

Brampton Ash Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held Wednesday 16 December 2015,
7.30pm, At St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash

Present (Parish Councillors)

Cllr Steve Power (Chair) Cllr Nick Bevan Cllr Wendy Brooks Cllr Teresa Hilliard
 Cllr Heather Shuttleworth

Also Present:

C Cllr Alan Matthews

In Attendance: Liz Evans (Clerk)

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Chair's Announcements On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair thanked the Parochial Church Council for successfully applying for the Church Way footpath as this means that villagers can now safely access the parish church via this footpath, which runs from the village to the church.</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of Interest <i>To Receive Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests from Councillors On Matters to Be Considered at the Meeting</i> Cllr Hilliard declared a personal interest in item 8.</p>	
<p>3. Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from B Cllr David Howes, due to a clash with another meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Minutes of the Meeting Held Thursday 17 September 2015 The minutes of the meeting held 17 September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<p>5. Matters Arising From the Above</p> <p>5.1: item 5.1 (traffic calming) Cllr Matthews reported that the advisory speed cameras have been received and are currently in storage. Mr Steve Barber, Collision Analysis and Investigation Officer at Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Highways, had been tasked with identifying appropriate places to site them throughout the seven parishes involved. Cllr Matthews will pursue the matter with him as he has been waiting approximately 3 months for the results. The clerk will also contact Steve Barber for an update on this. It was noted that a Section 50 licence will be required and this will be dealt with when a firm date is known.</p>	LE
<p>5.2: item 5.5 (map of Brampton Ash parish boundaries) The clerk would chase this up with David Pope, Kettering Borough Council (KBC) as it had not yet been received.</p>	LE
<p>5.3: item 5.6 (overgrown pond) The parish council would review the situation regarding the overgrown pond in spring 2016.</p>	
<p>5.4: item 6.2 (annual accounts) The clerk reported that the annual audit had been approved with one issue arising, namely, Section 1 Trust Funds Disclosure, box 11 had been left blank in error whereas it should have been crossed through.</p>	
<p>5.5: item 6.3 (pre-paid credit card application) The clerk reported that the pre-paid credit card was now in place.</p>	

5.6: item 6.4 (purchase of grit bin and installation)

The grit bin has been received and is awaiting installation. The clerk will obtain prices for appropriate lettering to identify it as the property of the parish council.

5.7: item 6.5 (purchase of external hard drive)

The clerk reported that this had now been purchased.

5.8: item 6.6 (transfer of funds)

The clerk reported that this had been completed.

5.9: item 6.7 (statutory insurance)

The clerk reported that this had been paid. It was the final year of a 3-year 'deal' and was likely to increase in 2016-17.

5.10: item 7.1 (new website)

The clerk reported that this is now in operation. The web-hosting charge would increase to £30.00 on renewal in November 2016.

5.11: item 7.2 (Transparency Fund grant)

The clerk reported that a grant of £195 had been received for the web-hosting charge and setting-up time but, under the rules, the external hard drive could not be funded.

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6. Financial Matters

.1 Current Financial Position

The clerk issued a financial statement showing a bank balance of £1,279.51 and a credit balance of £114.76 on the pre-paid credit card. This was approved by the parish council and signed by the Chair. A copy is attached.

.2 Confirmation of Proposed Donation to Church Lighting Costs

It was agreed that a donation of £250.00 towards the cost of lighting the church externally would be made to the parochial church council at the end of January 2016. Cllr Bevan will obtain bank details and payment would be made on-line.

.3 Budget 2016-17, for approval

The draft budget for 2016-17 was presented for consideration by the councillors. Cllr Power proposed acceptance of the budget, Cllr Shuttleworth seconded the motion which was unanimously approved as follows:

Salary (clerk)	400.00
Expenses (clerk)	20.00
Church lighting donation	250.00
Statutory insurance	280.00 (estimate)
Audit fee	36.00 (estimate)
Web-hosting fee	30.00
Total	£1,016.00

.4 Precept 2016-17, for approval

The precept for 2016-17 was discussed. It was noted that, in the previous two years, the parish council had been funded from its reserves, which were now depleted, and from a small precept. It was agreed that, based on the budget figure for 2016-17, the carry-over from 2015-16 and the need to build up a modest reserve, the precept would be set at £1,000.00. This was proposed by Cllr Power, seconded by Cllr Shuttleworth and unanimously approved. The application was signed by the Chair and it would be forwarded to KBC by the clerk.

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7. Planning Matters

To Report and Consider Matters Relating to Planning Applications in and Adjacent to the Parish
KET/2015/0762 Approved (Change of use from business to storage) The Barns, Dingley Dell, Brampton Ash

KET/2015/0821 This is non-material amendment to Field Farm House, Harborough Road, Brampton Ash (previously considered by the parish council without objection)

KET/2015/0920 Field Farm House, as above. 2-storey side and single-storey side & rear extension

The above planning applications were reported, with no further action required on the part of the parish council.

8. Footpath DMMO Case No 151: Update

NCC has categorised the above application as 'Under Investigation', together with 11 other applications. The landowner had lodged an objection to the application for the footpath to be designated as a public right of way: C Cllr Matthews explained that he has discussed the situation with Steve Fowler, NCC, and with the landowner and NCC had advised that, if the application goes to public consultation, the landowner may well be liable to meet the costs of the action if he loses his case.

Cllr Power noted that, whilst the parish council unanimously supports the application, which is being driven by individual parishioners, the parish council itself is not responsible for driving the matter forward.

9. Highway Matters

.1 Road Safety A427: Update & Further Action

Since March 2015 the parish council has been in contact with Steve Barber, Collision Analysis and Investigation Officer at NCC, regarding serious road safety concerns on the A427. Steve Barber had visited the area and the clerk had received his response to those concerns and this had then been shared with the parish councillors. Councillors considered his response to be wholly inadequate as it appears to be based on faulty data and his own personal assumptions, rather than facts.

Councillors discussed various options, including the provision of either double white-line marking or hatch-marks at the A427/Hermitage Road junction, and improved road signage. It was also noted that Steve Barber had found average speeds to be 66mph and he stated that a speed such as this would not incur police action. Clearly this overlooks the fact that, given that most lorries would be slowed by the uphill climb from the Stoke Albany direction, other traffic must, therefore, be travelling at very high speeds in order to produce an average of 66mph.

The Chair had composed an initial draft letter in response to Steve Barber, and Cllr Brooks volunteered to assist in working further with him on the draft, together with input from the clerk. The letter would incorporate information received by the Chair in a letter from the Police Commissioner, following on from his visit to the parish on 27 October 2015.

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.2 Other Matters

The Police Commissioner's letter (see item 9.1 above) would be circulated to councillors.

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10 Approval of Documents: these draft documents can be found on the parish council's website <http://www.pariah-council.com/bramptonash>

Policies and Procedures:

Complaints Procedure

Data Protection

Equality Statement

Financial Risk Assessment

Freedom of Information

Internal Control Procedures

Finance and Accounts:

Asset Register

The above draft documents were approved for publication on the parish council's website, subject to a minor amendment to the Financial Risk Assessment.

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11 Any Other Business

.1 Rural Forum 26 Nov 2015 (The Rural Forum minutes were previously circulated and can be found at http://www.kettering.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1402/rural_forum)

.1 (a) The Rural Forum meeting had discussed a potential issue over the costs of maintaining street lighting in the borough and its parishes. C Cllr Matthews explained that there is currently a disagreement between KBC and NCC over ownership of certain street lighting in the borough and, therefore, the maintenance cost. NCC have made it clear that they do not intend taking on responsibility for parish lighting which, by virtue of custom and practise, has been maintained by KBC for many years. KBC has repaired the street lighting in Brampton Ash for many years so it is deemed likely that custom and practise applies to the village but councillors should be aware that there could possibly be future cost implications for the parish.

.1 (b) C Cllr Matthews also referred to the discussion by the Rural Forum on the provision of traveller sites. It was noted that B Cllr David Howes has responsibility for traveller sites, and that the majority of such sites within the KBC area are sited within, or adjacent to, the Welland Valley villages. C Cllr Matthews felt that potential problems might arise when travellers move on from unauthorised sites locally and he warned that landowners in the area should be made aware of the need to secure their land.

.2 Other Matters

.2 (a) Cllr Hilliard reported her driveway had been fouled by a very large amount of dog faeces which, she believed, had come from dogs at the hunt which had been held a few days previously. She asked the parish council to obtain dates of forthcoming hunt meetings and publicise them locally. Cllr Shuttleworth volunteered to obtain the information.

.2 (b) C Cllr Matthews advised that Ashley parish councillors had been made aware that Leicestershire County Council were considering a scheme to restrict their recycling centres (including the one sited at Market Harborough) to Leicestershire residents only. No further information was known as yet but it was felt that this would be difficult and costly to enforce.

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12 Date and Venue of Next Meeting: Wednesday 17 February 2016, 7.30pm at the parish church.

Meeting closed at: 9.50pm