

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at Broughton Village Hall on Wednesday, 15 June 2018, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Mrs PA Scouse (in the Chair), R Baxter, Mrs HJ Bull, Mrs JC Chester, Mrs I Robson, M Rose, Mrs P Wade, and Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr GA Duthie. Borough Cllr J Hakewill, County Cllr Mrs C Smith-Haynes, and one member of the public.

**18/7807** **APOLOGIES.** Apologies were received from Cllr A Parker (family commitment), Cllr R Shrive (working away), Cllr S West (away), and Cllr O Wyeth (unwell).

**18/7808** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** None were made.

**18/7809** **MINUTES.** The draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 May 2018, copies having been circulated, were approved by members and authorised for signature by the Chair.

**18/7810** **RIGHT TO SPEAK.** The facility was not used at this meeting.

**18/7811** **REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.** Councillors received a report from County Cllr Smith-Haynes, which mainly touched upon the internal consultations being conducted by the County Council with its staff in response to the Government change agenda imposed upon it, and upon the wider public consultation around the proposed new unitary model for local government in the County.

In response to a question, Cllr Smith-Haynes confirmed there was awareness, at least at councillor level if not by those sponsoring the exercise, that town and parish councils needed to be separately engaged with given the likely impacts upon them due to displaced services etc, even if the proposed reorganisation did not extend to the local council tier.

Borough Cllr Hakewill then reported; again focusing largely upon the same issue. Although the changes were intended to comprise a fresh start, the reality was that very limited options were being offered under the current consultation; his view was that it was vital a debate occurred with town and parish councils as to where they would fit into new arrangements despite not being directly caught by the review.

Cllr Hakewill asserted that district colleagues were anxious that mistakes made during the 1974 reorganisation were not repeated and that the parishing of Kettering appeared to be a necessary step to ensure equitable treatment of communities.

Cllr Hakewill then mentioned the recent planning permission relating to the Northampton Road caravan site and the timing for conditions to be discharged; it was noted a key date for this was 3 July and it was agreed this should be monitored closely for compliance given the stance of the Borough Council.

Prompted by this element of the report, Cllrs Mrs Scouse and Mrs Bull confirmed they had attended at the offices of the planning authority for the purposes of inspecting the physical public case file for the application, and had been very apparent from this that a very high level of assistance and encouragement had been provided to the applicant to secure a successful determination.

In response to a question from Cllr Hakewill, the meeting heard that progress with the Neighbourhood Plan examination was to be considered by the Borough Council Executive Committee on 11 July, with a view to seeking a decision to proceed to a referendum for adoption. It was possible the referendum, if agreed to be called, might occur in September 2018. The meeting was advised that, if so, it was essential as high a turn-out as possible was prompted from the community to ensure the most credible outcome was procured.

**18/7812**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Arising from the planning application related to The Old Willows caravan site, further discussion occurred around the information request that had been made and the refusal by Kettering Borough Council to disclose material save by making the public file available for inspection. Cllrs Mrs Scouse and Mrs Bull had carried out that inspection and concluded as a result that significant efforts had been made by the planning authority to progress an application to a successful conclusion; it was questioned whether most applicants could expect the degree of guidance and assistance in overcoming objections that had been evidenced by the exercise. Concerns remained that compliance with conditions might be difficult to ensure, not least around ensuring occupiers were of bona-fide gypsy or traveller status within the meaning of the policy definition of such that applied.

Arising in respect of the arrangements in respect of village hall room hire fee recharging, it was reported that further communications had been received that appeared to show the current standing order arrangement might not be sufficient to keep on top of usage. Concern and some frustration was expressed by the Clerk that administration of this was becoming disproportionately complex and confused; not assisted by the manner in which invoices were being presented across multiple pages with narratives that indicated payment was necessary when, in fact, a credit balance appeared to be held. It was agreed the Chair would speak with the relevant Village Hall Committee officer in an effort to untangle the issue.

**18/7813**

**CORRESPONDENCE.** The following items of correspondence were reported:

- a) An exchange of emails between the Chair and a landscape officer of the Borough Council, concerning an apparent failure of one of the new High Street recreation ground trees to establish properly. Members noted this would be monitored and a replacement or replacements as could be accommodated were to be provided as necessary.
- b) A copy communication to Cllrs Hakewill and Morton received from a Mr M Reeves, and raising concerns about grass encroachment affecting the pavement and cycleway running alongside the A43 at various locations.



None reported at this meeting

<b>Expenditure</b>			<b>£</b>
Zen internet	Web hosting	(direct debit )	5.99
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire standing charge	(standing ord )	10.20
GA Duthie	Salary and WP	(101823 )	259.15
HMRC	Income tax	(101824 )	142.43
GA Duthie	Telephone exps	(101825 )	18.74
Broughton PF&VHA	Room hire invoice	(101826 )	8.93
Hags SMP Limited	Play equipment	(101827 )	3,858.00
Playdale Playgrounds	Play equipment	(101828 )	3,319.30
To cash	Petty cash advance	(101829 )	25.00

**Balances** **£**  
As at 11 June 2018, the Parish Council had to its credit the following sums (less the payments above):

Community account	31,211.90
Deposit account	11,450.53

In respect of the play equipment invoices presented for payment, members heard these largely indicated the project was drawing to conclusion. The new facilities would be open for use any day now and consideration was being given to marking this with a small launch event. Low key signage to acknowledge the kind support by project sponsors was also under consideration. During this discussion, it was raised and noted that the Podmore Way play equipment was looking very tired in comparison and it was agreed to seek a refresh of this.

**18/7818**

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2017/18.** Members received a report from the Clerk, presenting proposed returns for financial year 2017/18 for approval. Smaller authority Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statements as appended were approved after opportunity for questions, and the meeting also agreed that (in recognition of regulation changes effective for this year), the Council would certify itself exempt from external review given neither income nor expenditure for the subject year exceeded the relevant threshold of £25,000 and all transactions were expressly reported to council meetings for approval. It was noted, however, that the returns and underlying records would still be subject to scrutiny by an 'internal' auditor retained by the Council and, in this respect, it was agreed to once again ask Kettering maths teacher, Mr Robert Perkins, if he would kindly perform this audit.

**18/7819**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN.** This was dealt with earlier in the meeting (18/7811).

**18/7820**

**GENERAL INTEREST ITEMS.**

Cllr Baxter mentioned the footpath between Kettering Road and Gate Lane was presently very overgrown.

Cllr Mrs Wade reported that availability existed for small grants from the Armed

Forces Covenant Trust for the translucent WW1 commemorative figures. It was agreed that an application ought to be made and Cllr Mrs Wade agreed to undertake this.

Cllr Mrs Bull reported that the footpath at Cox’s Lane was also overgrown.

Cllr Mrs Bull mentioned that the latest consultation around site specific local plan proposals had just gone live (known as Local Plan 2), and this still was promoting The Paddock site behind the Grange Road estate as a potential allocation pending the conclusion of the Neighbourhood Plan process. If the plan was found sound and adopted, then the proposed allocation would fall away. Members noted the KBC Executive did have an ability to suggest modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan when considering whether to approve for referendum.

Cllr Mrs Bull then mentioned a house at Glebe Avenue, at the notional access to the previously unsuccessfully promoted housing site behind, was presently having extensive works undertaken. There was local concern the house was perhaps being prepared for demolition.

**18/7821**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** It was reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council, would be on Wednesday 18 July 2018, at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.

**18/7822**      **URGENT ITEMS ADMITTED BY THE CHAIR.** None were raised and the meeting was duly closed at 9:10pm.

18 July 2018

Signed.....