

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 26 June 2007 at 7.15p.m. in the Heritage Centre, Church Street, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), R Chattaway, S Dobson, D Kennedy, J McFadyen, Mrs F Peacock and Mrs E Wiig.

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
PC Houghton-Draeger - Northants Police
Joanne Richardson - Northants Rural Housing Association
Natalie Westland - Northants ACRE
One member of the public

07/192 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Monk, Cllr P Fox, County Cllr C Millar, District Cllr N Bunting, Mr Colin Bament, Sgt Grady, Cllr T Everard and Cllr S Verallo.

07/193 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority
Cllr McFadyen declared a personal interest – Minute references 07/209 & 07/210 , resident adjacent to the Ashway Playing Field.

07/194 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 22 May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 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.

07/195 Northants Rural Housing Association – Affordable Housing in Brixworth

The Chairman welcomed Joanne Richardson from Northants Rural Housing Association (NRHA) and Natalie Westland from Northants ACRE. Joanne had been invited to explain to the Council about the possibility of providing affordable housing in Brixworth. The following points were raised:-

- NRHA covers Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire and works with Parish Councils to address the problem of providing affordable housing in rural areas. It is a Charity funded by the Housing Corporation.
- Firstly a Housing Needs Survey is sent out to all households. Prior to the survey being sent out an article may be written in the parish newsletter, advising residents about the survey and the reason why they may need to complete it. Alternatively or in addition an open day is held advertising the survey.
- The results from the survey will indicate the housing need for the village and what type of properties can be provided. Properties are built to the housing need only.
- If there is a need NRHA and the Parish Council may wish to identify possible sites for development. These will probably be exception sites in the village envelope (no open market land), close to the centre of the village. Sites will be self contained, no further private development will be allowed.

- All buildings are subject to a section 106 agreement. There will be a mix of properties that will be in keeping with the village and to ECO homes standard. The Parish Council would be consulted with the plans and design. The properties would be either in shared ownership (up to a maximum of 80% mortgage) or rented. No extensions or conservatories allowed.
- Owners are prioritised and would have to satisfy the criteria and be subject to a S106 agreement, which include having a connection with the village (ie. live in village, family lives in village or works in village). Any subsequent owners would also be subject to this agreement.
- NRHA differ to other housing associations by building to a S106 agreement and a proven need. Joint application with Parish Council. Parish Council notified of vacancies, nominations and applications.

Following a vote it was resolved to discuss this matter at the next Full Council meeting.

07/196 Co-Option of Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported that Mr Colin Bament had applied to be co-opted on to the Parish Council (a copy of the letter had been previously circulated to members). Unfortunately Mr Bament was unable to attend the meeting and had sent his apologies.

On proposal by Cllr Wiig and seconded by Cllr Chattaway it was resolved to co-opt Mr Bament on to the Parish Council.

It was noted that there are still two vacancies.

07/197 County Councillor's Report

Unfortunately Cllr Millar had just come out of hospital that day due to illness and therefore was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed to send a Get Well card.

07/198 Police Representative's Report

PC Houghton Draeger reported the following: -

- The first quarter of this year has shown an increase in reported crimes compared to last year. However these figures are due to a large number of the same offence (ie. car badges stolen).
- Criminal damage down 60% this quarter. Offenders are not offending again.
- There is currently a 50% detection rate.
- There had been several burglaries in Lesson Road, The Ashway and Holcot Road due to insecurities.
- The graffiti on the Changing Rooms has been reported as aggravated racial criminal damage. The two offending youths have been identified and will be arrested.
- The offender of an arson attack on St David's Recreation Ground has been identified and cautioned.
- On the 15 June 2007 an operation was carried out, twenty drivers were stopped and breathalysed. There were no arrests.
- A young girl was shot with a BB gun. The offending youths are to be arrested.
- There have been reports of drug use in the village by 14-20 year olds. The police are following leads.

Finance

07/201 Income Received for May 2007

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

Received from	Details	£
Community centre	Hall Bookings	669.61
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT Reclaimed 1.3.07 - 31.3.07	3,630.54
BCF Action	Contribution towards new Library/Community Ctr sign	89.57
		<u>4,389.72</u>

07/202 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 May 2007

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

Current Account	£16,244.25
Capital Reserve Account	£100,479.00
Less Cheques outstanding	£2,067.21
Balance Carried forward as at 1.6.07	£114,656.04

07/203 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for May 2007

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

07/204 Six Monthly Internal Check of the Accounts

Cllr Monk is in the process of carrying out the six monthly internal check of the accounts. The external auditor has requested that all Councils review their internal check of accounts annually.

07/205 Internal Auditor's Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2007

The Chairman reported that a letter from the Internal Auditor had been received stating that he had found the accounts satisfactory, for the year ending 31 March 2007. The only comment made was that since the Council has five employees, it should offer a stakeholder pension scheme to the eligible staff. The Clerk was asked to obtain information about the Local Government scheme. It was suggested for this to be referred to the Finance Committee. A date for the meeting will need to be arranged.

07/206 Funding an Office in Brixworth for the Safer Community Team

On proposal by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Wiig it was resolved to approve the payment of £3000.00 to Northants Police, towards the funding of an office in Brixworth for the Safer Community Team.

07/207 Final Payment to Thurstons for Changing Rooms

On proposal by Cllr Wiig and seconded by Cllr McFadyen it was resolved to approve the final payment of £478.00 plus VAT to Thurstons Building Systems, on condition that it is not sent until the following 'snagging' have been carried out satisfactorily.

1. Building Inspector is awaiting sight of the Emergency Lighting Certificate.
2. The plastic vents were vandalised within weeks of installation and this has been queried with Thurstons as to whether they should have been metal.
3. Referees room requires coathooks.
4. Damaged brick needs replacing.

It was suggested that any correspondence is copied to OGC Buying Solutions.

07/208 To Approve the Bills for Payment for June 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in June 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 No.</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
3475		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary June 2007	1,024.85
3476		Clerk	Clerk's Salary June 2007	1,053.50
3477		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages June 2007	248.82
3478		Comm. Ctr Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages June 2007	221.20
3479		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages June 2007	215.78
3480		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE & NI June 2007	731.40
3481		Mr T Fox	Plants & Evergreen Complete - Mill Gdn	18.59
3482		DDC	Emptying bins - 1.4.07-30.6.07	267.88
3483		Clerk	Postage, Clerks Allowance	79.02
3484		Mr I Barratt	Chairmans Tel. Allowance Apr - Jun 07	35.00
3485		Groundsman	Top soil - trip points playgrounds	30.00
3486		NCC	Comm Ctr Electricity Charges Quarter 1	253.25
3487		East Midlands Fencing	Bow Top Fencing-St Davids Recreation Grd	5,706.98
3488		ESPO	Cleaning materials	84.72
3489		British Gas Business	Changing Rooms - Electricity May 07	27.80
3490		ABB Ltd	Street Light maintenance Apr - Jun 07	26.44
3491		ITO Dist. Systems Ltd	Fax printer cartridge	39.99
3492		Lovell Hardware	Groundsman materials	99.13
3493		HFS Timber	Replacement fencing panels	34.25
3494		Sage UK Ltd	Renewal Sage Instant Accounts Support	99.01
3495		BCF Action Ltd	Refreshments for Village of Year Judges	7.50
3496		Friends of All Saints Thurstons Building	Hire of Heritage Centre 22.5.07	10.50
3497		Systems	Final Payment - Changing Rooms	561.66
3498		Northamptonshire Police	Support for Safer Community Team office Fuel for tractor, mower & pick up, puncture repair	3,000.00
3499		AH Blason & Son		200.20
				<u>14,077.47</u>

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/209 Graffiti on Changing Rooms Doors.

As reported earlier the changing rooms have graffiti on the doors. PCSO Jemma Simkins has been trying to get hold of the probation service to see if they had someone who could paint the doors. However she has been unsuccessful. Therefore it was agreed for the Groundsman to paint the doors as soon as possible. The Clerk reported that she had ordered anti graffiti clear coating, which will be painted onto the doors and brickwork. This will assist with the removal of any graffiti in the future.

07/210 Condition of Senior Pitch for the Ashway Playing Field

The Clerk reported that Dave Salisbury has stated that the senior pitch is not fit for play, following the work carried out by Transco. Dave has provided a schedule of the work required and a cost, which has been sent to Transco. Transco have agreed to either employ Dave to carry out the work or reimburse the Council. The Clerk is waiting for confirmation.

07/211 Brixworth Play Seminar at Broomhill – 28 June 2007

The Clerk will be attending a play seminar at the Broomhill hotel, arranged by Kompan. Unfortunately Cllr Peacock is unable to attend.

07/212 Spratton Road Recreation Ground Regeneration Update

Cllr Monk is currently preparing the tender document for the work required for the recreation ground. The Clerk reported that the cost of the new play equipment at Spratton cost in the region of £38,000. It was agreed for Jane Neil to submit an article for the Brixworth Bulletin regarding the regeneration plans.

Highways and Environment

07/213 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 5 June 2007

The Minutes of the Highways and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 5 June 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/214 Update on Offer by Thomas Roe Foundation

Cllr Wiig reported that there are no further developments. Cllr Verallo had previously agreed to contact the foundation.

07/215 To Report on Meeting with NCC Highways 19 June 2007

Cllr Wiig stated that Cllr Fox and the Clerk had met with Nick Gore, Community Engineer from NCC Highways to discuss various matters in the parish. A copy of the notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.

The main concern was the location of the zebra crossing on the Northampton Road. Mr Gore had met with local residents who were concerned about not being able to park outside their property. A suggestion was to move the bus stop outside the former rigiflex building further down the road, to allow cars to park in the lay-by.

07/216 To Consider Purchasing a Mobile Loop System for the Community Centre

The Clerk circulated details of a proposed mobile loop system for the Community Centre. The system would cost in the region of £185.00. Concerns were raised regarding the loose wires, which would circulate the room and could be a potential trip hazard. The Council agreed in principle to provide a system, however required more information. Cllr Dobson agreed to contact the RNID for details on systems.

07/217 To Discuss Gas Meter for Community Centre

The Clerk reported that the Council had previously requested for the two gas meters at the Library/Community Centre to be checked to ensure that the Council is only paying for the gas used on the Community Centre side. The County Council has refused to pay for an engineer to check the meters. Following a discussion it was resolved that firstly the Clerk checks the lease agreement to ensure that the Parish Council is responsible for paying for the gas bills. If this is the case the Clerk can then instruct a contractor to check the gas meters. It was suggested that this could be done during an annual service.

07/218 Village of The Year Presentation Evening 24 July 2007

The Village of the Year presentation evening will be held on 24 July 2007 at the Hunsbury Hill Centre. Cllr Fox, Mr Mike Nice and the Clerk are to attend.

Correspondence for discussion

07/219 Kennel Terrace Area Parking

Cllr Dobson referred to the recent campaign carried out by the local Police to prevent local resident parking on the corner of the Northampton Road and Kennel Terrace. Apparently this had caused quite a stir amongst local residents and shopkeepers. It was reported that parking tickets had been issued at nighttime and not during the day. Concerns were raised regards to inconsiderate parking (on drop kerbs) and speeding traffic. As a resident, Cllr Dobson, had requested for a Stop white line at the junction of Holcot Road and Northampton Road. Following a discussion it was agreed to refer this item to the next Highways and Environment Committee meeting.

07/220 DDC – Street Names in Brixworth

The District Council had requested suggestions for names for the new Rigiflex site development. The Parish Council suggested Highfields, the site was formerly Highfields Laundry.

The new developments on the Northampton Road and Holcot Road are to be called Kelmarsh Gardens and Harrington Gardens or Close. The Council objects to both these names, as they may be confused with the village with the same name nearby. Therefore wished to reiterate the names it had previously suggested.

Mercedes Benz had requested that Ilmor Avenue is changed to Mercedes Avenue. The Parish Council was sad and disappointed to lose the Ilmor street name, due to the contribution Paul Morgan and Mario Illien had made to the village. Therefore it was suggested to ask the District Council for the Ilmor name to be relocated elsewhere. A copy of the letter to the District Council is to be sent to Mercedes Benz.

07/221 DDC – Rural Roadshows

The District Council is looking for suitable playing fields with toilet facilities to host their Annual Rural Roadshow, which provides outdoor activities for children 5-15 years old. It was resolved for the District Council to use St David's Recreation Ground.

07/222 NALC – Training Courses

The Clerk had previously circulated details of forthcoming training courses.

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend the Code of Conduct for Clerks course in July, Cllr Dobson to attend the Pocket Park course in July and Cllr Monk to attend the Code of Conduct course in September. The costs of each course is £26.00.

07/223 Northants ACRE – To Financially Support Northants ACRE

It was resolved to financially support Northants ACRE for a further year at a cost of £33.00.

07/224 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.

07/225 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 31 July 2007 at 7.15pm at the Olive Branch Coffee Shop, Library/Community Centre.

Security procedures for the Library/Community Centre building, during Full Council meetings, will need to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/226 Emergency Procedures

Cllr Dobson raised his concerns regarding the recent flooding in parts of the country and wondered whether the Council had any procedures. It was confirmed that in the past, the Parish Council had completed a form and identified certain evacuation centres in the village.

07/227 Tree in Pytchley Close

Cllr Wiig reported that a tree, with a tree preservation order, had fallen down onto the Pytchley Close green. The District Council will be removing the tree.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

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

Dated 31 July 2007