

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 18 December 2007 at 7.15p.m. in the Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: I Barratt (Chairman), C Bament, R Chattaway, S Dobson, T Everard, Mrs P Fox, D Kennedy, J McFadyen, Mrs S Verallo & Mrs E Wiig

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Sgt Grady – Northants Police

07/402 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Millar, Cllr R Monk, Cllr Peacock and Cllr M Lacey.

07/403 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

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 (particularly minute reference 07/423) and Millennium Garden.

Cllr E Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority and member of Brixworth Village Hall Committee.

Cllr McFadyen declared a personal interest – Resident adjacent to Ashway Playing Field (particularly minute references 07/414 & 07/415).

Cllr Whiffen declared a personal interest – Resident adjacent to Ashway Playing Field

Cllr S Dobson declared a personal interest – Resident in Northampton Road (particularly minute reference 07/429).

07/404 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 27 November 2007

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

There were no members of the public present.

07/405 Police Representative's Report

Sgt Grady reported the following: -

- Slight reduction in crime figures this year compared to last year.
- Burglar figures are up on last year's figures.
- Main reduction in criminal damage (19 compared to 46 this time last year), this reflects the reduction in anti social behaviour.
- Three motorcycles stolen on separate times, which were recovered round the corner.
- Vehicle broken into at All Saints Church, Sat. Nav. and laptop taken.
- Next Neighbourhood Watch meeting 15 January 2008.
- Adult cautioned for possession of drugs
- Portacabin trashed, six school-aged youths detected. £2,000 damage done. Youths to be referred to reprimand clinic.

- Three residents caught drink driving, received driving ban from 15 months – 3 years.

The Council formally thanked and congratulated Sgt Grady and his team for all their hard work and effort in reducing crime and anti social behaviour in the village.

07/406 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Millar sent his apologies the following day; unfortunately he was delayed at a previous meeting and was unable to attend the Council meeting.

07/407 Full Council Meetings

The Clerk reported on the availability of other venues in the village for Full Council meetings. The school would not be an option, as Full Council meetings would not be accessible to members of the public, due to the keypad entry system at the front door.

Following a discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to enquire with the Village Hall, whether it would be possible for the Step Aerobic instructor to change the starting time of her class to half an hour earlier (6.30pm) or to move the class to a Wednesday. It was noted that the Village Hall was free on a Wednesday, but several members were not available this night). To be discussed further at the next Council meeting.

Planning

07/408 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 17 December 2007

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 17 December 2007 are to be distributed later on in the week. Cllr Chattaway briefly outlined the decisions made at the meeting.

Finance

07/409 Income Received for November 2007

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

Received from	Details	£
Community Centre	Hall Hire	540.45
NCC	Contribution for Cleaning foyer and toilets	594.62
DDC	Cleaning information Service Office	103.00
		<u>1,238.07</u>

07/410 Bank Reconciliation as at 30 November 2007

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

Current Account	£48,820.44
Capital Reserve Account	£87,287.09
Less Cheques outstanding	£33,418.59
Balance Carried forward as at 1.12.07	£102,688.94

07/411 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for November 2007

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

07/412 Retrospective Approval of Post Installation Inspection

On proposal by Cllr Barratt and seconded by Cllr Kennedy with all in favour, it was resolved to retrospectively approve for the Rospa post installation inspection of the SMP Playground Play Equipment, for the sum of £395.00 plus VAT.

07/413 To Approve the Bills for Payment for December 2007

A schedule of payments, to be made in December 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	
3611		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary Dec 2007	1,022.77
3612		Clerk	Clerk's Salary Dec 2007	1,061.82
3613		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages Dec 2007	100.62
3614		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages Dec 2007	174.14
3615		Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages Dec 2007	223.20
3616		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI Dec 2007	832.56
3617		Mrs J Macken	Clerks Allowance, Postage & stationery	74.65
3618		Mr I Barratt	Chairmans Telephone Allowance	35.00
3619		Post Office Ltd	Vehicle Licence renewal - Pick up	180.00
3620		Lovell Hardware	Materials for groundsmen	75.19
3621		ABB Ltd	Street Light maintenance Oct - Dec 07	26.44
3622		ESPO	Stationery & Cleaning materials	91.90
3623		Carter Jonas (PDBF Glebe)	Lease Millennium Garden 1.10.07-30.9.08	120.00
3624		NCC	Community Ctr - Elec. Chgs 28.7.07-25.10.07	273.38
3625		Cannon Hygiene Ltd	Community Ctr - Sanitary Unit	12.23
3626		B & Q Financial Services	Materials for groundsmen	62.04
3627	07/063e	Dyno-Rod	Cleaning of Village Hall Car Park Drains	235.00
3628		Playsafety Ltd	Post Installation Inspection - Ashway P F	464.13
3629		AH Blason & Son	Fuel for pick up	90.00
3630		K F Troop & Son	Community Ctr - Christmas Tree	35.00
				5,190.07

It was noted that the Christmas Tree was purchased under the Local Government Act 1972 section 137.

Recreation and Amenities Development

07/414 Report on Play Equipment for Ashway Playing Field

Cllr Kennedy reported that the new play equipment had been installed on the Ashway Playing Field.

Concerns were raised by members with regards to dog fouling on the playing field. It was noted that four new signs are to be installed on the Ashway Playing Fields, which asks dog owners to clear up after their pet. It was suggested that perhaps a sign with the dog warden's details on could be erected. The Clerk was asked to speak to the dog warden to discuss possible wording.

07/415 Receive Rospa's Post Installation Report – Ashway Playing Field

The Clerk reported that Rospa had carried out a post installation inspection on the new equipment. Insufficient safer surface had been laid in one particular area behind the climbing frame, the contractors have now rectified this. It is recommended to obtain certification of the safer surface from the suppliers, which the Clerk has requested.

07/416 Report on Annual Regrinding of Gang Mowers

The Clerk reported that Browns of Daventry have stripped down the gang mowers and have quoted a price of £894.00 plus VAT, to regrind blades, supply and fit new bearings, seals and bottom blades. On proposal by Cllr Wiig and seconded by Cllr Bament and all in favour it was agreed to suspend standing orders and to approve Browns of Daventry to service the gang mowers for this year. The Council went to tender last year for the overhaul of the gang mowers and Browns were the cheapest and the Groundsman was extremely satisfied with the work done.

Highways and Environment

07/417 To Accept the Minutes of Meeting 4 December 2007

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 4 December 2007 having been previously distributed were accepted.

07/418 Work to Library/Community Centre Shrub Bed

On proposal by Cllr Wiig and seconded by Cllr Kennedy and all in favour it was resolved to accept Brixworth Landscaping to carry out work to the Library/Community Centre shrub bed at a cost of £99.95.

07/419 Report on Insurance for Volunteers

Cllr Fox reported that a couple of residents had offered to carry out work in the Millennium Garden using power tools to trim several trees. It was noted that the Council's insurance states that 'volunteers to be involved with less hazardous work involved in path maintenance, grass cutting or litter collection, with the use of non powered tools only, other than lawnmowers/grass cutting equipment and strimmers, when stout footwear should be worn and also safety goggles in the case of strimmers'. It was noted that the groundsman could carry out the work.

07/420 Draft Parish Emergency Plan

Cllr Fox confirmed that a draft Parish Emergency Plan had been circulated to members. It was agreed to add Religious contacts to the list (Rev Watkins, Rev Walters and B'hai Faith). The draft plan was approved, now the Clerk needs to write to the various contacts for further details.

Correspondence for discussion

07/421 Reply from NCC – Brixworth Recycling Centre

The Council had received details of the new County Council's policy concerning the recycling centre, which had been sent on to members and the lady who had raised the concern. A thank you letter had been received from the lady and another resident had also raised their concerns to the Chairman.

07/422 Brixworth History Society – Book Launch

It was noted that the Brixworth History Society has published a new book Brixworth Walks and is available at the Library at a cost of £4.50. On proposal by Cllr Fox and seconded by Cllr Whiffen it was resolved to purchase a copy for the Councils records.

07/423 To Discuss Vicar's Comment in Bulletin– Resiting of War Memorial

In the Vicar's letter, in the latest edition of the Brixworth Bulletin, Rev. Watkins asks 'do you think there is anything to be said in favour of moving the Village War Memorial from the churchyard to a more prominent place in the centre of Brixworth?' The Parish Council considered this question and agreed that it could not see any reason for moving the war memorial. It was suggested that family members of the named on the memorial might be concerned if it was moved. The Clerk was asked to send a letter to Rev. Watkins.

07/424 Reply from Brixworth & District U3A – Thankyou letter & Newsletter

A thank you letter from the newly formed Brixworth and District U3A had been received. (A copy of the letter had been previously circulated to members).

07/425 DDC – Affordable Housing & Village Design Statements 31 January 2008

The District Council is to hold a workshop on 31 January 2008 from 9.30am – 4.30pm regarding affordable housing and village design statements. Cllr Bament agreed to attend. (A copy of the letter had been previously circulated to members).

07/426 DDC – Graffiti Removal Arrangements for Parish Councils

This item was deferred to the next Highways and Environment committee meeting. Cllr Fox agreed to contact Emma Yoxen from the District Council. (A copy of the letter had been previously circulated to members).

07/427 DDC – New Code of Conduct Training for Parish Clerks

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend the new code of conduct training for Clerks to be held by the District Council, on the 6 February 2008. (A copy of the letter had been previously circulated to members).

07/428 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.

07/429 Date and Format of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 29 January 2008 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The Chairman is to open the meeting at 7.00pm to welcome any residents present who have come to discuss the proposed yellow lines and to give the Council's point of

view. Mr Andrew Leighton from the County Council and Sgt Grady have agreed to attend to answer questions and to give their reasons for the proposals. It was suggested to have a display in the Library/Community Centre foyer of the proposed parking restrictions and at the meeting. A letter is to be sent to all the residents and businesses in the proposed areas. The Council may have to consider the proposal of the yellow lines later on in the meeting, if the initial consultation period coincides with the meeting.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

07/430 Parish and Town Council meeting

The Chairman reported that he had attended the latest District Town and Parish Council meeting in Daventry. A report had been previously circulated to members.

07/431 Council Minutes

The Clerk had received details of a company that leather binds minutes. It was noted that minutes are kept forever and are stored at the County archives. The Clerk was asked to look into the 'keeping of minutes'.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 29 January 2008