

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL.

Chairman: Cllr P.A. Scouse.

Parish Clerk: Alison McDaid.

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Local Government Electors in the Parish of Broughton Wednesday 20th March 2024

Present:

P. Scouse (Chair)

R. Shrive.

H. Bull.

C. Taylor

M. Gray.

R. Baxter

J. Bozicek

County/Borough Councillor present:

None

1/APM/24. Apologies.

M. Rose.

2/APM/24. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th March 2023, copies were made available, approved and consequently signed by the Chair.

3/APM/24. Matters arising from minutes

It was noted that the tree donated by a resident and planted by BPC near the old memorial garden, survived its first year and is doing well.

4/APM/24 Annual Report of the Parish Council.

Chairman's report 2023/24

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council Team. We were sorry to lose a valuable member of our team Cllr Jan Manning and we thank her for her contribution.

There has been a full calendar of meetings and conferences where councillors have represented Broughton making sure that your voice is heard on a range of matters.

We continue to work with Northants Highways to find a workable solution to the traffic issues that the village experiences. This is proving challenging but a proposal for a traffic control measure has been designed by NNC for Northampton Rd which will control the speed of vehicles in this part of the village. This will be funded from the S106 money which resulted from the Redrow development on Cransley Hill. We anticipate that there will be some money

left to fund other more minor work elsewhere in the village. We have also finally had the speed limit between Broughton and Gt Cransley reduced to 40mph.

The Parish Council have also been involved along with Pytchley Parish Council to get some alternative signage at the Pytchley Crossroads. We have been assisted in this by a resident Laura Stanisica, some of you may have seen the report on BBC TV news about the crossroads.

The Pocket Park regeneration project moved another step forward during the year. A new path was laid between the Bridleway and the pond to provide a more accessible route. The pond also had some essential maintenance to clear the excess vegetation in order to keep the body of water clear. This is an ongoing project so look out for more new features as time and funds allow.

The Old Memorial Garden off the High St park is receiving a make-over. The central grass area has been cleared and will be planted with ornamental grasses in the very near future. The surrounding borders will be upgraded in the coming months.

The Phone Box Library in the High St has proved very popular and we thank the resident who has been our secret librarian.

You may have noticed the Christmas Lights in the trees at the corner of Church St. We took the decision to use battery operated lights which work on a timer to bring some Christmas cheer to that part of the village. As these proved to be successful we will add to them this year. We are investigating whether we can illuminate the trees in the High St park but as the previous mains power connection was disconnected by NNC we have to find a new power source.

Finally, now you know what we get up to I would like to invite any resident who has an interest in joining the Parish Council to contact our clerk. No experience is necessary, just an interest in your community.

5/APM/24. Statement of Parish Council Accounts 2020/21.

A statement of the Parish Council's accounts comprising a copy of the Annual Return for financial year ended 31 March 2023 was submitted and noted after an opportunity for questions was given.

6/APM/24.Accounts of Parochial Charities.

Statements of accounts in respect of the Broughton Charities of Bentham for the year up to 31st December 2023, and the Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association for the year up to 31st March 2023, were submitted and noted.

7/APM/24. Reports from NNC Councillor's for the division/ward covering the Parish.

None were submitted.

8/APM/24. Reports of representatives of organisations within the Parish.

Broughton Playing Field & Village Association submitted a Chairpersons report which is attached to the end of these minutes.

Bentham charities – Trustees report

The committee have carried out a review of tenancies and has conducted a full review of investments. Documentation is now vested with charity commission so individual names will not be on register.

There is a new website. There will be a link in the Parish council's website as well.

As the village has ever changing dynamics, it has been decided to do away with Winter Hardship Fund. There was a final distribution of £10 each for residents over 70 at Christmas.

The committee did speak to residents when distributing and received mostly positive responses. Those who were disgruntled with it stopping, can apply for Christmas this year.

The committee will work collaboratively with the primary school and church to build up a network to identify those in most need in the village. They will be able to make recommendations for meaningful support and lead to a referral system to apply for funding from the charities.

The charity now has access to online banking.

Julie B asked if the winter hardship/Christmas distribution could be reconsidered and it was confirmed that eligible people could apply but under the new system.

Roy B – Spoke about another parish council who had set an amount for over 70's in their village.

9/APM/24. Consideration of proposed resolutions submitted by Electors.

None were submitted.

10/APM/24. Local Development outcomes against Neighbourhood Plan expectations.

Neighbourhood Development Order – BT exchange on track and will be redundant soon.

Neighbourhood plan is due for review. Cllr Scouse has enquired with NNC, who have put it on hold for the moment.

11/APM/24. Local initiatives.

High Street park – new play equipment is now being priced up and NNC will be applying for a grant from FCC. BPC will match fund with 30% of costs.

Treasure trail around village for kids. – Cllr Rose to lead on project with interactive QR codes.

Heritage trail around village for adults.

12/APM/24. Any additional matters that the Chair considers to be appropriate for consideration by the meeting.

Roy B thanked the parish councillors for all their hard work throughout the year

The Chair thanked all present for their contributions and the meeting was closed at 8:30pm

Signed:

Dated: