

**Brampton Ash Parish Council**  
**Approved Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held 10 December 2014, 7.30pm**  
**At St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash**

**Present**

Cllr Steve Power (Chair)   Cllr Nick Bevan   Cllr Teresa Hilliard   Cllr Heather Shuttleworth (arrived 8pm)  
Liz Evans (Clerk)

**Also Present**

Borough Cllr David Howes; Mrs L Bevan (left 9pm); Mrs J Power (left 9pm)

**Chair's Announcement:**

The Chair announced that item 9 would be brought forward to enable members of the public to leave afterwards if they wished to.

Action by:

**1. 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 interest in item 9.1

**2. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**3. Minutes of the Special Meeting Held 11 November 2014**

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

**4. Matters Arising from the Above Meeting**

**4.1**

*Item 1.1 Disqualification of Councillor*

Ian White, Kettering Borough Council (KBC) Electoral Services Manager had been informed of the above and the Brampton Ash Parish Council website had been updated.

*Item 1.2 Parish Council Elections*

B Cllr David Howes would supply the parish council with information leaflets advising people how they could become a councillor.

**4.2**

*Item 4 KET/2014/0654 & 0655*

B. Cllr Howes was familiar with the plans which had been submitted by a member of his family. He confirmed that there was no grain dryer on the site and he advised that grain would be moved directly from the fields to the site: traffic would not pass through Brampton Ash and traffic movements would mainly take place on-site. He further advised that energy generated by the proposed solar park would mainly be used by the proposed new buildings.

**4.3**

*Item 6.1 Grit Bin*

This had not yet been installed. The Clerk would follow the matter up.

*Item 6.2 Temporary Traffic Calming Equipment*

B Cllr David Howes reported, on behalf of C Cllr Alan Matthews, that a Section 50 licence would not be required due to the temporary siting of the equipment. He also reported that 2 sets of equipment would be purchased: one would be used solely in Desborough and the other would be

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rotated between the 9 rural parishes in the Ward.

#### 4.4

##### *Item 7.1 Borough Councillor Howes' Fund (Notice Board)*

The Clerk had investigated various notice boards and their costs. B Cllr Howes requested that she forward details to him before the end of the year.

##### *Item 7.2 Rights of Way and Definitive Map Training*

Cllr Hilliard had attended this course. See item 9.2 of these minutes. The Clerk had been wrongly advised by the organisers that the cost of the course was £45.00 when, in fact, it was £90.00 to non-members. They had apologised for their error but would not reduce the cost. The Chair had given permission for the booking to go ahead at the increased cost as it was pertinent to council business.

#### 5. Minutes of the Meeting Held 27 August 2014

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

#### 6. Matters Arising from the Above Meeting

##### 6.1

##### *Item 4.2 Article 4 Directions*

There was nothing further to report on this item as yet.

##### 6.2

##### *Item 8 KBC Protocol on Recording Meetings*

The matter was on-going: the Clerk would follow it up.

##### 6.3

##### *Item 10.1 Changes to Electoral Registration Procedures*

The poster had been displayed.

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

##### **Planning Matters:**

*To consider matters relating to planning applications within the parish*

##### *.1 Proposed Definitive Map Modification, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 S53*

Cllr Hilliard had declared an interest in this matter and therefore took no part in the discussions.

Councillors discussed the proposal and were unanimous in supporting it for the following reasons:

##### Custom and Historical Use

There is supporting evidence to show that the footpath has been regularly used for decades as a pedestrian route between the village and the parish church by villagers and by walkers from outside of the village. Councillor Heather Shuttleworth has lived in the village for 42 years and clearly recalls the route having been in regular use as a footpath in all that time. Anecdotal evidence from long-standing members of the community supports her statement. Other parish councillors who have been in the village for 20+ years have used the footpath frequently over that period of time, often on a daily basis, in order to access the church and the graveyard.

Cllr Power advised that parish council records from 20 years ago reported that, at an exhibition held in the parish church by an unnamed conservation group, the conservationists advised parishioners that the path was protected. The parish council acknowledges, however, that the exact details of the conservation exhibition have not been fully recorded so cannot be proven and could not be viewed as hard evidence. Nonetheless, this, together with the fact that the route is shown on the Ordnance Survey map dated 1901 where it is clearly marked as a footpath, has, over

the years, led villagers to believe that they have a customary, historical and legal entitlement to use the path.

### Safety

The parish church, besides being a place of worship, serves as an important centre for meetings and social activities (there being no village hall or other public venue in the village) and safe pedestrian access to it is therefore vital. The footpath provides that safe access. The only alternative route between the village and the parish church is via the A427 which is a major carriageway and a main route for heavy goods vehicles. It has no footpath or safe verge so that anyone who is forced to access the church and the graveyard in this way is taking a huge risk to life and limb. B Cllr David Howes expressed his strong support for this particular point.

### Other Points

Research of official police statistics for the period December 2010 – October 2014 indicates that there have been very few recorded incidents of suspect activity in the vicinity of the footpath (average = 2.66 per year): none of these have resulted in an arrest and none are known to have been specific to the footpath itself.

<http://www.police.uk/northamptonshire/SCT122/crime/2010-12/+Jq0yaC/>

Several villagers have loved-ones who have been laid to rest in the parish churchyard and they have an obvious desire to access the church and the graveyard. Being able to do so via the safety of the footpath is essential to them.

The motion to support the application was proposed by Cllr Bevan, seconded by Cllr Shuttleworth and unanimously agreed. The Clerk would advise NCC Highways accordingly.

### *.2 Rights of Way and Definitive Map Training (Councillor Hilliard)*

It should be noted that, in order to avoid any undue influence, Cllr Hilliard did not speak on this matter until Councillors had completed their deliberations on item 9.1 (above).

The training had provided Cllr Hilliard with some useful factual information on the physical, environmental and legal requirements that need to be met when establishing a public footpath. She added that she had received statements from villagers in relation to the application and she had passed these to NCC. NCC had advised her that the application for the Definitive Map Modification was highly likely to go to a public enquiry and they had, therefore, suggested negotiation by the parties involved. Councillors expressed their hope that the landowner could be persuaded to agree to the proposal, thereby establishing his lasting legacy to the village and safeguarding the path for future generations of villagers over the coming decades.

## **7. Financial Matters**

### *.1 To review the parish council's current financial position*

The financial statement (attached) was agreed and signed by the Chair. The current balance stood at £2,042.04 (bank reconciliation 10/12/14) with budgeted expenditure of £1,088.00 which would leave a projected end-of-year balance of £954.04 to carry forward into 2015-16.

NB proposed that the annual salary for the Clerk for the period 2014-15 be increased by £50.00 to £400.00 and this was unanimously agreed. This would reduce the balance available to £904.04.

### *.2 Budget 2015-2016 (amended from 2014-15, as shown on the agenda)*

The budget for 2015-16 was discussed and agreed, as follows:

	£
Salary (Clerk)	400.00
Expenses (Clerk)	20.00
Church lighting donation	250.00
Hire of Dingley Village Hall (possible) (£10 per session)	40.00
Insurance	250.00
Audit fee (possible)	36.00
Total (approx.)	<b>996.00</b>

.3 Precept 2015-16 (amended from 2014-15, as shown on the agenda)

It was agreed that a precept of £500.00 would be requested. The Clerk would inform KBC.

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**8. Ward Initiative Fund (Borough Cllr David Howes)**

See Item 4.4 of these minutes.

**9. Planning Matters:**

*To consider matters relating to planning applications within the parish*

.1 Proposed Definitive Map Modification, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 S53

**It was agreed that Item 9 would be dealt with after Item 6 (see above)**

**10. Highway Matters**

*To consider issues relating to highways within the parish*

*10.1 Street Lighting*

Cllr Bevan had reported to KBC that the street light outside no. 7 Hermitage Road was not working. It was one of only three in the village and Hermitage Road was now dangerously dark in places.

The Clerk would pass details to B Cllr Howes who would contact Brendan Coleman, KBC.

*10.2 Potholes*

Cllr Bevan would report the large pot-holes in Hermitage Road to Ian Boyes, NCC Highways.

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**11. Any Other Business**

*11.1 Notice Board (A6 Side of the Village)*

It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the feasibility of installing a free-standing notice board at the A6 end of Hermitage Road, with regard to any permissions that might be required and possible sources of funding.

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**12. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 March 2015, 7.30pm at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

E Evans, Clerk to Brampton Ash Parish Council

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