

Brampton Ash Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held
Thursday 14 December 2017, 7.30pm At St Mary's Church, Brampton Ash

This meeting was open to members of the public, subject to prescribed regulations where applicable.

Present (Parish Councillors)

Cllr Steve Power (Chair) Cllr N Bevan Cllr Terry Hilliard Cllr Wendy Brooks Cllr John Lillie

In Attendance: Liz Evans (Clerk)

Public Attendee(s): None

Action by:

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Allan Matthews and from Borough Councillor David Howes, in each case due to a meeting clash of dates.

2. Chair's Announcements

It was noted that Item 7 is listed incorrectly on the agenda as the date should read 13 November 2017, not 6 July. The agenda was amended and signed by the Chair.

3. 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.

4. Minutes of the meeting held 18 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held 18 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 18 September 2017 (except where they are agenda items for this meeting)

5.1: Item 10 Annual Audit

The new external auditors will be PKF Littlejohn. The Chair explained that there would be a likely cost to the Parish Council of £200.00 and it would be prudent to budget for this: councillors agreed this unanimously. It was probable that more information on the new audit arrangements would become available prior to the end of the audit year (31 March 2018).

6. Minutes of the extra meeting held 13 November 2017

Item 6, para 11, line 3 'In Summary: Appearance' was amended to read '*.....an attractive Victorian row of houses with Georgian-style windows, in a key part of the village*'. Councillors agreed the amendment and it was signed by the Chair. The minutes were then agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

7. Matters arising from the extra meeting held 13 November 2017 (except where they are agenda items for this meeting)

7.1: Item 4. It was noted that the target decision date for the planning application under consideration at the meeting is 22 December 2017.

8. Financial Matters

1. Current financial position:

The clerk issued a financial statement showing a current balance of £1854-16: this was approved and signed off by Councillor Brooks and Councillor Bevan.

Budgeted expenditure remaining in 2017-18:

Clerk's wages:	£200.00
Contribution to Church External Lighting:	£250.00

The above payments were unanimously agreed by councillors.

2. Budget Proposal 2018-19:

Proposed items to be budgeted for in 2018-19 were as follows:

Clerks' Wages	£400.00
Clerk's Expenses	£20.00
Statutory Insurance	£255.00 approx
Contribution to Church External Lighting	£250.00
NCALC Membership	£63.00
Web-hosting fee	£30.00
Audit Fee (under new statutory arrangements)	£200.00
Total	£1218.00

The proposed budget was discussed and unanimously agreed by councillors.

3. County Councillors Empowerment Fund

Councillor Power explained that, in previous years, audit costs had generally been zero or, where they had arisen, they had been minimal. He therefore proposed that, in order to offset the new £200 audit fee, the parish council should apply to County Councillor Matthews for a grant from his Councillors Empowerment Fund to cover the parish council's donation towards external lighting for the parish church. Councillors unanimously agreed: the clerk would contact Cllr Matthews.

LE

Councillor Bevan asked the parish council to consider funding an additional grit bin, to be located near the 'Welcome to Brampton Ash' sign on Hermitage Road, as recent weather had highlighted how hazardous this area can become to traffic in snow and ice. Councillors unanimously agreed to request a £150.00 grant for this from Cllr Matthews Empowerment Fund, with the parish council to fund the small additional cost of (if any): the clerk would seek best value and would contact Cllr Matthews.

LE

9. Precept 2017-18

Councillors unanimously agreed to set the precept for 2018-19 at £1000.00. The application was signed off by the Chair and by the clerk: the clerk will forward the application form to Kettering Borough Council (KBC).

LE

10 Planning Matters:

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

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

11 Parish Plan: Further Discussion

At the meeting held 18 September, agenda Item 11, it was decided to seek advice/comments from Cllr Allan Matthews, at the present meeting, as to whether to proceed with a Parish Plan. Unfortunately he had sent apologies for the meeting so it was agreed that the matter would be deferred to the next meeting (8 March 2018) in the hope that he would be available for that one. Cllr Power reported that he had looked at the Parish Plan for a neighbouring village but had found it to be an unhelpful example as it seemed to favour a 'no change' approach, rather than establishing a rationale for managing change, which the Parish Council considers to be the purpose of a Parish Plan. Cllr Lillie produced a document he had received from KBC, describing Brampton Ash thus:

'Brampton Ash is defined in the Kettering Borough Council Local Plan as a scattered village and does not have a defined village boundary. The (site) is therefore considered to be in the open countryside.....'

He felt that this should be borne in mind when drawing up a possible Parish Plan.

12 Highway Matters

1. Traffic Calming Measures: VAS Cameras: Update

The VAS camera had been in situ for approximately 8 weeks. There had been some technical issues but these had mainly been resolved, with the exception that the 'face' only showed amber and green, but not red. Cllr Bevan understood that a 'red-faced' model was available in Desborough and he would contact Cllr Matthews to see if it could be made available in Brampton Ash. He would also enquire whether a data read-out can be produced. Cllrs Bevan and Power would reverse the direction of the camera during the Christmas/New Year period.

2. Road Safety A427: Update

There was nothing further to report.

3. Pond Clearance, Hermitage Road A6 end: Update

The clerk had received no response to the parish council's request for assistance from the Community Enhancement Gang (CEG) in clearing the pond and it was noted that latest Northamptonshire County Council budget proposals include scrapping the CEG.

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13 Parish Crime Report

The following reports have been received since the parish council meeting held on 18 September 2017:

Sep: *Criminal Damage between 26 Aug and 1 Sep Manor Farm Chain lock cut to double gates, finding mutilated hares*

Oct: *No crimes recorded*

Nov: *No crimes recorded*

Local Identified Priorities Survey

The clerk had received the following email message from police officer Robert Offord of Northamptonshire police:

'I would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your members to take part in the Local Identified priorities survey that we take part in in conjunction with other partners, this is a short survey and will only take a maximum of 10 minutes. The more responses the more directed and targeted our service can be.

The link is <http://bit.ly/2jsgGBC>

Please feel free to pass this out to any member of the community.'

It was agreed that parishioners and parish councillors could complete this on-line survey on an individual basis, should they wish to.

Cllr D Howes/PCSO Kirsty Ellerby: Police Update

Parish Councillors were pleased to note that the police were actively monitoring and pursuing rural crime activities in the area, as detailed in the latest email received from PCSO Ellerby. The parish council would post future email updates from PCSO Ellerby and her colleagues on the village noticeboard.

14 Rural Forum: Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2017

a) Items of Interest

There were no items for discussion arising from the minutes.

b) Minutes of the meeting held 30 November 2017 will be circulated when they are available.

15 Any Other Business

Fly tipping: River Jordan, Hermitage Road bridge area

Councillor Lillie reported that he had contacted the KBC Fly-Tipping Team and the area had been cleared by them.

Village Communications

Parish Councillors were keen to establish a means of contacting parishioners with news of parish and other appropriate events, and with messages and updates from police and other relevant authorities. It was hoped, therefore, that an email group could be set up: email addresses would remain confidential and would not be shared with others in the group and any such personal information would be held strictly in accordance with Data Protection legislation. As a first step to achieving this, a leaflet would be circulated to villagers, including those in the out-lying areas, to find out who would be interested in joining the proposed group.

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All**

16 Date and Venue of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place on Thursday 8th March 2018, 7.30pm at the Parish Church.

Signed: Liz Evans, Clerk to Brampton Ash Parish Council

tel: 01536 771470 email: bramptonashparishcouncil@outlook.com web: www.parish-council.com/bramptonash

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income and Expenditure 1 Apl 2017 - 31 Mar 2018

Date	On-line transaction	Chq no.	Item	Income £	Expenditure £	Salary £	Balance	
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income and Expenditure 1 Apl 2017 - 8 May 2017								
01/04/17			Balance brought forward current account				£1,254.68	
20/04/17	Y		Precept	£1,000.00			£2,254.68	Bank reconciliation
Signed: N Bevan		(Member)		Signed: T Hilliard		(Member)		8 May 2017
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income and Expenditure 9 May 2017 - 18 Sep 2017								
14/06/17	Y		Transparency Fund	£150.00			£2,404.68	
20/06/17	Y		NCALC Membership fee	£62.97			£2,341.71	
30/06/17	Y		Clerk Salary 3 months (Apl, May, Jun)		100.00		£2,241.71	Bank reconciliation
Signed: N Bevan		(Member)		Signed: W Brooks		(Member)		18 September 2017
Brampton Ash Parish Council: Income and Expenditure 14 Sep 2017 - 14 Dec 2017								
30/09/17	Y		Clerk Salary 3 months (Jul, Aug, Sep)		100.00		£2,141.71	
18/11/17		500003	Spanglefish web-hosting fee		29.95		£2,111.76	
28/11/17	Y		Zurich Insurance		257.60		£1,854.16	Bank reconciliation
Signed: N Bevan		(Member)		Signed: W Brooks		(Member)		14 December 2017