



Brixworth Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th January 2018

Village Hall, Holcot Road, Brixworth

In Attendance:

Councillors: Councillor Alex Coles (Chairman), Councillor Ian Barratt, Councillor Jackie Bird, Councillor Elaine Coe, Councillor Stuart Coe, Councillor Stephen James, Councillor Frances Maria Peacock, and Councillor Peter Saxton

Apologies: Councillor Collyer, Councillor Moxon and Councillor Parker

Absent: Councillor Neal Brown and Councillor Caitlin Braham-Nicholl

Also Present: Peter Rowbotham (Clerk)

Members of the Public: – 10

17/4010 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Village Hall meeting and notified attendees of the fire procedures. He also reminded Councillors that the meeting was being recorded.

17/4011 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Collyer, Councillor Moxon and Councillor Parker. The apologies were accepted by the Parish Council.

17/4012 Declarations of Interest

None

17/ 4013 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Parish Clerk reported that Minute number 17/3990 should read 'Microsoft Office at a cost of £94.30 per year' not per month as stated.

Subject to this change identified above, the minutes of the meetings held on 21st December 2017 and 18th January 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Saxton. Unanimous.

17/4014 Public Open Forum

A local farmer expressed his objections to the proposed industrial development at land to the north of Mercedes Avenue, Brixworth, as outlined in the recent 'pre application' consultation exercise. The Brixworth Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, as an authorised working group of the Parish Council, had submitted comments

confirming that this site was contrary to both the Neighbourhood Plan and Development Plan. When this Planning Application is submitted the Parish Council will take these comments into account when formulating its response to the statutory consultation.

A local resident raised several concerns regarding the way it had conducted its business throughout a recent Employment Tribunal. The Parish Council was currently reviewing its policies and procedures to ensure that the cause and outcomes of the Employment Tribunal would not reoccur. The Chairman invited the resident to submit any complaints using the formal procedures. He asked the resident to put the complaints of maladministration in writing whilst detailing the relevant minutes and correspondence so that the matter can be investigated fully. Upon receipt of the written complaint and accompanying information the formal complaint would be fully investigated and the findings reported back to the Parish Council meeting.

17/4015 Community Safety

The Parish Council noted the information contained within the community safety web sites.

17/4016 Planning

The list of decisions for the Brixworth planning applications for December 2017 was received by the Council.

17/4017 Draft Settlements and Countryside Local Plan

The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Group provided advice to the Parish Council in its role as an authorised Working Group. (Minute 16/3443 refers)

It was considered that the emerging Local Plan was confusing in respect of development in rural areas. The Parish Council objected to Policy RA1 as proposed and suggested that alterations were made to link it to Policy R1 of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy which remained valid.

The Parish Council considered that the landscape evidence was not balanced and did not reflect the Neighbourhood Plan and the views on the value of the surrounding landscape, currently part of the Special Landscape Area (SLA). It was considered that the Local Plan has failed to recognise the landscape character and quality around Brixworth.

The independent report commissioned by the Council had been received and the findings presented to the Council. The Huskisson Brown report provided a critique and review of the landscape evidence base. Essentially, this report concluded that the study which forms the evidence base fell short of what is required and was therefore considered unsound. The Parish Council therefore objected to the changes proposed to the SLA boundary around Brixworth.

The Parish Council recorded its thanks to the work of the Group and in particular acknowledged the support of Mr Ozier which had been appreciated.

It was agreed that Parish Council representations be lodged on the draft Local Plan based upon the information provided by the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and the Huskisson Brown report. This was proposed by Councillor Coles and seconded by Councillor James. Unanimous.

17/4018 Pre Applications

A recent trend had seen a growth in local 'pre application' advice and on some occasions a request for an informal meeting. The Parish Council, similar to the majority of other Parish Councils, had no policy with dealing with such requests and the recent approach had seen pre applications being referred to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for comment.

The Parish Council agreed that all future pre applications now be referred to its Planning Committee and Daventry District Council be notified of this approach. The impact of this would be reviewed in six months. This was proposed by Councillor Coles and seconded by Councillor Elaine Coe.

17/4019 Appointment to the Media and Communications Committee

In the absence of any nominations for the Committee vacancy this matter was deferred to a future meeting.

17/4020 Media and Communications Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Media and Communications Committee of 15th November 2017 were received by the Council.

17/4021 Budget & Precept for 2018/2019

The Budget Report from the Finance Working Party was received by the Council. This had already been discussed in detail at the Parish Council meeting of 18th January 2018.

The Parish Council agreed the 18/19 budget of £170,745 and the precept of £159,075. This was agreed by the Parish Council. This was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Saxton.

17/4022 Financial Transactions including Payments for Approval – January 2017

The list of financial transactions and payments for January 2018 was approved by the Parish Council. This was proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Saxton. Unanimous.

		Net Amount	VAT	Total
		£	£	£
Direct Debit Payments				
EON	Elec monthly - Ashway Changing Rooms (2nd)	43.81	2.19	46.00
Talk Talk	Broadband and Telephone monthly (10th)	38.95	7.79	46.74
EE & T Mobile	Parish Clerks telephone monthly (15th)	15.79	3.16	18.95
Retrospective Payments				
		0.00	0.00	0.00
BACS Payments				
Staff	Net Salaries and Wages (4 week month)	3,324.15	0.00	3,324.15
HMRC	PAYE	954.75	0.00	954.75
LGSS	Pension Scheme	570.59	0.00	570.59
Peter Rowbotham	Employment related Expenses	144.63	0.00	144.63
Fenland Leisure	Playground seat, litterbin insert, graffiti spray	123.50	24.70	148.20
R&G	Verti Drain pitches	1,053.48	210.69	1,264.17
Society of Local Clerks	Annual Subscription	200.00	0.00	200.00
Mower Shop	Oil and Blade	80.07	16.01	96.08
Euromec	Oil and Air Filters	49.02	9.80	58.82
EON	Street Lighting	108.86	5.44	114.30
EON	Street Light Repair at Church Car Park	23.47	4.69	28.16
ESPO	Stationery	36.66	7.33	43.99
NCALC	Emergency Planning Training	36.00	0.00	36.00
EON	Quarterly Maintenance of Street Lights	31.87	6.37	38.24
Cheque Payments				
Nil		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure this month		6,835.60	298.17	7,133.77

Receipts				
Interest	Capital Account	3.48	0.00	3.48
Sports Fee	Cricket Club - St David's	£443.34	0.00	443.34
Sports Fee	Juniors Football Club - St David's & Ashway	701.43	0.00	701.43
Sports Fee	Seniors Football Club - St David's	443.34	0.00	443.34
Total Income this month		1,591.59	0.00	1,591.59
Bank Transfer				
Nil		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total transferred this month		0.00	0.00	0.00

17/4023 Rolling Budget for January 2018

The Rolling Budget for January 2018 (Period 10) was received by the Parish Council.

17/4024 Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2017

The Bank Reconciliation report at 31st December 2017 was received by the Parish Council. The actual cash in the bank stood at £148,334.88

17/4025 Reserves as at 31st December 2017

The Statement of Reserves was received by the Parish Council. There was £87,594.87 in earmarked and restricted funds. The balance in General Reserves was £60,773.01

17/4026 Speed Activated Sign

A report was received on the provision of a Speed Activation Sign. This had been included in the 17/18 budget as an aspiration.

The Parish Council agreed to the procurement and licensing of the Speed Activated Sign. The precise model of sign would be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 22nd February 2018. This was proposed by Councillor Coles and seconded by Councillor Elaine Coe. Unanimous.

17/4027 Financial Contribution - Bus Service 60

A request had been received from Spratton Parish Council asking the Parish Council to consider a financial contribution towards subsidising Bus Service 60. As this service offered little benefit to Brixworth residents it was considered inappropriate to offer funding. The Parish Clerk would respond to the request.

17/4028 Training and Development Policy

The Training and Development policy was agreed by the Parish Council. This was proposed by Councillor Stuart Coe and seconded by Councillor James. Unanimous.

17/4029 Special Events Application - Easter Egg Hunt, St David's Recreation Ground

This event application for 30th March 2018 was agreed subject to the event being coordinated with the existing users of the ground and confirmation of accessible Clubhouse toilets. This was proposed by Councillor Coles and seconded by Councillor Saxton. Unanimous.

17/4030 Parish Clerks Report

The Parish Clerks report for January 2018 was received by the Council.

17/4031 Northamptonshire County Council 2018/2019 Draft Budget - Consultation

The Parish Council considered the Northamptonshire County Councils draft budget proposals for 2018/2019. It expressed disappointment at the level of required service cuts but did not intend to respond at this stage.

17/4032 Proposed Extension of the 30 mph limit, Northampton Road, Brixworth - Consultation.

It was agreed to support the 30mph extension on Northampton Road, Brixworth as shown in the submitted NCC Plan. This was proposed by Councillor Peacock and seconded by Councillor James. Unanimous.

17/4033 Employment Tribunal - Progress Report on Review

Councillor Stuart Coe outlined the work he had carried out to date. He needs to share the content with Councillor Saxton before refining the document prior to full circulation. This report will be presented to the next Council meeting on 22nd February 2018.

17/4034 Correspondence

The list of correspondence for January 2018 was noted by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk had received a letter from BDO, the external auditor, asking several detailed questions on the accounts for 2016/2017. This was following contact from a local elector. As with all correspondence, this letter was available for Councillors to view.

17/4035 Dates of Future Meetings

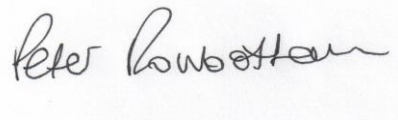
- Planning Committee- Monday 29th January 2018
- Planning Committee- Monday 19th February 2018
- Media & Communications Committee – Wednesday 21st February 2018
- Full Council – Thursday 22nd February 2018

17/4036 Urgent Matters for Report Only

No urgent matters had been raised.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed as a true and accurate record



Councillor Alexander Coles
Chairman
Brixworth Parish Council
22nd February 2018

Peter Rowbotham
Parish Clerk
Brixworth Parish Council
10th February 2018
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