

**Minutes of the Annual Brixworth Parish Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Community Hall, Spratton Road, Brixworth**

Present: Councillor Coles – Chairman of Parish Council  
Councillor James  
Councillor Brown  
Councillor Saxton  
Councillor Parker  
Councillor Collyer  
Councillor Moxon  
Mr Mike Nice – Centre Manager  
Mr Peter Rowbotham – Parish Clerk  
PCSO Matt Taylor (part of meeting only)  
7 members of the public

**1. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded attendees of the location of the fire exits in case of building evacuation.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Elaine Coe, Councillor Stuart Coe, Councillor Pittam, Councillor Bird, Ms Widdup (Yoga Club) and Mr Chattaway (Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group)

**3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**4. Announcements – Chairman**

There were no announcements.

**5. Introductions**

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors to the meeting.

**6. The Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan update**

Mr Parsons outlined the history of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The Steering Group had been set up 5 years ago with the support of both the Brixworth Parish Council and the Daventry District Council.

A new planning document had now been adopted following extensive consultation within the Parish. 96% of the referendum participants had voted to accept the document. The Plan identifies the land to be protected from development whilst allowing Brixworth to grow in a sustainable fashion for the plan period ending in 2029.

Mr Parsons told the meeting that the Steering Group would remain in place and continue to monitor and manage any challenges that may arise. He welcomed the investment that any new development would bring to the community – including investment in the school, car parking, doctor's surgery, sports facilities and open spaces.

The Chairman thanked Mr Parsons for the update.

#### **7. Proposed Brixworth Sports Council**

Councillor Neal Brown outlined the case for having a Sports Council in the Parish. The Sports Council would look at developing sport with the Brixworth area and also potentially manage the sports pitches and accompanying facilities.

The section 106 money (Developer contributions) had been identified for Sport & Open Spaces with approximately £242,000 being available. There was no reason why this figure could not be significantly enhanced through maximising opportunities through grants from external community and sports bodies.

The details of the operation of a Sports Council had not yet been identified – but it was thought that the Group could operate in a similar fashion to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The meeting welcomed the initiative.

#### **8. Brixworth Cricket Club Ltd**

Mr Parsons outlined the activities at the Brixworth Cricket Club. The Club operated both Junior and Senior Sections and it also shares facilities with an independent Tennis Club. On a Friday evening 120 children can be seen enjoying the game of cricket. The Club is focusing its efforts on the transition from youth to men's cricket.

The Clubs main pitch is at the Dallas Burston Ground on Northampton Road and the club also enjoys continued use of the St David's Recreation Ground. The Club works hard to raise funds and it needs £30,000 each summer to operate. Any money in excess of the running costs is invested back into the game of cricket.

Mr Parsons encouraged people to attend the annual beer festival at the Grounds which was a good fund raiser for the Club. The Chairman thanked Mr Parsons for the report.

#### **9. Brixworth Tennis Club**

Mr Saxton provided an update on the Tennis Club. He explained that the ground sharing arrangements and provided details of the available membership categories. The Club had three available courts with a membership of 27 adults, 9 families and 23 juniors. Members can look on line to book a tennis court at any time.

The Club was open to players of all standards and it was keen to be seen as an inclusive club.

The Chairman thanked Mr Saxton for the report.

#### **10. Brixworth Juniors Football Club**

Mr Kelly provided an outline on the growth and popularity of the Brixworth Juniors Football Club. The club would be celebrating 25 years the following season. It currently had 230 players (Girls and Boys) supported by 40 volunteers and 27 qualified coaches. The Football Club finances the cost of the coaching badges.

The Club are playing football both at The Ashway and St David's Recreation Grounds. There has been increased usage at The Ashway but he was pleased to note that the condition of the pitches had improved following a grounds maintenance programme which had included reseeding. Mr Kelly recorded his thanks to the Parish Council for its continued support.

## **11 Brixworth Village Hall Presentation**

Mr Coles provided an overview of the history of the Brixworth Village Hall which had been on site since 1928. In the 1960's car parking became a problem which was later resolved when the Parish Council purchased the land for this parking use in the 70's.

The Village Hall was extended in 1999 assisted with funds from both the Parish Council and the Daventry District Council. The Village Hall has continued to improve and also continues to attract a wide range of hirers. It has plans for future improvements including improving the toilets and installing LED lighting.

The Hall is run by a small committee (which includes a Parish Council member) supported by an Administrator.

The Chairman thanked Mr Coles for the Village Hall report.

## **12. Brixworth History Society**

Mrs Parr outlined the activities of the local History Society. The History Society meets in the village hall on the third Thursday of the month for presentations and talks given by visiting speakers. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Mrs Parr had brought along some artefacts for the meeting to view. The Society continued to archive and record local history. It now has a huge archive of photographs which illustrates the changes within Brixworth over the years, although some areas have remained the same.

The Society holds trips including Portsmouth and a narrow boat trip from Market Harborough to Foxton Locks. The Heritage Centre is open during the summer months (every Saturday and Sunday) and entry is free.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Parr for the informative update.

## **13. Brixworth Finds**

Mr Nice explained about the 'Brixworth Finds' project which complements the work of the History Society.

The Brixworth Finds are artefacts from an archaeological dig at the Saxon Fields area of the Parish. Rather than the items being put into store within Northampton the Heritage Group are working towards keeping the items on display within Brixworth. It has therefore been agreed that the items can be loaned to the Heritage Group.

## **14. Other Issues Raised**

Mr Parsons expressed concern with regard to the extensive tree planting taking place within the Special Landscape Area to the south of Brixworth. (West side of Northampton Road) The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be discussing this matter with the agents. Mr Parsons confirmed that this land was not designated for housing.

It was noted that some permissive paths may be closed. This is access across private land if the landowner has agreed to let people use it perhaps as a walkway. There was uncertainty what could be done to prevent this situation occurring.

The proposed extension to the Library car park was still outstanding. The meeting was disappointed that the developer had not delivered on this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.