

Brampton Ash Parish Council
Approved Minutes of Special Parish Council Meeting
Held 11 November 2014
At 16 Hermitage Road, Brampton Ash 7.30pm

Present

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

Action by:

1. Chair's Announcement

1.1 Disqualification of Parish Councillor

The Chair reported that R. Stewart had failed to attend any meetings of the parish council since 9 January 2014 and, as a result of his prolonged and unauthorised absence, he had lost his office as Councillor. Sue Lyons, Monitoring Officer at Kettering Borough Council (KBC), had advised that, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a member fails to attend any meetings of the Council for a period of six months without the authorisation of the Council he/she ceases to be a member. The six month period runs from the date of attendance at the last meeting. Giving apologies does not count as authorisation. There must be a specific request by the member to the Council to approve the absence and it must be done before the six months expires. Office cannot be regained by attendance after the six months period has passed.

The parish council had sent R. Stewart a letter formally advising him of the above on 1 October 2014.

It was agreed that the parish council website <http://bramptonashparishcouncil.webs.com/brampton-ash> would be updated with the above information.

The Clerk would inform Ian White, Electoral Services Manager, KBC.

1.2 Parish Council Elections

Ian White had advised all parish councils that, under electoral legislation, no elections could be held to fill any vacancies arising within 6 months of the next parish council elections. Elections are due to take place on 7 May 2015, meaning that the 6-month period came into force on 10 November 2014. Although it would be permissible to fill the current vacancy on the parish council by co-option councillors unanimously agreed not to take this course of action as there were very few regular meetings due to take place prior to 7 May 2015.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence to record.

SP

LE

4. Planning Matters:

To Consider Matters Relating to Planning Applications Adjacent to the Parish

KET/2014/0653

Full Application: Demolition of Agricultural building and erection of workshop and machinery store

Councillors viewed the plans and discussed the proposal. It was noted that there was no vehicular parking proposed for this site. It was acknowledged that it would enlarge the developed area of the plot as it currently exists but it was felt that there would be no significant impact on the village of Brampton Ash and no comments would, therefore, be submitted by them to KBC.

KET/2014/0654

Full Application: Demolition of Agricultural building and erection of Grain store and Chemical/Fertiliser store

Councillors viewed the plans and discussed the proposal. No vehicular parking was proposed. It was noted that, at 1225m², the proposed building was far larger than the existing one.

Councillors felt that the amount of screening shown on the plan for the Chemical store would be insufficient to reduce the visual impact on the surrounding countryside.

It was also considered that, because the proposed grain store was much larger than the existing one, it would require a greatly increased number of deliveries to make it viable and, as the modern agricultural machinery that would be used for these activities is very much larger and heavier than that which would have been in use when the existing building was erected, these increased deliveries would impact detrimentally on the infrastructure and safety of Hermitage Road which is frequently used by HGVs as a vehicular cut-through from the A427 to the A6. In view of the above, councillors requested that a Traffic Impact Statement be provided.

The Clerk would forward the above comments to KBC Planning Department.

KET/2014/0655

Full Application with EIA: Solar park

Councillors viewed the plans and discussed the proposal. It was noted that there was no vehicular parking proposed for this site but it was acknowledged that there would be some short-term traffic movement due to setting up and maintaining the site. There was minimal flood risk and no known heritage sites would be affected. The site was behind Eckland Lodge's current buildings. It would have 189 solar panels at a maximum height of 2.6m which would not require concrete foundations so the land could continue in agricultural use as grazing land. Results of a 'glint and glare' study indicated that there would be no likely hazard to road users, particularly as light would be absorbed and not reflected. Councillors felt that there would be no visual impact on the village of Brampton Ash and no comments would, therefore, be submitted by them to KBC.

5. Financial Matters

.1 New Banking Arrangements: Security of Chequebook

The new Unity Bank chequebook was passed to the nominated person for safekeeping. Unused cheques from the old Barclays Bank account would be shredded and the stubs would be retained in a secure location.

.2 Parish Council Insurance

The parish council's insurance was due for renewal before 1 December 2014 at a cost of £243.80 (including insurance tax). This was agreed for payment.

LE

LE

6. Highway Matters

.1 Replacement of Grit Bin: Update

The Clerk had received a cheque to the value of £290.00 from Northamptonshire County Council's Empowering Councillors and Communities Scheme, as arranged by County Councillor Allan Matthews, for the purchase of a replacement grit bin. Cllr Bevan would identify the site and drive a stake into the ground to mark it. The Clerk would be advised of the exact location for siting it and would then place the order. Cllrs Bevan and Shuttleworth agreed to act as contact points for delivery.

NB
HS
LE

The Clerk was requested to convey the parish council's thanks to C Cllr Matthews.

LE

.2 County Councillor Matthews: Temporary Traffic Calming Equipment

C Cllr Matthews was intending to order a Vehicle Activated Speed Sign for use in Desborough and the Welland Valley parishes which he represents. Brackets would be provided. Volunteers would be required and training would be provided. A data capture system would be incorporated for subsequent analysis and preparation of charts and tables on vehicles movements, average speeds and so on. Safe sites to place the signs would be co-ordinated by the Collision Analysis & Investigation Officer at NCC Highways. Each parish would need a section 50 licence to operate the signs, which C Cllr Matthews was intending to fund, plus their own insurance cover.

It was unanimously agreed that Brampton Ash parish council would like to take up the offer of this equipment and the Clerk would inform C Cllr Matthews and the parish council's insurers.

LE

7. Any Other Business

.1 Borough Councillor Howes' Fund

Borough Councillor David Howes has some money available under the Ward Initiative Fund for use in the parishes which he represents. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask for a contribution towards replacing the village notice board as it is now in a poor state.

LE

It was also felt that funds should be sought from appropriate sources for a noticeboard to be placed at the A6 end of the village. The Clerk would put this in hand: it may be possible to apply to the next round of the Kettering Borough Council Capital Community Fund Grant Scheme in 2015 and the parish council would need to fund-match any such contribution from them.

LE

.2 Rights of Way and the Definitive Map Training Course

Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils (NALC) were offering the above course on Monday 1 December at Litchborough Village Hall at a cost of £45.00 per delegate. Cllr Hilliard volunteered to attend this session, subject to prior commitments, and she would confirm this to the Clerk.

TH
LE

8. Date and Venue of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 December 2014

The meeting closed at: 9.15 pm