

Brixworth Parish Council

Minutes of Brixworth Parish Council Planning Committee's meeting held at the Library/Community Centre on Monday, 18th April 2011

Present: Councillors R Low, I Barratt, C Bament, M Lacey, S Pointer J Fitzgerald

Cllr E Wiig as observer

Cllrs N Bunting and C Millar in attendance

In attendance: Approx 140 members of the public

11/41p Apologies Cllrs Mrs E Nunn, D Parnaby. M Ward

11/42p Cllr Barratt announced the resignation of Cllr Chattaway due to an ongoing conflict of interest in possible upcoming planning applications.

11/43p Cllr Barratt had been passed the copies of tonight's Planning Applications and Councillors present agreed that in these circumstances he should Chair tonight's meeting.

11/44p To Approve the Minutes of last meetings held on 29 March 2011
The Minutes were approved

11/45p Matter Arising From Minutes
None

11/46p To Report on the Potential Development outside the Village Confines (Northampton Road)

The Chairman outlined the general role of the Parish Council as consultees in Planning matters for the benefit of the large numbers of members of the public attending. He explained Councillors had to remain open-minded and not hold pre-determined views, but they would be listening carefully to what the public had to say. Officially, the Parish Council has heard nothing about any planning application for land to the South of the village, and it is likely that potential developers may approach the parish Council before an official application to discuss matters. This has happened in the past and is quite common.

The Chairman invited contributions from members of the public to gauge feeling at present. Mr Chattaway described the situation so far as he sees it, with the land owners making initial feasibility studies on the land. He said that the 90 dwellings built over the last 5/6 years were sufficient for all growth in Brixworth during this period and for some way into the future.

Cllr Chris Millar outlined the existing status of the land and stated the benefits of natural growth and said that the present village infrastructure couldn't cope with the extra houses which may be proposed.

Other members of the public made points about the lack of infrastructure in the village for more growth, and the proposed development would not be sustainable. Concern was expressed about the ability of the school, surgery, shops and roads to cope with increased numbers. The intention to possibly build on good agricultural land in was also questioned..

The Council was asked if their website could accommodate a comments section where

members of the public could have a discussion forum. This is not possible with the site we have.

To be even-handed, the Chairman invited anyone present who supported expansion of the type suggested to contribute and they would be accorded a courteous hearing. Noone wished to speak.

On a show of hands, the members of the public present overwhelmingly were against expansion of the village outside its confines – none were in support.

The Chairman thanked all who attended and apologised for the small area available this evening for the meeting.

11/47p DA/2011/0203 Mr D Burston, Campsite, Land at Hill Farm, Northampton Road, Brixworth

Construction of shower/wc/laundry building, repositioning of approved camp site office, siting of timber bases for yurt tents, hardstanding for touring caravans (not static), repositioning of aquatron bioplane, formation of gravel vehicular accessways (revised scheme).

The Parish Council makes no observations on this application

**11/48p DA/2011/0221 Mr & Mrs Taylor, 8 Pytchley Close, Brixworth
Construction of first floor extension over existing garage and single storey rear extension**

The Parish Council has no objection to this application

11/49p DA/2011/0237 Mr R Johnson, 36 The Knoll, Brixworth

Two bed bungalow

Some members of this committee had visited the site and viewed it from the road. It was noted work has already started DA/2011/0237 Mr Johnson, 36 The Knoll, Brixworth

The Parish Council has no objection to this application

**11/50p DA/2011/0242 NCC, Brixworth Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth
Two sets of non-illuminated individual letters and opening hours window vinyl**

The Parish Council considers the opening times sign proposed for the glass entrance surround to be an improvement on that which was originally proposed and makes no further comment

The Parish Council objects to the non-illuminated individual letters. We are unhappy with the proposed visually intrusive and brash colours on a building in a Conservation area. We may consider more favourably signage behind the glass at a lower level.

11/51p DA/2011/0153 Church handrail

It was noted the DDC recommendation to refuse this. As we had already commented about the proposed materials, it was decided to make no further comment

11/52p To Discuss the Scope of a Parish Plan /Neighbourhood Plan

The meeting felt this would be desirable and would need a Steering Group including non-Parish Council members. Recommend to full council that we move towards this. Cllr Lacey pointed out the differences between a neighbourhood plan and a parish plan and suggested we contact Chris Bowden from the Journal of Local Planning for guidance in this. Full Council to discuss.

11/53p Urgent Matters For Report Only

None

11/54p Date of next meeting

9th May 2011 at 7.30pm in the Library/Community Centre

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