

Brampton Ash Parish Council
Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held 10 March 2015, 7.30pm
At St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash

Present

Cllr Steve Power (Chair) Cllr Nick Bevan Cllr Teresa Hilliard Cllr Heather Shuttleworth
 Liz Evans (Clerk)

Also Present

C.Cllr Allan Matthews, Mrs J Power, Mr J Lillie (left the meeting 8.55pm)

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced a change to the running order of the agenda: item 9 would be dealt with after item 5.

2. Declarations of Interest: *To Receive Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors On Matters to Be Considered at the Meeting*

Cllr Hilliard declared a personal, but not a pecuniary, interest in item 9.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Minutes of the Meeting Held 10 December 2014

The minutes of the above meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising From the Above

5.1

Item 4.1 Election Leaflets

These had now been received and would be displayed on the notice board.

5.2

Item 4.2 KET/2014/0654&0655

Planning approval had been granted, subject to certain screening conditions.

5.3

Item 4.3 Temporary Traffic Calming Equipment

Cllr Matthews reported that Northants County Council (NCC) had now revised its advice regarding Section 50 licencing and currently it appeared likely that each parish would be required to obtain one for the siting of the equipment. If this is indeed the case, he would fund the licences from the next tranche of the Councillors' Empowerment Fund, due in April. He would advise parish clerks of the availability of the equipment; an NCC Highways officer would inspect the proposed site to offer advice on its suitability. The equipment would be rotated between parishes on a two-to-three weekly basis. Its value is in the region of £3k; the clerk would check the insurance cover regarding theft.

5.4

Item 4.4 Notice Board

NB would make a notice board and the parish council would meet the cost of any materials that needed to be purchased. NB would liaise with the owner of the wall on which the notice board was sited. B.Cllr David Howes had been informed of this plan as he had previously offered to meet the cost of the notice board from the Councillors' Ward Initiative Fund.

Action

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5.5a

Item 6.1 Article 4 Directions

No further information was forthcoming from Kettering Borough Council (KBC). The clerk would continue to monitor the situation.

5.5b

Item 6.2 KBC Protocol on Recording Meetings

This had been adopted by KBC in December 2014. The clerk would edit it as appropriate for Brampton Ash parish council and circulate it to councillors for their comments.

5.6

Item 7.3 Precept

KBC had been advised accordingly. Payment would become due in April.

5.7

Item 9.1 Footpath

NCC Highways had been advised accordingly and reasons for their decision were stated.

5.8a

Item 10.1 Street Lighting

The work had now been completed.

5.8b

Item 10.2 Potholes

NB reported that they did not, as yet, meet the NCC criteria for repair.

5.9

Item 11.1 Notice Board (A6 Side of the Village)

This matter would be held in abeyance for the foreseeable future.

Item 12: Meeting Date

The meeting date had subsequently been rearranged to Tuesday 10 March.

It was agreed that item 9 would be dealt with at this point:

9 Footpath GB8

The Chair gave some background to this item. The parish church had traditionally been accessed by villagers via a footpath from Hermitage Road. The footpath ran along the side of land owned by a local villager: it was clearly shown as a footpath on an Ordnance map of circa 1900 which the landowner had circulated to some villagers in 2011 and which had then been passed on to the parish council. The landowner had contacted the Chair by email on several occasions to, variously:

- make accusations of trespass
- claim that the footpath is not a right of way
- forbid the use of the footpath to all villagers

This final action had led to a group of villagers taking up the case with NCC with the aim of having the footpath designated as a right of way. Councillor Terry Hilliard (TH) subsequently became involved with this group, in a declared private capacity, and she had stated her personal interest in the matter at all relevant parish council meetings. It should be noted that she has no pecuniary interest, nor does the footpath impact on her property: her declared interest is to protect and preserve a village amenity.

The parish council became involved in the case after receiving a letter from NCC asking for their comments. Please see minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2014, item 9 for details.

TH had recently received notification from NCC that the matter would be put on hold due to a moratorium having been imposed on staff replacement. She was advised that it was one of

two cases which would be passed to the next available officer, probably within three to six months, but the process could take another twelve months after that. She felt that this was unacceptable given that all of the requested proofs of evidence had been submitted, sufficient for a decision to be made. TH now requested the parish council's help with the application. TH took no further part in the discussion.

C.Cllr Matthews explained that NCC services are being affected by changes in its administrative practices. He had been in contact with Paul Hewitt, network manager of the department which funds the Definitive Map Modification section of the NCC and he had been advised that the application is on the list for attention but it could take another year. C.Cllr Matthews supported the parish council's actions and he would forward Paul Hewitt's email to the clerk. TH requested a letter of support from the parish council, together with a copy of the email previously sent by them to NCC in which they detailed their reasons for supporting the application. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council would accede to this request and would also write again to NCC reiterating their supportive position and expressing their disappointment at the delay.

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6. Financial Matters

6.1 Current financial position

The financial statement (attached) was agreed and signed by the Chair. The current balance stood at £1,262.56 with projected expenditure of £250.00. This would leave a projected end-of-year balance of £1,012.56 to carry forward into 2015-16.

6.2 Church Lighting Donation

A cheque to the value of £250.00 was signed off and NB would forward this to St Mary's Church treasurer with a request that it be banked promptly in order to clear it before the end of the audit year (March 31).

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7. Planning Matters:

To Consider Matters Relating to Planning Applications in and Adjacent to the Parish

No planning applications had been received since the previous meeting.

8. Highway Matters

.1 Replacement of Grit Bin: Update

The new grit bin, including a first fill of grit mix, had been delivered by NCC in early January 2015 and it had been stolen approximately ten days later. NB had reported the theft to the police and he had also contacted NCC Highways to see if the parish council could obtain one of the old yellow ones previously provided by them but he had been told that this was not possible: Cllr Matthews offered to pursue this with NCC. It was agreed that no insurance claim would be made as it might possibly increase the premium and, as there was no way of securely siting a replacement bin, the problem of theft could easily arise again.

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.2 Any Other Matters

A427 Road Safety

NB had received a letter from two local residents requesting that the parish council takes action to obtain safety measures to combat traffic dangers on the A427. Specifically, they asked for a 'no overtaking' zone to be put into place in view of the dangers they had experienced when entering and exiting their property. NB had taken up the matter with Ian Boyes, NCC Highways, who had advised him that the stretch of road in question does not meet the criteria for double white lines. Cllr Matthews suggested that cross-hatching markings on the road might be helpful. It was agreed that the parish council would write formally to NCC asking for safety measures to be put into place and citing the letter referred to above. Parish councillors were

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aware of two fatal accidents on this particular stretch of road in the recent past and of numerous 'near misses'. NB himself had been injured in one such incident in recent months. Cllr Matthews would forward to the clerk details of the relevant NCC officer with responsibility for road safety.

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10 Any Other Business

.1 Gigaclear Broadband Services

A member of Welland Valley Broadband Group had contacted the clerk to ask for the parish council's agreement to them placing notices in Brampton Ash on behalf of Gigaclear. She consulted with NB and it was suggested that they put a notice at the A427 side of Hermitage Road and another at the A6 end of Hermitage Road but it should be noted that the parish council has no jurisdiction in such matters. SP explained that Gigaclear was currently mounting a sales campaign in the Welland Valley villages and they needed to sign up 30% of the households to make it viable for them to install fibre broadband in the area. Cllr Matthews said that the NCC/British Telecoms (BT) initiative to provide broadband services across the county would be unlikely to reach rural areas until 2017 so Ashley villagers had recently entered into a private contact with BT at a cost of £14k but some now appeared to regret that they had not signed up with Gigaclear as theirs appeared to be, possibly, a better arrangement. He added that NCC has accommodated the Gigaclear bid as they acknowledge that BT is taking too long to fulfil their contract countywide. There was some concern that Gigaclear's agents appeared, anecdotally, to be using high-pressure sales tactics in order to sign up customers and it was also felt that the Gigaclear provision was something of an unknown quantity given that there was no feedback available from users. In view of this it was decided that, whilst the parish council would not oppose the Gigaclear bid, it would not actively support it either and it would take no further action on the matter at present.

.2 Forthcoming Elections for the Parish Council, 7 May 2015

The forthcoming election would be publicised on the village notice board. Polling day would be 7 May 2015.

NB

A supply of forms is available from the clerk for anyone wishing to stand for election to the parish council. Contact details are shown below. Closing date for nominations is Thursday 9 April 2015, 4pm.

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11 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting:** Thursday 16 April 2015, 7.30pm, venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed:

Liz Evans, Clerk to Brampton Ash Parish Council
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