

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 30 October 2007 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, T Everard, Mrs P Fox, D Kennedy, M Lacey, J McFadyen, R Monk, Mrs F Peacock, Mrs S Verallo, S Whiffen & Mrs E Wiig

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt Mike Grady – Northants Police
Three members of the public

Cllr Monk (Vice Chairman) opened and chaired the meeting until the Chairman arrived.

07/328 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Dobson and County Cllr C Millar.

07/329 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority, Committee member of Brixworth Village Hall and minute reference 07/348.

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

Cllr Fox declared a personal interest – Member of the Brixworth Bulletin Team and Millennium Garden.

Cllr Monk declared an interest – Northants Rural Housing Association

Cllr McFadyen declared an interest – Committee member of the Brixworth Youth Club

07/330 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 25 September 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

Meeting adjourned to allow members of the public to address the Council

A note of the matters raised is attached

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.25pm

07/331 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady firstly apologised for the non-attendance of a Police representative at recent meetings, due to staff shifts.

The following was reported: -

- Increase in dwelling burglaries, in particular car key burglaries. One recently in the Ashway. Residents are asked not to leave their keys on display or in the door.
- Criminal damage down this year, which is a direct result of reduced anti social behaviour. The number of incidents reported is down by 30%.
- More thieves are being caught at the Co-op by staff.

- Male adult in possession of cannabis went to court and is now on bail.
- A female adult has been cautioned following an assault on a man near the Red Lion.
- Brixworth shopkeeper was sent to prison for 28 days for selling alcohol without a licence and selling alcohol to a youth.
- PCSO Jo Hillier has now taken over from PCSO Jemma Simkins who has now left the team.
- The offender who stole a £3,000 bicycle and four bottles of champagne from the Co-op is on bail.
- There would be dedicated staff and an increase in Police presence in Brixworth and Moulton during Halloween and Bonfire night.

Yellow Lines in Parish

Sgt Grady stated that the Police would support yellow lines in certain areas of the village, as it clearly shows where people can and cannot park. The Police are able to enforce as an unnecessary obstruction in the road, when people park on yellow lines. This is far more difficult without the lines. This issue was discussed in more detail later on in the meeting.

It was noted that the Police would now include the registration of the vehicle in receipt of a polite parking notice. Recently a resident had parked their car in an appropriate place, but had a police parking notice put on the windscreen asking them not to park there. The Police confirmed that it was not them and that it was assumed that someone else had put this notice on the car.

NRHA – Housing Needs Survey

07/332 To Consider Draft Housing Needs Survey and Article for Bulletin

The Council had received a draft article for the Bulletin together with a draft survey to be sent out to all residents, which had been circulated to all members.

It was suggested for the article to be included in the December 2007 issue of the Bulletin. It was noted that the Bulletin had agreed to include this article at no cost. The questionnaire would be sent out in January 2008.

Following a discussion it was resolved on proposal by Cllr Lacey and seconded by Cllr Monk to refer the discussion of the article and survey to the next planning meeting. The Council delegated the decision of the final wording of the article and survey to the committee, to meet the Bulletins deadline.

Planning

07/333 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 15 October 2007

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 15 October 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/334 DDC Planning Approvals and Refusals – October 2007 Report

Approvals

DA/2007/0736 CPL Aromas Ltd, Quarry Road, Brixworth
Installation of new silo and bund wall to existing factory

28.8.07 PC Raised Concerns

26.9.07 DDC Approved

Refusals

DA/2007/0966 Mr P Flower, 12 Woodsfield, Brixworth
Outline application for new dwelling (re-submission)

24.9.07 No Observations

15.10.07 DDC Refused

07/335 West Northants Joint Planning – Issues & Options Consultation

The Planning Committee had recommended a response to the consultation, which was approved by the Council, as follows:-

1. Provision of any new homes required in the NIA that cannot be provided within the existing Borough boundary should take into account the inadequate infrastructure to the north of the town. Roads are already badly congested at peak times and many villages have severe traffic problems as country lanes are used as rat runs.
2. The countryside between Brixworth and Northampton is a valuable resource and should be protected from development. Over the years a green lung has been created between Brixworth and Pitsford including the Country Park, the Brampton Valley Way, Merry Tom Lane and the beautiful countryside around about.
3. The infrastructure necessary to support any new homes should be in place before large numbers of houses are built.
4. Planners should seek not only to serve the needs of any newcomers but should also take the opportunity to improve the quality of life of all of those at present living in West Northants. This may go some way to compensating for the unfortunate loss of more green fields and the upheaval and inconveniences suffered as a result of the demands placed on existing roads and services whilst the new homes are built.
5. Immense improvements to public transport systems will be required. The amount of cars on the roads will inevitably increase and measures must be taken to reduce traffic congestion and the number of vehicles passing through residential areas and village centres. Bus routes need to serve both shopping, employment and leisure areas and fares need to be affordable. Even then there may still be a need to improve and introduce alternative methods of transport e.g. rail, trams, pods. Users of public transport need to feel safe and free from fears of crime and anti social behaviour.
6. None of the four options for the NIA seem satisfactory. Developments to the south of Northampton will do little to regenerate the town centre and there is absence of suitable roads and potential for new transport systems to the north. It may be better to spread any development as thinly as possible all around Northampton avoiding building on green fields or absorbing villages wherever possible.

It was noted that a Concerned Councillor from Boughton had contacted the Parish Council regarding this issue, the Clerk had sent details of what had been minuted at the planning committee meeting. The Chairman agreed to contact the Councillor.

Finance

07/336 Income Received for September 2007

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

Received from	Details	£
DDC	Precept - Second instalment	47,971.00
Community Centre	Hall Hire	428.25
ASFC	First Instalment Grd Rent - St Davids/Ashway	391.00
Natwest	Bank Interest - July - Sept 07	703.41
		49,493.66

07/337 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 September 2007

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

Current Account	£8,140.58
Capital Reserve Account	£137,184.09
Less Cheques outstanding	£3,692.98
Balance Carried forward as at 1.10.07	£141,631.69

07/338 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for September 2007

The Council accepted the Income and Expenditure and reserves report for September 2007. Cllr Monk reported that the majority of the expenditure costs were on target, which was at 50% compared to target. Exceptions included the community centre running costs and hedges/fencing. The reserves remain the same.

07/339 Donation for Parish Council Poppy Wreath

It was resolved to donate £16.50 to the British Legion towards the purchase of a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday, under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

07/340 To Approve the Bills for Payment for October 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in October 2007 was available to each member at the meeting. It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment; therefore the Chairman signed the schedule of payments.

Chq No.	Minute	Payment To	Reason for Payment	£
3559		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Oct 2007	1,025.09
3560		Clerk	Clerk's Salary Oct 2007	1,053.74
3561		PT Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Oct 2007	149.16
3562		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Oct 2007	243.32
3563		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Oct 2007	215.56
3564		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Oct 2007	853.20
3565		Mrs J Macken	Postage	5.76
3566		Avenue Agricultural	Tyre sealant, wipes, pick up seat cover	93.48

3567		The Mower Shop	Replacement and service parts for mowers	244.68
3568		ESPO	Paper, tennis nets, cleaning materials	96.03
3569		VS Creative Services	Longlife light tubes - Comm. Hall	42.40
3570		Powergen	Street Light Electricity Chg - 1.07.07 - 30.09.07	40.55
3571		DDC	Emptying of bins 1.10.07 - 31.12.07	267.88
3572		Lovell Hardware	Groundsman & Cleaners materials	68.38
3573		OCS Group UK Ltd	Comm Ctr Sanitary Unit - 1.11.07 - 31.01.08	12.23
3574		British Gas Business	Changing Rooms Electricity Chg - Sept. 07	31.68
3575	07/064r	Complete Weed Control	Spray weeds- Sports fields and Pocket park	618.05
3576	07/292	Brixworth Village Hall	Hall Hire for Council Mtgs - Sept - Feb 08	122.76
3577	07/064e	K F Troop & Son	Daffodill Bulbs	100.00
3578	07/069	BDO Stoy Hayward	External Audit for year ending 31.03.07	1,028.13
3579		RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath - Donation to Poppy Appeal	16.50
3580		AH Blason & Son	Fuel	155.61
				6,484.19

07/341 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 16 October 2007

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 16 October 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/342 Report on the New Play Equipment

Spratton Road Recreation Ground - The Clerk reported that work had started on the removal of the old play equipment and installation of the new play equipment, week commencing 29 October 2007. This work would be completed within two weeks. The contractors were having problems accessing the site, therefore the skips had been located in Pytchley Close. The Clerk showed the meeting the agreed new layout showing the equipment near to the road, with the new footpath running from the slope entrance to the step entrance on Spratton Road. Raybell are to requote for this new footpath. It was agreed for one of the picnic benches to be located in the play area and one between the junior swings and goal post.

Ashway Playing Field – The new play equipment is on order and usually takes about 6-8 weeks to manufacture.

A display of the new play equipment for both playing fields had been displayed in the Library/Community Centre foyer during half term. The Council thanked the Clerk for her project management.

07/343 To Consider Extending Footpath on the Ashway Playing Field

Cllr Everard enquired whether the Council would consider extending the footpath on the Ashway Playing Field, to the boundary entrance and along the grass verge parallel to the changing rooms. A plan of the proposed footpath had been previously circulated to members. It was noted that the grass verge was owned by NCC Highways and it was suggested that it maybe a service strip. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if this was the case. This issue was referred to the Recreation Committee.

Highways and Environment

07/344 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 9 October 2007

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 9 October 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

Concerns had been raised about dog fouling, in particular, on the Ashway Playing Field. The Chairman had agreed to send an article to the bulletin. It was suggested to publish the dog wardens telephone number, for concerned residents to report offending dog owners.

07/345 Meeting with NCC Highways 16 October 2007

Notes of the meeting with NCC Highways had been previously circulated to members.

Mr N Gore, NCC Highways Community Engineer had agreed for an additional 'No Local Access' sign to be located at the bottom of Newlands. On proposal by Cllr Bament, seconded by Cllr Lacey and following a vote it was resolved to purchase an additional sign in the region of £200.00.

It was noted that a Sat. Nav. Company would be prepared to amend their software to ensure inappropriate roads are not used.

07/346 Northampton Road Zebra Crossing

Cllr Fox reported that the Northampton Road zebra crossing had been postponed until the construction of the dwellings on the former Rigiflex site had been completed. The current construction access to the site is on the Northampton Road, whilst the residents access will be on Froxhill Crescent as per the section 106 agreement. The County Council has assured Cllr Fox that the money reserved for this project will be available for next year. The Council wished to thank District Cllr Frank Wiig for his support in trying to resolve this situation. Cllr Fox agreed to write an article in the bulletin regarding this issue.

However, Mr Gore was hoping that a sum of money would be available for the tactile pavement on the corner of Northampton Road/Kennel Terrace this year. If not Cllr Millar had offered previously to fund from his empowerment fund.

It was agreed for the Rigiflex Site planning application to be discussed at the next planning meeting. Concerns were raised that the current plan had been amended to incorporate the footpath to the school, but the Parish Council had not been consulted. Cllr Chattaway agreed to contact the District Council for clarification regarding amendments to applications following an appeal.

07/347 Request for Yellow Lines in Parish

Cllr Chris Millar has had a request from the Joint Action Group to support yellow lines, using his empowerment fund and has asked for the Parish Councils support, in the following areas:-

Pytchley Way/Spratton Road
Spratton Rd/Northampton Rd
Kennel Terrace/Northampton Rd

NCC Highways will require the Parish Council's support for yellow lines, as an elected body representing its parishioners. The local Police are behind this request as one of the three priorities requested by the community and as previously mentioned by Sgt Grady earlier on in the evening. The Chairman confirmed that the Council has not opposed yellow lines in the past. Previously the Parish Council resolved not to pursue the possibility of yellow lines, due to the cost entailed for a Road Traffic Order, which would be in the region of £5,000. The Parish Council did not have this amount in the budget and together with the risk, of the possibility of spending this money and not actually ending up with yellow lines, was too high. Therefore the Parish Council agreed not to pursue the matter at that time.

Cllr Fox informed the meeting that she had been speaking to Mr A Leighton NCC Parking Engineer with regards to the various proposed yellow line areas in Brixworth. He was aware of some of the areas and not others. Cllr Fox circulated a proposed plan of the yellow lines for the Northampton Road/Holcot Road/Kennel Terrace crossroads.

Various concerns were raised by members, therefore following a lengthy discussion the following approach was resolved: -

- Clerk to arrange for a daytime site meeting with Mr Andrew Leighton (NCC), a few Councillors to attend. County Cllr Chris Millar and Sgt Grady to be invited to the meeting. This will be a fact finding meeting to ascertain what NCC Highways have proposed with regards to yellow lines in certain areas in the village in particular the Kennel Terrace / Northampton Road area. To find out the number of accidents in the area over the past 3-5 years.
- Report back information to Full Council in November 2007.
- Arrange a public meeting in early January to discuss proposed yellow lines.

07/348 Saxon Heights Bus Shelter

Cllr Fox enquired whether the Council would consider replacing the Saxon Heights bus shelter with a stone built one, which would be in the region of £7,000 and if so budgeting for it next year. As agreed Cllr Lacey had researched alternative perspex to replace the windows of the current bus shelter, which would cost in the region of £460 - £790, depending on the type of Perspex used (this does not include installation). Cllr Fox reported that District Cllr F Wiig had written to Haddonstone enquiring whether they would consider sponsoring a new stone built bus shelter. Following a debate it was agreed to postpone the discussion and wait for the outcome of Cllr F Wiig's letter.

07/349 Hearing Loop for the Community Centre

The Community Centre Manager had enquired whether the Council would consider purchasing a portable hearing loop system for the Community centre. The District Council was interested in using the system and had agreed to contribute towards it. It was resolved to purchase the Echo portaloop system at a cost of £175.00.

07/350 New Northampton Road Developments

22 Northampton Road – The District Council had sent a letter to the Parish Council enquiring whether it objected to the suggested name of Laurel Close for the new development. The residents had objected to the proposed name of Wolfage Manor. The Parish Council agreed to the name of Laurel Close.

24 Northampton Road – The District Council had sent a letter to the Parish Council enquiring whether it objected to the suggested names for the new three properties which were Primrose Cottage, Lavender Cottage and Wisteria Cottage. The Parish Council had no objection to these names.

07/351 Transfer for the Adoption of the Public Open Spaces on the Ridings and the Ashway

The transfer document for the adoption of the public open spaces on the Ridings and the Ashway, together with the various grass verges had been received from the Council's solicitor. It was resolved to approve the transfer and for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to sign the documents. It was noted that the Parish Council would receive a commuted sum of £28,376 for the future maintenance of these parcels of land.

The land to be transferred to the Council from Bryants (Taylor Woodrow) is not to be used for any other purpose than as open space for the enjoyment of the public within the purposes of the Open Space Act 1906. In addition the grass verges and parts of the Public Open Spaces were highlighted as being service strips. Under these areas contained water authority apparatus and there were several clauses in the transfer referring to these areas. In particular one of the clause prevented the erection of any building permanently or temporary.

A resident had enquired, earlier on in the year, to purchase part or the whole of one of these grass verged areas from the Parish Council, once it had been transferred. The resident wished to purchase the land to build an extension to his property. The Clerk was asked to write to this resident to advise him that unfortunately the Parish Council is unable to consider selling the whole or part of the land, due to the conditions of the transfer.

Correspondence for discussion

07/352 Brixworth Youth Club – Palisade Fencing

A letter had been received from the Youth Club thanking the Council for the donation of the unused palisade fencing for its outdoor play area.

07/353 NCC – Minerals & Waste Development Framework. Preferred Options Consultation

This document was referred to the Planning Committee Meeting to be held on 26 November 2007.

07/354 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.

07/355 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 27 November 2007 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/356 Letter from Central Sports Club

A letter had been received from the Central Sports Club enquiring whether the Council would approve the club erecting a marquee on St David's Recreation Ground adjacent to the pavilion for a New Year Eve's party. The Council had no objection on this occasion.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 27 November 2007

Notes of matters raised from members of the public

1. Three residents from the new houses built at 22 Northampton Road asked the Parish Council to consider the name Laurel Close. They had objected to the name of Wolfage Manor, which had been proposed. The District Council had written to the Parish Council and this item was on the agenda for consideration later on in the meeting.