. The County Council used to send out letters but now say that it is now down to the Parish Councils to do. It was agreed to send out letters for a six-month trial period. The Council or Committee would advise the Clerk who to send out the letters to.

07/160 Safer Routes to Schools (SRTS)

As discussed at the Committee meeting, Brixworth Primary School is not on the priority list. The County Council Highways Department has confirmed in writing that all schools in the county will eventually receive a SRTS scheme and that all schemes are different and the type of features needed varies from school to school. Typical features can include a 20mph zone with traffic calming if needed, new safer crossing points, new lengths of footway, cycle facilities and improved lines, signs and street lighting.

After a discussion and following a vote it was resolved to defer this matter until the effect of the Rigiflex development in this area, is known.

07/161 To Consider Offer from Thomas Roe Foundation

Members discussed the offer from the Thomas Roe Foundation, for leasing a six acre field, adjacent to Station Road, for five years. Members were reminded that at the public meeting held last year the young people asked for a parcel of land in the village, away from houses to create a BMX/skateboard area. Councillors raised their concerns with regards to the maintenance of a large piece of land and also whether the young people would actually go there? The Clerk was asked to write to the Foundation and enquire whether it could either lease a smaller amount of land or sublet the remainder?

The Chairman asked members to think of the implications and costs of maintaining a field. It was agreed for this matter to be further discussed at the next Council meeting.

It was noted that two Thomas Roe Representatives from the Council are required. Members are appointed at the Annual General Meeting.

07/162 Village Hall Update

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Fox had attended a meeting with the Chairman of the Village Hall on the 23 April 2007. The Village Hall Committee has

had difficulties with arranging bookings, in so much that it is now concerned about the loss of income and the impact this will have on the Halls finances. The administrator resigned and the newly appointed administrator has also resigned, therefore an advert is now being displayed around the village. The Village Hall's Chairman is confident that the matter is under control. Apparently the boiler is not working and there are repair jobs outstanding. There is an emergency meeting to be held on the 30 April 2007. It is hoped that the accounts will be available in time for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 9 May 2007.

07/163 Village of the Year Competition

The judges will be visiting Brixworth on the 24 May 2007 between 10.00am and 12.00pm. There will be a display of village activities and organisations above the library for the judges to see. It is hoped that the judges will visit the Youth Club, as well as other places around the village.

07/164 Comfort Cooling for Community Hall

Cllr Fox reported that the windows in the Community Hall building act as a greenhouse and make the hall incredibly hot. This has been previously discussed at a Council meeting and the Clerk contacted the architect for any suggestions, but has not had a reply. Following a discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to contact Chillaire, for free advice, on a hot and cold system that is environmentally friendly.

07/165 Pavement Outside the Shops in Hunters Way

The Council raised its concern with regards to the state of the pavement outside the shops in Hunters Way. It was noted that the standard of cleanliness outside each shop was not consistent. It was agreed for a polite reminder to be sent to the shopkeepers asking them to occasionally hose down, sweep every day and weed the pavement.

07/166 Spratton Road Bridge

Cllr Fox reported that a Traffic Regulation Order Amendment request is to be sent to the County Council's Highway department. This request is for the Spratton Road Bridge road layout to be amended to a shuttle system, so that traffic from Brixworth has priority. Following a discussion and a vote it was resolved to request, in addition, that the road from Spratton to Brixworth is prohibited to 40mph. A copy of the request form is to be sent to Spratton Parish Council for their support.

07/167 Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 9 May 2007

Cllr S Verallo and Cllr P Fox declared a personal interest as members of the bulletin team.

It was resolved to approve for the Olive Branch to supply tea and coffee at a cost of 30p per cup, to be funded from the Chairman's Allowance. It was resolved for the Brixworth Bulletin to print and include a copy of the Annual Report in the next edition at a cost of £150.00.

07/168 Annual General Meeting (AGM) 16 May 2007

The Annual General Meeting is to be held in the Olive Branch on 16 May 2007.

Correspondence for discussion

07/169 Letter to Chairman from Resident – Request for Sign near Far Brook

A letter from a resident in Far Brook had been received by the Chairman concerned about the visibility of the roundabout on the Northampton Road whilst exiting Far Brook. At the previous Council meeting it had been agreed to write to two residents, in Far Brook, asking them to trim back their shrubs to improve the visibility. The two residents had replied to the Council stating that their shrubs are not overgrown, that they are trimmed back as required and suggested that the speed of the traffic leaving the roundabout may be the problem. The first resident suggested that a sign warning of a concealed entrance might encourage drivers to moderate their speed. Following a discussion it was agreed that as the roads are yet to be adopted by Highways to bring this matter to their attention. Letters to be sent to the residents informing them that their comments will be passed on to NCC Highways.

07/170 To Adopt Revised Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct Order 2007

It was resolved to adopt the Revised Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct Order 2007.

07/171 Northants Police – Providing Public Reassurance & Supporting Democratic Process

A letter from Paul Phillips, the Northants West Area Commander (copy of which had been previously circulated) stated that once every six months a senior police officer would attend the Council meeting to provide an update on local policing issues and take questions.

07/172 Northants NHS PCT – Pharmacy Application for a 100 hour Exemption Application Under Regulation 13

This application was noted.

07/173 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.

07/174 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 22 May 2007 at 7.15pm.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/175 Holcot Road – Grass Mound

It was noted that the grass/earth mound, left on the grass verge, along the Holcot Road had now been removed by the residents.

07/176 Stonewalls in Parish

The Chairman reported that a resident had raised their concern with regards to people taking stones from stonewalls in the village. Unfortunately the Council agreed that this was something that they couldn't prevent, if the owners of the walls did not repair and maintain them.

07/177 Grass verge cutting outside the Parish

The Chairman stated that a resident was concerned about the effect on the wildlife in the hedgerows by the grass verges being cut outside the village. It was noted that the County Council's policy is to only cut so far, so as to not affect the wildlife.

07/178 No Smoking Signs for Community Centre

Cllr Monk reported that the no smoking ban comes into affect on the 1 July 2007 and that new signs would be needed for the Community Centre.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55pm

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

Dated 22 May 2007