

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 22 May 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, J McFadyen, R Monk (Vice Chair), S Verallo and E Wiig.

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt M Grady - Northants Police
Mrs Neil & Mr England Spratton Rd Rec. Working Group
Two members of the public

Cllr Monk chaired the opening of the meeting and the election of the Chairman.

07/191 Election of Chairman

On proposal by Cllr Verallo and seconded by Cllr Everard, Cllr Ian Barratt was duly elected as Chairman unopposed.

07/192 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Barratt signed the declaration of acceptance of office for Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council. *Cllr Barratt chaired the remainder of the meeting.*

07/193 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Peacock and County Cllr C Millar.

07/194 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 Millennium Garden.

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

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

07/195 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 24 April 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

07/196 Signing of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 16 May 2007

The minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 16 May 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 wishing to address the Council.

07/197 Spratton Road Recreation Ground Working Group's Presentation

Mr Mark England and Mrs Jane Neil presented the working groups proposal, for the regeneration of Spratton Road Recreation Ground, to the meeting.

The Proposal consists of a small term plan:-

- Remove existing play equipment
- Returf and plant trees and shrubs
- Install a new pair of junior swings in a new location for older children
- Goal post for kick about area

And long term plan: -

- Install a toddlers play area (swings and climbing frame with slide)
- Improved access and paths to play areas
- Picnic table
- Hopscotch Area

The proposed toddlers play area is similar to that at Spratton and the Clerk was asked to find out the cost for supplying and installing this play equipment.

The presentation was well received by members and the Council resolved to adopt the proposal as a Parish Council project and to take the project forward. It was agreed that costs are required, before the project is displayed in the bulletin and in the Library foyer. Therefore Cllr Monk agreed to draw up a tender document to be sent out to suppliers. It was noted that £26,000 is available for the project from the Council's reserves, however it was suggested that the project might have to be completed in phases.

The Council thanked the working group for all their time and effort in drawing up this plan. Mr England and Mrs Neil were invited to attend the Recreation Committee meetings where the project will be discussed and developed.

07/198 To Consider Quotes for the Removal of Play Equipment on Spratton Road Recreation Ground

Several quotes have been received for the removal of the existing play equipment, however it was agreed that no action is required at the moment, until the tenders have been received.

Cllr Wiig Left the meeting

07/199 Parish Councillors Vacancies

The Clerk reported that the District Council has now confirmed that the third vacancy may now be filled by Co-Option. It was noted that one of the members of the public present had applied to be Co-opted, which the Council will consider at its next meeting.

07/200 County Councillor's Report

Cllr C Millar had sent his apologies.

07/201 Police Representative's Report

Sergeant Grady reported the following: -

- April's crime figures show four more than this time last year.
- Increase in violence – Incident at the George Public House and a youth knocked down in Brampton Way.
- Increase in theft – three youths have been dealt with.
- One adult on bail having stole a £3000 pushbike.
- One male to be sentenced on 4 June 2007 for selling alcohol to underage youths.
- Parking in Northampton Road on the corner of Kennel Terrace has quietened down. The police cones have now been removed.
- In response to the cards issued by the Police asking for the three main priorities the police should tackle in the community, they have received several requests with regards to the problem of cars parking in St David's Close on match days. The police have placed warning cards on several vehicles parking illegally.

Planning

07/202 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – May 2007 Report

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

Approvals

DA/2007/0264 Lavanta Ltd, Hanging Houghton. Land to rear of 20 Northampton Road, Brixworth

Detached dwelling

2.4.07 PC No Objection 25.4.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/20265 Mr & Mrs Paddison, 61 The Ashway, Brixworth

Conservatory to rear

2.4.07 PC No observations 1.5.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/0274 Mr & Mrs J Priestley, 21 Broad Street, Brixworth

Single storey extension to rear

2.4.07 PC No observations 30.4.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/0320 Mr G Thayanithy, 12 Dairy Close, Brixworth

Side extension to provide utility room at rear with study over bedroom over existing garage

23.4.07 PC No observations 8.5.07 DDC Approved

DA/2007/0324 Mr T Perkins, Merry Tom House, Merry Tom Lane, Brixworth

Garden room (amended scheme)

23.4.07 PC No observations 8.5.07 DDC Approved

Refusals

DA/2007/0213 Mrs A Ruch, Cedar House, Brixworth Hall Park, Brixworth

Outline application for new dwelling

12.3.07 PC Objected 17.4.07 DDC Objected

DA/2007/0243 Mr P Flower, 12 Woodsfield, Brixworth

Outline application for three bedroom dwelling at land at 12 Woodsfield.

2.4.07 PC Grant only for Bungalow

24.4.07 DDC Refused

07/203 Buckton Fields Development

Cllr Chattaway reported that he attended a public exhibition for the new Buckton Fields Development. Following a discussion it was agreed for this item to be discussed at the next planning committee meeting, to form a view to make an official comment on the proposed development.

07/204 Rigiflex Development/Planning Application

Cllr Chattaway stated that he had attended a meeting with the Headteacher of the Primary School, Cllr Verallo (as school governor), the Chair of Governors and Rev. P Walters to consider the plans the school had received from the developers of the Rigiflex site. The Parish Council has not received these plans, which shows the new footpath to the school going straight through the development passed the front of several houses. Concerns were raised about the children's safety going passed these houses and parked cars, also there would be a considerable drop to the school premises. A condition of the S106 agreement is that a footpath must be provided to the school. It was noted that the amended development would require a new planning application.

Finance

07/205 Income Received for April 2007

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

Received from	Details	£
DDC	First Instalment of Precept for 2007/08	47,972.00
Community Centre	Hall Bookings	473.01
HM Revenue & Customs	Refund of VAT - Dec - Feb 07	<u>18,006.48</u>
		<u>66,451.49</u>

07/206 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 April 2007

The bank reconciliation as at the 30 April 2007 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£49,132.57
Capital Reserve Account	£110,479.00
Less Cheques outstanding	£35,504.35
Balance Carried forward as at 1.5.07	£124,107.22

07/207 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for April 2007

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for April 2007.

07/208 Renewal of Council's Annual Insurance

It was resolved to approve the payment for the renewal of the Council's insurance at a cost of £2,682.01 to Allianz Cornhill Insurance. This is an increase of £500 compared to last year, which includes the insurance for the changing rooms and an inflationary increase. The insurance for the changing rooms had been previous quoted at a cost of £1000.00.

07/209 To Approve the Bills for Payment for May 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in May 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.

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Brixworth Bulletin

Chq No.	Minute No.	Payment To	Reason for Payment	£
3449		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary May 2007	1,006.00
3450		Clerk	Clerk's Salary May 2007	1,054.31
3451		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages May 2007	199.10
3452		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages May 2007	172.58
3453		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages May 2007	243.96
3454		Inland Revenue	PAYE Tax & NI May 2007	839.17
3455		Mrs J Macken	Postage	12.02
3456		BT plc	Clerks telephone & broadband - May - July 07	146.88
3457		British Gas Business	Electricity Chgs - C/rooms Apr 07	19.62
3458		Lovell Hardware	Materials for Groundsman	66.44
3459		ESPO	Stationery & Cleaning Materials	39.97
3560		Friends of All Saints	Hire of Heritage Centre - 24.4.07	10.50
3561		NCC	Electricity Chgs - Comm Ctr Qtr 4 06/07	193.20
3562		Anglian Water	Water Chgs - Mill Gdn & Comm Ctr Nov - Apr 07	394.48
3563		Eurooffice Ltd	Cartridge for Clerks printer	39.46
3564		The Mower Shop	Spare parts for mower	71.88
3565		Sage Uk Ltd	Renewal of Sage instant payroll cover 07/08	99.01
3566	07/112&121	Brixworth Landscaping	Work to Mill Gdn & Ashway P F	1,756.63
3567	07/120	Verdant & Bright	Service Mill Gdn Irrigation System	176.25
3568	07/167	BCF Action Ltd	Refreshments for APM 9.5.07	9.00
3569	07/116	D G Salisbury	Annual Grounds Maintenance	3,536.75
3570	07/110	Plantscape	Metal Bench for St Davids Play Ground	564.00
3571	07/134	Dave Shurville Signs	Neighbourhood Watch Signs	125.02
3572		A H Blason	Fuel	232.66
3573		Allianz Cornhill	Renewal of Council's Insurance	2,682.01
3574		The Brixworth Bulletin	Printing of Annual Report	150.00
				<u>13,840.90</u>

07/210 Annual Accounts For the Year Ending 31 March 2007

It was resolved that the Annual Accounts for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2007, copy of which had been previously circulated, were adopted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

07/211 Approve Section 1 & 2 of The Annual Return For the Year Ending 31 March 2007

The Council agreed to Section 1 and considered the answer 'yes' to all the questions on section 2 – Statement of assurance for the Annual Return for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2007.

It was noted that the Council does not manage any charities in the parish. It is the custodian trustee for the Village Hall, but not sole custodian trustee. Therefore the trust funds disclosure note was answered no.

The Annual Return was therefore signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/212 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 21 May 2007

The Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on the 21 May 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Members discussed matters raised at the Recreation Committee meeting. Cllr Verallo agreed to lead the project for new play equipment for the Ashway Playing Field. Cllr Chattaway, Cllr Kennedy and members of the football teams had arranged to look at the new changing rooms. It was suggested to invite the Chairman of the District Council to the Opening Ceremony, as the District Council was instrumental in securing the land for public use.

The Junior football club had raised its concerns with regards to the charges for the Changing Rooms and Pitches. This is to be discussed further at the next meeting, suggestions included discounting for block bookings and awarding a grant to the club.

Highways and Environment

07/213 To Consider Offer from Thomas Roe Foundation

Members considered the offer for the Thomas Roe field for use as a BMX/skateboard park. The following points were raised: -

- Opportunity to provide a facility asked for by the youths at the public meeting
- Local resident and allotment owner objects to the proposal
- Out of the village and not overlooked
- Poor street lighting and pavement to the field
- Maintenance costs for upkeep of field unknown
- Lack of funding for project (other projects currently on the go)
- Police have reservations about this location for this facility
- Need to establish flexibility on lease (ie. smaller piece of land for 10 years)
- Other alternatives discussed (Harborough Road, owned by NCC, in the past the County Council would not give permission for temporary fixings)
- Someone required to lead the project
- To accept offer and secure the lease this year with a view to develop the land when funding and resources are available.

Following a vote it was resolved to ask Cllr Verallo, the Thomas Roe Council Representative, to contact the Foundation and explore the flexibility of the contract or lease.

07/214 Meeting with NCC Highways 8 May 2007

Cllr Fox reported that she had attended a site meeting with Penny Mould (NCC Highways), Mr D Hymas, Cllr Chattaway and the Clerk on the 8 May 2007 to discuss the Newlands road safety issues outlined in Mr Hymas report, dated 7 February 2007, which was sent to NCC Highways. Unfortunately NCC Highways does not have any money in their budget and any proposals may need to be paid for by the Parish Council. The problem of speed, volume and large vehicles driving through roads, such as Newlands, is very common in large rural villages in the county.

However the proposals were as follows:-

- NCC Highways to refurbish the white road markings at the junction of Kennel Terrace and Newlands.

- To erect two new ‘Local Access Only’ signs at the entrance of Kennel Terrace and Newlands.
- To add to the Traffic Direction Finger Post outside Daisy roots, two additional signs for Creaton and Spratton, directing the traffic to go up and down Northampton Road.

The Clerk is waiting for costs for supplying and installing the two ‘Local Access Only’ signs.

Cllr Fox appealed for members to advise her of other white lines in the village, which need refurbishing in addition to the one mentioned above.

07/215 Bright Street Light in Mercedes Benz Development

A resident had reported that on the Mercedes Benz, Wood Park development one of the streetlights was brighter than the others and was shining into the sky. It was agreed to refer this to the planning committee meeting, which will be considering the new Wood Park planning application.

07/216 To Consider Installing a Computer Control Timer for the Lawn Sprinklers in Millennium Garden

The request was withdrawn, no longer required.

Correspondence for discussion

07/217 Letter from Resident – Ball Games in Burrows Vale

An email had been received from a resident in Burrows Vale, (copy of which had been previously circulated to members), about the problem of children constantly playing ball games in the cul de sac. The children play football outside the resident’s house on an almost daily basis, often until late at night. The footballs bounce off the cars and windows, resulting in the cars having numerous dents and scratches. The resident asked for advice and suggested for a ‘No Ball Games’ sign to be erected.

Unfortunately the Parish Council is unable to do anything. The footpaths, street lights and roads are all owned and are the responsibility of the County Council, so therefore it would not be able to put up a No Ball Game sign, in addition these signs are not enforceable. The council suggested that this is a matter between the resident and the parents of these children and if it does involve criminal damage then may be the resident might consider contacting the local police.

07/218 Letter from Resident – Parking in St Davids Close

A letter had been received from a resident from St Davids Close, (copy of which had been previously circulated to members) regarding the problem of vehicles parking in St Davids Close, on match days, by the members of the sports clubs. It was suggested that the sign on the Recreation Ground referring to the Car Park should be moved or made higher to allow motorists to see it. It was agreed for this matter to be discussed further at the Highways and Environment Committee meeting.

07/219 Letter from Brixworth History Society – Update on Proposed Museum

A letter from the Brixworth History Society had been received (copy of which had been previously circulated to members) advising the Council that it has decided that it can not proceed with negotiations to lease the Uplands Centre. The society had failed to secure the necessary funding and had difficulty with the County Council’s lease requirements. The Society agreed to pay back the Council’s grant which was towards

the proposed museum. The Council is concerned about the building standing vacant, therefore the Clerk was asked to write to the County Council and ask what plans the Council had in mind for the building. It also asked for the lighting of the lower footpath to be looked at, which is the County Council's responsibility.

07/220 Standards Board – New Model Code of Conduct

The Council had adopted the Model Code of Conduct at its last meeting. The Clerk advised the Council that section 12.2 was optional, however the Council resolved to keep the adopted code of conduct, including 12.2.

07/221 DDC – Development at Holcot Road

A letter had been received from the District Council, (copy of which had been circulated previously to members), advising the Council that the developers preferred the street name 'Harrington' who they believe to be the surname of a family that used to live in Wolfage Manor. The Parish Council does not like this name and therefore reiterated the names suggested last time.

07/222 NRHA – Affordable Housing in Brixworth

A letter from the Northants Rural Housing Association had been received (copy of which had been circulated previously to members), regarding the possibility of providing affordable housing for local residents in Brixworth. A land agent had contacted the Association with regards to an exception site in Froghall. The Council agreed for a representative from the Association to come and talk to the Council at its next meeting.

07/223 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.

The Chairman noted the two thank you letters received from the Brixworth Youth Foundation and the Brixworth Travel Club for the recent grants awarded, which was most appreciated.

07/224 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 26 June 2007 at 7.15pm at the Heritage Centre.

Following a discussion and a vote it was resolved to revert back to holding Full Council meetings in the Olive Branch, Library/Community Centre after the June meeting. This will again be reviewed in six months. It was noted that the side door to the building must be kept open for members of the public to attend the Council meetings.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/225 Parking on Harborough Road Grass Verge

The Chairman reported that he had received a telephone call from a resident in Harborough Road, who had received a letter about not parking on the grass verges. The lady was also concerned about the state of the verges and offered to assist in anyway.

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Resident in Harborough Road

07/226 Brixworth Nursery Farm

Members are invited to attend the opening of the Brixworth Nursery Farm, on the Holcot Road, to be held on the 1 June 2007.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm

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

Dated 26 June 2007