

BRAYBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday 30 July 2019 in The Village Hall, Braybrooke at 7.30 pm

1 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES and DISPENSATIONS

Present: Cllrs. A. Ayton, P. Cleland, G. Hague, F. Kinnear, G. Normand (Chairman), Frances Allbury (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllrs. V. Cleland and D. Howes

In Attendance: Cllr A. Matthews and 6 parishioners

Declarations of Interest and dispensations: None

2 MINUTES

Parish Council AGM 21 May 2019 and Planning Meeting 6 June 2019 were approved and signed.

3 MATTERS ARISING from the Minutes

3.1 Vehicle Activated Sign

Cllr Matthews still hopes to make an arrangement for managing the equipment and is in the process of preparing a revised schedule of users. As soon as it is received the Clerk will pass it onto Cllr Ayton who will contact Kiki Everard about operating it within our scheduled slot.

3.2 North Northamptonshire Local Council Forum 12 June 2019: Chairman to report

The Chairman and Cllr Hague attended this event at which councillors discussed opportunities, risks and aspirations for the new Unitary Organisation to inform the planning process.

3.3 Adoption of Play Area

The Clerk had no further update to report and would contact Cllr Howes in this respect.

4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

4.1 Greenfields

A parishioner said that an enforcement notice had been served in December last year, but this had not resulted in any caravans leaving the site. Conditions imposed by the Planning Inspectorate have not been met. A private water supply has been intercepted several times at considerable cost to restore. She outlined the numerous occasions when it had been necessary to call for police intervention because of loose horses. Further ground works seemed to be underway to prepare for more caravan pitches. The situation continues to be difficult and stressful for residents living close to the site. Why had KBC not taken action? This matter is already an agenda item under Planning below. It was suggested that we ask police for information on the number of calls they have had relating to Greenfields.

4.2 Speeding farm vehicles

A parishioner reported that in previous years at harvest time, speeding farm vehicles had been observed down Newland Street causing a possible danger to residents and children. Jim Hakewill said that they were being used by the local farmer to harvest adjacent fields. He will let the Clerk have contact details of the farmer so that she could write to him pointing out this hazard. Kier have suitable roadside signage to highlight the potential dangers. The Clerk would contact Ian Boyes to see if any other signs were available to warn drivers about children playing. Cllr Kinnear said that the footpath through the field to be harvested was now impassable as the crop had collapsed in.

5 FINANCE

5.1 Balances at Bank:

£11,154.27 in Current Account at 11 July 2019 and £2,508.29 at 2 April 2019 in Reserve a/c.

The Clerk said that the steep increase in funds held in Current Account relate to a grant of £3,000 received from NCC in respect of the Pathfinder II project.

5.2 Update of Budget against Expenditure circulated with the agenda.

5.3 Items for payment:

F R Allbury: salary and expenses £598.29

Clerks PAYE £8.80

G. Normand: refund for paint used on the 'bus shelter £18.00

All invoices and requests for payment have been verified and checked by Cllr Normand and Cllr Hague.

6 PLANNING

- 6.1 KET/2018/0975: 54 Griffin Road, Braybrooke
Two storey extension.
Planning Permission granted.
- 6.2 KET/2019/0366: Griffin Road/River Jordan
Work to protected tree: T1 horse chestnut fell.
Cllr Normand said that the roots of this tree, which is located in a conservation area, were causing damage and it was accepted that it needed to be felled after a bat survey, but a replacement will be planted
For information: awaiting decision by KBC
- 6.3 KET/2019/0244; 11Newland Street, Braybrooke
Single storey rear extension, side porch, revision of front porch, loft conversion with conservation style roof lights to front/rear. Amendment to existing dormers, bay and rear windows. Alterations to garage and front wall.
Planning Permission granted.
- 6.4 Greenfields
Referring to the comments minuted under Public Participation above, the Chairman said that he had not been aware of an enforcement notice. However he and Harrington PC were in regular contact with KBC who were doing all they could to address the issues. A critical problem was the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA), which had caused KBC to lose previous appeals against Greenfields decisions. A new GTAA would come to the KBC Planning Policy Committee in September. Meanwhile as explained in the Rural Forum report (see below) we are reassured that KBC is doing everything in their (limited) powers, and are very much aware of the timing of the temporary permissions. Cllr Howes will be asked for an update at the next meeting.
- 6.5 Golden Stables
A decision notice by the Planning Inspectorate, allowing retrospective planning permission to increase the number of caravans on site was issued on 17 April 2019, although Arthingworth Parish Council did not appear to have been notified. The Inspector had specified that the Golden Stables situation is quite different to Greenfields, opposite.

7 HIGHWAYS/TREES/FOOTPATHS WARDEN/STREET FURNITURE

- 7.1 Village Walkabout 18 June 2019
A very positive and constructive meeting was held onsite attended by two members of the highways team, and Councillors Matthews, Kinnear and Hague. Items covered included condition of some pavements, deterioration of a bridge over the River Jordan, blocked drains and the serious accident blackspot at the crossroads on Desborough Road. Some remedial work had already been carried out on drains which will be completed within six months. Yet another accident at the crossroads had been reported and the Clerk will expedite installation of the additional signage at the crossroads promised by Ian Boyes. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to Ian and his team for their support. Discussion took place regarding a triangle of unregistered land, the owner of which is unknown, located at a meeting of two drains in School Lane that need to be inspected. It was agreed that Councillors will examine the area to decide what needs to be done.
- 7.2 Highways Scheme of Works Programme
It was agreed not to circulate these updates which are of little use to us.
- 7.3 Trees
The Chairman said that the Clerk wrote to KBC Planning asking if the Parish Council could be consulted on planning applications relating to trees in the village in the same way that the Council is asked for input on building applications. Unfortunately, the response was not positive advising that it would create more work for the planning team and that applications relating to trees could be viewed on the weekly planning list. Since the agenda was published, tree related planning application 2019/0516 had been noted. This is a request to fell a pollarded tree in the conservation area. The tree is alleged to be dead and hollowing and has deteriorated significantly recently. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to KBC asking that, if they agree to felling, they should require a replacement to be planted.
- 7.4 Footpaths: Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (circulated by email 30 June 2019)
Cllr Kinnear commented on the Plan saying that it was very aspirational and offered excellent recommendations for the future but without funds to implement them it was of limited use. However unlike previous plans it recognised the existence of Path Wardens, promising training and guidance: she would pursue these. The Chairman said that for a number of years we had been unable to get NCC to take any action on footpaths and had had to take matters into our own hands. We had considered the Parish Path Warden to be our appointment, not NCC's, and had had to draw up our own terms of reference.
- 7.5 Village Grass cutting
The Clerk advised that KBC are responsible for village grass cutting and not NCC. A rather confusing email response had been received from KBC but it seemed that under present arrangements there is no option to obtain a grant in lieu of grass cutting services so that we could have it cut where and when we want. To return to this issue after the Northants reorganisation.

8 **RURAL FORUM**

A report prepared by Paul Gooding (Harrington PC) had been circulated by email on 21 July 2019. No further discussion required at this time.

9 **DEFIBRILLATOR**

The defibrillator equipment has now been received and installed on the outside wall of the Village Hall. One further volunteer is required to provide weekly maintenance checks. A familiarisation event is being organised with Martin Fagan for potential users. Cllr Normand said that the WI said they may wish to arrange an additional familiarisation event of their own. The emergency telephone system is yet to be finalised.

10 **MAINTENANCE OF PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS**

Street furniture: litter bins, benches

The Chairman suggested we carry out an annual inspection of Parish Council assets. The repaired bus shelter has now been painted and should last for several years but needs to be kept clear of ivy and Hawthorne growth.

At present, of the four general waste bins in the village two are in very poor condition and needed replacing: one at the top of Griffin Road and one by the bus shelter in Harborough Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to KBC who could order and fit new bins, recharging the cost to the Parish Council in order to obtain quotations for consideration. The Chairman commented that he understood that Harborough District Council may have some spare bins. But it was suggested that it might be cheaper to obtain bins direct from suppliers. Next meeting to consider options and costs.

Jim Hakewill said that there was a bench located along the Lane from the Plant Man crossroads to Harrington crossroads and bears a parish council plaque '1997'. It was agreed to look at the bench with a view to moving it to a more accessible site

11 **PATHFINDER/FLOOD PRECAUTIONS**

Cllr Hague briefly outlined the reasons for requiring a CCTV survey on the drains in the village as recommended by the Consultation Report. A successful request for a grant of £3,000 from NCC to cover the cost of the survey has been received into the Parish Council account. Unfortunately, none of the companies who were asked to submit a quotation for the work were able to do so. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Ian Boyes, Northamptonshire Highways and also Anglian Water if they could recommend any other organisations who could provide a quotation and carry out this specialised work. Cllr Hague said that he was still working on identifying the owners of farmland in the parish, so we could draw their attention to drainage issues.

12 **CORRESPONDENCE**

12.1 NcALC: AGM 5 October 2019

The Chairman said that he and Cllr Hague would like to attend. The Clerk will book them in.

12.2 NCC Transport and Highways News

It was agreed not to circulate this document.

12.3 Harborough Triathlon 1 September 2019

The Chairman said that he had received detailed information regarding this event which includes the provision of additional marshals as last year.

12.4 KBC Council meeting 24 July 2019

Cllr Normand said that that the Parish Council should consider offering comment on the question of a Town Council for Kettering, and it was not clear how far the consultation process would extend. However it was understood that we would be consulted in any case, and could wait to be invited.

12.5 Rural Matters Newsletter. A police publication, now available through an NcALC link on the Parish Council website.

12.6 Trees

The Clerk read an email received via Daventry DC from a group of Young Farmers Clubs in the county who are offering to plant trees in publicly available open spaces. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond saying that the Parish Council were interested and would let them know if they saw an opportunity to take advantage of this offer.

13 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

13.1 Braybrooke Walk

Cllr Kinnear said she had updated the map and description but could not get it put on the village website. The Chairman offered to put it on the Parish Council website instead.

13.2 Plaque displayed on a bridge over the River Jordan

A parishioner commented that the plaque which has been in situ for many years is now faded and unreadable. The clerk said she would investigate with a view to upgrading it

- 14 **FUTURE MEETING DATES:** all to take place in the Village Hall
Provisional planning meeting Tuesday 20 August 2019 at 7.30 pm
Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 17 September 2019 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

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17 September 2019