

BRAYBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish
Tuesday 15 March 2016
in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Present	Councillors	Mrs D. Berry – Chairman Mr. G. Normand – Acting Vice-Chairman Mrs A. Beardsmore Mrs M. Jessop
	Clerk	Mrs F. Allbury
	County Councillor	Councillor A Matthews
	Public and Speakers	9
	Police	Sgt Scott Little

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs D. Howes and A. Ayton, and N. Glazebrook

2. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The first significant event of the year was the appointment of our clerk, Frances Allbury. She has taken up the reins firmly and brought us up to date to be the well-oiled machine that a good Parish Council should be. Thank you Frances for all your hard work.

Turning to other issues, in the last year we have dealt with many concerns of parishioners including the development of the school site, street lights to gutter clearing, grass cutting, verges and overflowing drains, to the very recent flooding and sandbags. Following the prompt action by Margaret Jackson, The Street Doctor has promised that the drains in Griffin Road will be cleared in the next 5 working days.

Following an acerbic spat between BT and Gigaclear in the autumn, and amazing hard work from Karen Stanley and her team, we are now on track to receive Gigaclear's Ultrafast Broadband this year. In fact, the sites of the individual plots have already been marked on the roads all round the village.

We have dealt with 24 planning applications during the year, resulting in an additional 7 specific planning meetings being convened. A large proportion of the applications were extremely complex and involved detailed discussions and responses. Although we have seen off the threat of the massive solar park between Braybrooke and Market Harborough, there are now plans to build 600 houses on the same ridge.

A great deal of our time is spent in opposing inappropriate developments like these. We must thank Cllr Karen Stanley for her tireless efforts on our behalf and also thanks are due again to all of you for turning out when summoned, both to Kettering and to Daventry.

Grateful thanks are due to our County Councillor, Allan Matthews, and Ward Councillor, David Howes for their constant support of our village. It is always good to have you at our meetings and happy to answer our queries. You will all have seen the rejuvenated Village Green which was replanted as a result of David Howes providing the funds. Soon we hope to see Allan Matthews' speed recognition camera sited somewhere suitable in the village.

Thank you to the whole team of councillors who work hard for the benefit of the village.

Thanks to George Normand for taking over the role of vice-chairman in the absence of Karen Stanley and for running the excellent website and email contact list. If parishioners look at other parish council websites, you would appreciate how good ours is.

Thanks to Angela and Marie for representing the PC and village at Rural Forum meetings during the year. Special thanks again to Marie for giving up so much of her time attending various exhibitions and seminars in relation to contentious planning issues, not only to Braybrooke but surrounding villages. Marie has also been our representative at the X-Border Group meetings; we hosted our first meeting earlier in the year.

3. Reports were then received from the following:

- **Borough Councillor D Howes**
No report
- **County Councillor A Matthews**
Cllr Matthews presented a report on the various issues he is dealing with on behalf of the Parish. In addition to the report attached Cllr Matthews said that the County Council continued to deal with significant spending cuts which would be ongoing for a number of years. Responding to a question from a parishioner he said that library services will be retained but will also offer additional services such as training/ IT help and information for small business, in order to generate income plus a reliance on volunteers. Cllr Matthews in closing said that Cllr Jim Harker would be retiring as Leader of the County Council after the council elections in May with the vacant post probably being filled by the Deputy Leader.
- **Police - Sgt Scott Little**
Sgt Little gave an overview of crimes in the local area. Overall crime was down by 9%, which was also reflected in Braybrooke. Extra effort was being placed with farm alerts, sheep worrying and dog wardens in conjunction with KBC. Sgt Little said that they were hoping to re-introduce a CPSO for the area.
- **WI**
A report from Mrs Pat Wilson and Mrs Lisa Templeton was presented
- **Braybrooke Gossip**
No report
- **All Saints' Church**
Mr. Geoff Pitcher gave a report on activity over the year. Services are held every two weeks and were they awaiting a new rector to be installed mid May. Two successful lunches had been held in the Village Hall raising nearly £1,000 for church funds. A service will be held on Easter Sunday - everyone was welcome.
- **Braybrooke Baptist Church**
No report
- **Village Hall Committee**
A report was provided by the Chairman, Mr Robert Jeacock.

- **Cricket Club**
No report
- **Braybrooke Golf Society**
No report
- **Footpath Warden**
A report was presented by Frank Taylor.
- **Neighbourhood Watch**
A report was presented by Sue Fellowes
- **Morris Dancers**
A report was presented by Mr. Geoff Pitcher
- **River Warden**
No report was received
- **Morris Dancers**
A report was presented by Mr Geoff Pitcher
- **Singing Group**
No report was received

Copies of all reports are on file and may be seen on request.

4 Participation by members of the public

- a) Barbara Lynch said that funds were available for specific projects from the Heritage Fund from 1 April 2016.
- b) Dinah said that the village had a new email circulation list which could be accessed from the Parish Council website.

5 Closure

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Chairman _____

Date _____