

BRIXWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 23 August 2011 at 7.15p.m. in the Community Centre, Spratton Road, Brixworth

Present: Councillors: , C Bament, Mrs J Fitzgerald, M Lacey (Chairman), Mrs E Nunn, D Parnaby, K Parker, S Pointer, R Vizor, M Ward and Mrs E Wiig

In Attendance: Mrs J Macken – Parish Clerk
Mr R Chattaway - BRANE
Mr M Nice - Centre Manager
PCSO J Hillery- Northants Police
Approximately 28 members of public

11/1328 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Monk and Cllr I Barratt

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Millar and the agent for application DA/2011/0573.

11/1329 Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items

Cllr E Wiig declared a personal interest – Member of another Local Authority and Member of the District Council Planning Committee

11/1330 Signing of the Minutes of the Last Meeting 26 July 2011

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2011 was signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of this meeting.

11/1331 Public Open Forum

Local residents, opposing the outline planning application DA/2011/0573 for a residential development on land off Eaglehurst, raised some of the following concerns: -

- The affect on the wildlife
- The affect on the flora and fauna
- Change the cul de sac to a through road
- Increase in traffic through the estate
- Safety of children at the entrance to the Pocket Park
- No guarantee only 14 houses will be built
- The affect on the Doctors Surgery and Schools capacity
- Congestion at the shops
- Noise and emissions from Industrial Estate
- Pressure on local services
- Drainage in the car park
- The affect on the village's infrastructure taking into account the new and proposed developments

The Clerk reported that following the last planning meeting; she had spoken to Mr Boucher, Head Teacher, Brixworth Primary School who stated that the school is neutral with regards to new development in the village. The schools capacity is 490 and in September the school will have 440 pupils. There is currently a decreasing trend of pupils, considering there were 495 pupils in 2004, due to the new residential developments at that time.

Cllr Bament reported that the Council had received a letter from the agent and read out the comments, which answered the points, which had been raised at the last planning meeting. These were as follows: -

- The road had been altered to realign the end of Eaglehurst to avoid the wall and fence, adjacent to 17 Eaglehurst. (Copy of letter sent to resident)
- It was unknown why the previous permission granted to Beazer Homes had not been implemented.
- The Ecologist advises that the removal of the trees and shrubs at the site could affect the birds by removing nesting sites and feeding habits although there is an extensive area of mature shrub and trees to the north east of the pocket park.
- As a matter of principal the County Council does not allow residential developments and industrial developments to be serviced from the same road.
- All access by construction traffic will take place from Quarry Road. The S106 agreement has been amended to include this requirement.
- Prior to the submission the agent had contacted the County Council and it was ascertained that Moulton Secondary school is at capacity, but Brixworth Primary school is not, therefore the S106 agreement includes a contribution to Moulton school for the additional places.
- There are two surface water sewers and two foul sewers, which cross the land serving Ironstone Way/Quarry Road development and Tantree Way development. These sewers will be formally diverted or protected in accordance with Anglian Water requirement.
- Initial geotechnical work has not revealed any insurmountable ground conditions which would prevent development.
- Any positive outfall to the existing public surface water sewers will be discharged at rates agreed with Anglian Water.

It was noted that the residents at 17 Eaglehurst had not received their letter with regards to the amendments to the road.

11/1332 Police Representative Report

PCSO J Hillery reported the following crimes: -

- 10.8.11 Burglary non dwelling
- 12.8.11 Theft Breach Close – Removal of dog
- 16.8.11 CD taken from vehicle
- 20.8.11 Theft Northampton Road Garage- Removal of wheels. Two arrests made.

11/1333 County Councillors Report

Apologies had been received from Cllr Millar. It was noted that the installation of the new signage for the A508 crossing is to commence in September 2011.

Planning

11/1334 Minutes of Meetings 8 August 2011

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 8 August 2011 having been previously distributed was accepted.

11/1335 Approvals and Refusals August 2011

The following approvals and refusals were noted.

Approvals

DA/2011/0432 Mr Hampton, 36 Church Street, Brixworth

Work to trees with TPO

27.6.11 PC no objection 15.7.11 DDC Approved

DA/2011/0465 NCC, The Lakes, Northampton. Brixworth Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth

Non illuminated front sign to replace existing 3 window vinyls of individual letters

28.6.11 PC no objection 3.8.11 DDC Approved

DA/2011/0476 Mr R Bell, 17 St David's Close, Brixworth

Enlargement of existing single garage with addition of pitch roof. Erection of gates piers and pedestrian gate.

18.7.11 PC No objection 3.8.11 DDC Approved

Refused

None

Cllr E Wiig moved to sit with the members of the public to only observe, whilst the next two planning applications were considered by the Parish Council.

11/1336 DA/2011/0573 Development Securities, London - Outline application for residential development, estate road and associated works (with access from Eaglehurst) Land North of Eaglehurst, Brixworth, Northants

Following a discussion and a vote it was resolved that the Parish Council has no objection to this application, subject to the observations and concerns raised by residents at the meeting, which were as follows: -

- Increase in traffic from the Holcot Road through the estate (Tantree Way and Eaglehurst) to the development.
- Change in character and dynamics of Eaglehurst from a cul de sac to a through road.
- The close proximity of the new development to the industrial estate and the affect the noise and emissions from the neighbouring industrial units may have on the occupants of the new development.
- Safety of children accessing the pocket park, with the development of a road running past the entrance and the affect it may have on the pocket park itself.
- The impact of a new development, taking into account the other proposals for developments in the village and the pressure it will have on public services (including the Primary and secondary schools and Doctors surgery)
- Concerns are raised with regards to the change of use of this site setting a precedent for further developments.
- The impact on the wildlife in the area, in particular with the removal of trees.
- The drainage of the surface water from the development.

11/1337 DA/2011/0622 30 Burrows Vale, Brixworth

Conversion of garage to habitable room

The Parish Council has no objection, however it is concerned with regards to the number of cars parked outside the house.

Cllr E Wiig rejoined the Council

11/1338 Request for Meeting by Barratt Homes

The Chairman reported that Barratt Homes had contacted County Cllr Millar, District Cllr F Wiig and himself to arrange an initial meeting, with regards to the land on the East side of the Northampton Road. It was agreed that Barratt Homes could attend a Council or Committee meeting to discuss their proposals.

Finance

11/1339 Income Received for July 2011

Received from	Details	£
HM Revenue & Customs	Reclaim VAT 1.4.11 - 30.06.11	1,296.02

11/1340 Bank Reconciliation as at 31 July 2011

The bank reconciliation as at the 31 July 2011 was reported and accepted as follows:

Current Account	£11,320.18
Reserve Account	£137,552.32
Less Cheques outstanding	£5,117.57
Balance Carried forward as at 1.08.11	£143,604.93

11/1341 Income and Expenditure & Reserves Report for July 2011

The Clerk reported that unfortunately, the Income and Expenditure reports were still not available. An up to date print out of all the income and expenditure had been previously circulated, together with the reserves report for July 2011.

11/1342 Bills for Payment for July 2011

A schedule of payments, to be made in July 2011 was available to each member at the meeting.

It was resolved for the following accounts to be passed for payment; therefore the Chairman signed the schedule of payments.

<u>Chq. No.</u>	<u>Min. Ref.</u>	<u>Payment To</u>	<u>Reason for Payment</u>	<u>£</u>
4629		Groundsman	Groundman's Salary August 2011	1,097.98
4630		Clerk	Clerk's Salary August 2011	1,083.32
4631		Part Time Groundsman	P/T Groundsmans wages August 2011	214.40
4632		Litter Picker	Litter Picker wages August 2011	189.80
4633		Community Centre Cleaner	Cleaner Comm. Centre wages August 2011	261.32
4634		HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE Tax & NI August 2011	718.31
4635		NCC	Pension Contribution August 2011	371.90
4636		Mrs J Macken	Postage	11.40
4637		Mrs E Nunn	Parish Councillor Expenses	24.97
4638 11/1308		Mr M Harris	Decoration of Community Centre (Phase 1)	1,000.00
4639		BT Payment Services	Clerk Telephone & Broadband Aug - Oct 11	142.68
4640		Brixworth Parish Council	VAT Refund - Community Centre A/C	41.57
4641		BDO LLP	External Audit Fees 31 Mar 2011	660.00
4642		Post Office Ltd	Annual Van Road Tax	210.00
4643		Trade Uk	Materials for Groundsmen	145.19
4644		Maintenance Services	Additional socket for shed	81.95
4645 11/1305		Redstone Computers	Clerk software update	66.00

4646	County Pest Control	Treatment to wasps nest in play area	42.00
4647	Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement swing seats	224.71
4648	AH Blason & Son	Fuel	117.98
4649	Lovell Hardware	Materials for Groundsmen	38.65
4650	Brixworth Landscaping	Trim Spratton Rd hedge & Library border	475.00
			<u>7,219.13</u>

11/1343 External Auditor Report for Year Ending March 2011

The Clerk reported that she had received the notification of the conclusion of the Audit for the year ending 31 March 2010, from BDO Stoy Hayward the External Auditors. There were no matters arising from the Annual Return.

The auditor had raised an issue for readers of the report, with regards to the changes in the Audit Regulations, which has resulted in a change of the asset figure. Assets are now recorded at the cost value, as opposed to the sum insured or current value.

The Council approved and accepted the Annual Return. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit is to be displayed for fourteen days on the notice board.

11/1344 Update on Damage to Ashway Playing Field Gate

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Manager of the Football team, who had agreed to email the Clerks letters to the young person. At the time the family were away on holiday. The Clerk to contact the manager again.

11/1345 Information on the Role of Parish Councillor

It was agreed to produce an information sheet on the role and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor, which would be useful for anyone interested in the role.

11/1346 Funding for Special Projects

The Parish Council currently has £6,000 for special projects. Unfortunately the Parish Questionnaire had not resulted in providing a guide towards projects.

It was resolved that the regeneration of the play area at St David's Recreation Ground would be a special project.

11/1347 Charles Arnold Baker – Local Council Administration

It was suggested that the Council should consider purchasing the Local Council Administration book for Parish Councillors. It was agreed for it to be considered at the next meeting.

Recreation and Amenities Development

11/1348 Report on Site Meeting 27 July 2011 - Tree Planting by the Scout Group

On the 27 July 2011 Cllr Pointer, Cllr Fitzgerald, the Clerk, the Groundsman and Mr A Brooks from the Scout group visited various locations in Brixworth to look at the possibility of planting a number of trees. Several places were identified for a few trees, but the best location for fifteen trees was on Spratton Road Recreation Ground. Mr Brooks had provided the Parish Council with a plan of the proposed planting. The trees would not overhang resident's gardens in years to come, as they would be planted 4 metres away from their fences. It was agreed in principle to allow the Scout Group to plant the fifteen trees, as long as they consult the neighbours surrounding the ground beforehand, to ensure there are no objections.

11/1349 St David's Regeneration Working Group

It was resolved to set up a working group for the St David's Recreation Ground regeneration. The group would include Parish Councillors, local residents and members of the sports clubs. The group would report to the Full Council. The group would need to look for funding towards the project.

Highways and Environment

11/1350 To Accept Minutes of Meetings 2 August 2011

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on the 2 August 2011 having been previously distributed was accepted.

The concerns with regards to vehicles speeding in Silver Street had been discussed at length at the committee meeting. MGWSP had agreed to a site meeting with members of the Parish Council and residents.

It was noted that the Bus Service number 62 has been recently changed and will now only run on a Wednesday.

11/1351 Report on Brixworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Two meetings have been held; the next one is scheduled for the 24 August 2011. The Chairman read out the names of the current eleven members. The group is currently meeting every two weeks and looking at the Village Design Statement as a foundation for the Neighbourhood Plan.

11/1352 Parish Councillor Surgeries Update

Concerns were raised that member of the public are still not aware of the surgeries. Dates to be advertised in the Newsletter again and mentioned in the Chronicle and Echo. The surgery on the 3 September 2011, will be held jointly with the Local Police. A new large sign has been made to advertise the surgery on the day.

11/1353 Results of the Parish Questionnaire

The Parish Questionnaire Conclusion had been previously circulated to members. The conclusion was that the village questionnaire had a total of 123 responses, 30 (24%) of which were submitted through the Parish Council web questionnaire. Although this was a disappointing response, only slightly higher than the last questionnaire response rate, it helps inform the Parish Council of the views of those in the village. Due to the scale of the response and that the sample was self-selecting the results, whilst potentially useful, have a low statistical validity.

However, some initial observations were:

1. Not representative of the population.
2. There was a surprising correspondence between respondents satisfaction and importance, i.e things that were important to a respondent they tended to also be satisfied with.
3. The satisfaction with those things that the PC controls is higher than those things that it can only influence. This may be due to the PC's activities being perceived as more effective than those of other authorities; it may be due to the questions themselves, or a combination of both.

4. A surprising number of the respondents that were satisfied with the services provided by the PC also wanted the precept to increase!
5. There was a large change in perception about satisfaction with crime and anti-social behaviour from when the PC undertook the last survey in 2006 and this last survey. Whilst we cannot prove the cause, the PC did get the police to be based in the village by agreeing to fund their rental costs.
6. Although the survey asked slightly different questions, i.e. separating crime from ASB, and it used a 4 point rather than a 3 point metric, crime and ASB remains a very important issue but satisfaction appears to have significantly improved – (is this due to the action that the PC took following the results of the last survey in funding the police to be located in the village?).
7. The main areas identified for improvement were: -
 - Dog Fouling
 - Speeding
 - Parking on grass verges
8. It was noticed that grass cutting was high on importance and satisfaction. Therefore it confirmed the Council's decision to pay for additional cuts and for the amount spent on the Groundsman's time and machinery in cutting the grass.
9. The Clerk to write to the respondents interested in finding out more about being a Parish Councillor, Special Constable and Neighbourhood Watch.
10. Council to consider alternative methods for consultations to improve response.

Correspondence for discussion

11/1354 DDC – Consultation of Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

This consultation was noted.

11/1355 NCC – Property Management Instruction

The County Council has appointed property consultants Capita Symonds to manage the processing of all rent, service charge and insurance monies due under the lease between the County Council and Parish Council, with regards to the Community Centre.

11/1356 LGSS – Pension Service for Northamptonshire County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council

The changes to the Pension service was noted.

11/1357 East Midlands Councils – Associate Membership

East Midlands Council EMC is the representative forum for county, unitary and district councils in the East Midlands. The membership fee is £360 per year. This was noted.

11/1358 Royal Horticultural Society – In Bloom Campaign

This was referred to the Highways and Environment committee.

11/1359 Correspondence for information only

The Chairman reported that the correspondence file was available for circulation.

11/1360 Date of Next Meetings

The next Full Council Meeting is to be held on 27 September 2011 in the Community Hall, Library/Community Centre.

Urgent Matters For Report Only

11/1361 Special Dispensation – Community Centre

The Clerk reported that the Council’s special dispensation, from the District Council is to expire. This dispensation enables members to consider items regarding the Community Centre, which the Council is the Sole Trustee. It was agreed to request for further dispensation for all the members.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Chairman

Signed as a true record of the above meeting.

Dated 27 September 2011