

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
and  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY**

PRESENT: Councillors N Bannister, J Bateman, G Brown, R Capewell, P Dann, C Evans, C Grafton-Reed (Chairman), M Graves, C Golding, S Oliver, S Page, R Patrick, C Porter, M Stell, M Swinfen and R Tomlin

Also present: Sgt Paul Hardwick, PCSOs' Nicola Baker and Matt McDade from Leicestershire Police, Norman Proudfoot, Assistant Director Harborough District Council and 5 residents of Broughton Astley.

Clerk: Mrs C M Lord – Parish Manager

**1. LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE**

Sgt Paul Hardwick introduced himself as the new Beacon Officer for the Broughton Astley area. He gave an overview of the crimes statistic locally, explaining that generally there had been a reduction in crime, with the exception of theft from vehicles. He remarked that these appeared to be opportunistic, and more education about leaving items on display in vehicles, thus providing greater opportunity for theft.

PCSO Mat McDade said that over the past 28 days there had been 21 recorded offences in the area; with one burglary from a commercial premise. He said that time had been spent addressing issues of illegal door knocker, drinking at the allotment site, vandalism at the Village Hall and parking problems around Orchard School.

PCSO Nicola Baker responded to comments from Members. From Councillor Graves, concerns about the amount of drivers still using mobile phones, which in areas around schools is of particular concern. From Councillor Swinfen, concerns about drivers not observing the keep left bollards in the village centre.

PCSO Baker reiterated that PCSOs' are not able to issue fixed penalty tickets to individuals, but larger operations to capture offending drivers were used effectively in the area.

524 **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor Bill Liquorish.

525 **3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

526 **4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 21 MARCH 2013**

Councillor Grafton-Reed moved and Councillor Porter seconded confirmation and adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 March 2013. The minutes, with the exception of 2 spelling errors were approved and accepted unanimously.

527 **5. PROGRESS AGAINST OUTANDING RESOLUTIONS**

A report of progress in completing Parish Council resolutions was presented and updates were provided on the progress against resolutions:

429: *Cricket Club lease* – the Chairman confirmed that he had signed a returned the lease.

528 **6. NORMAN PROUDFOOT – HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Mr Proudfoot began his presentation by reminding the Members that improvements to the car park had been requested in order to provide additional parking spaces once the proposed on-street waiting restrictions come in to force. He explained that these are still subject to consultation and legal agreement, and that there is no time-line for the restrictions as yet.

He reiterated that the District Council was keen to consult the Parish Council on 2 layout options proposed for the refurbishment of the village centre car park. The proposed works include the demolishing of the disused public toilet block and the creation of additional parking spaces and disabled parking bays. The slightly differing layout options would increase the amount of space by around 6 in total. Mr Proudfoot said that discussions were also taking place with the Co-op Store, which owns a portion of the northern end of the car park.

The plans for the 2 different options were circulated, and Members were requested to feedback their preferences as soon as possible.

Mr Proudfoot indicated that a study of the feasibility of introducing pay and display parking was being considered in order to fund the enforcement of waiting restrictions. Another option could be to limit the parking period to either 2 or 3 hours to ensure a regular turnover of parking spaces.

Mr Proudfoot received a number of comments from Members including the possibility of introducing a limited 'no charge' period, the removal of dead trees and shrubs and the effect on local business if parking charges were to be introduced.

The Chairman thanked Mr Proudfoot for providing the Parish Council with the opportunity to have their say of the proposals and for his attendance at the meeting.

Mr Proudfoot left the meeting.

**Agreed: That Members should consider their preferences for the refurbishment and design of the car park and provide the Parish Manager with their feedback for the Agenda and meeting papers for the next meeting.**

529 **7. CHAIRMANS TIME**

The Chairman updated Members on the following items of interest:

***Year End Accounts***

The Chairman informed the meeting that the year-end was closed on 16 April 2013 with a net income of £41,360 – an increase from previous years mainly due to the £20,000 Frontrunners Grant received during the year. He said that the Management Accounts and Annual Return will be presented at the 16 May meeting.

***Annual Return and Management Accounts***

The Chairman announced that the Internal Audit of the Annual Return is being undertaken on 22 and 23 April by the Welland Audit Consortium. The opportunity for public inspection of the Annual Return and Management Accounts begins on 9 May until 14 June then they will be sent for External Audit on the appointed date of 17 June.

**Harborough District Community Governance Review**

The Chairman informed Members that at a recent full council meeting at Harborough District council final recommendations on the district wide review were agreed. Specifically in relation to Broughton Astley the recommendation is that the houses in the 'lay-by' on Dunton Road should remain within Dunton Bassett parish – with the border re-drawn so that No.67a is now in Dunton Bassett parish.

**David Wilson Homes Planning Applications** – The Chairman informed the meeting that both of the applications consider by Harborough District Council had been refuse on the grounds that they were outside the limits of the village. He observed that there were still a number of developers that were seeking to submit applications for approval.

**Councillor Bannister** – The Chairman presented Councillor Neil Bannister with a card and a book token to mark his resignation from the Parish Council resignation after 14 years. In response Councillor Bannister thanked all his fellow councillors and the Parish Council staff for all the support that he had received during his time as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman informed the meeting that the Notice of Vacancy providing 10 electors the opportunity to request an election will be posted tomorrow for 14 working days. If an election is not called then co-option process can begin.

530 **8. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

*Councillor Golding*

Councillor Golding had nothing relevant to report.

*Councillor Dann*

Councillor Dann remarked that he had been delighted that the combined effort of Councillors and residents had resulted in the applications by David Wilson Homes being refused. He reiterated that it is important that the development of the Neighbourhood Plan is pursued in order that development takes place where it is wanted by the community.

*Councillor Graves*

Councillor Graves reminded the meeting that the Planning Inspector is due to hear the appeal against the refusal of the Crowfoot Way development on 8/9 May. He expressed concerns that the current 5-year supply of housing available might not be sufficient enough for the appeal to be turned down.

531 **9. ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman suspended the normal business of the Council at 8.05 pm.

The Parish Manager confirmed that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2012 have been recorded in the Minute Book. The Minutes were accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman opened the Public Forum at 8.06pm

532 **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Ivor Norman of Sutton in the Elms addressed the Parish Council; firstly to clarify his statement recorded in the minutes of the 21 March. He reiterated that in his view that if and when the proposed Supermarket and Petrol Station are built the light pollution caused by the electricity running day and night will result in a golden glow over Leicestershire.

Mr Norman spoke to acknowledge the support Councillor Swinfen had provided to the residents in Sutton in the Elms and also to acknowledge the assistance that John Kemp of Harborough district Council had provided to resolved issues the road sweeping in Sutton in the elms.

Mr Norman also requested the Members give careful consideration to any applications relating to the 3 Boundaries Business Park, which could potentially spoil the visual amenity of residents in Sutton in the Elms.

The Public Forum closed at 8.10pm

***Chairman's Annual Report***

The Chairman circulated his Annual Report; which highlighted the many significant achievements of the Parish Council over the previous twelve months and the main challenges which lie ahead. He gave an overview of the highlights of the year. He reported that a copy of the report will be posted on the Parish Council's website and published in the June - July issue of Broughton Matters, the Parish Council's bimonthly magazine.

The Chairman closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.13pm.

533 **10. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Swinfen reported that he had requested HDC Planning Enforcement Team to investigate whether the Landfill operations on Coventry Road were compliant with legislation. It had been confirmed that all was in order.

Councillor Swinfen also reported that the Twinning committee have requested a demonstration of his garden railway. He said that any donations received would be passed on to the Mini Bus replacement fund.

Councillor Stell confirmed that the Twinning visit would take place during the second week of May, and that Councillors were welcome to join in any of the events planned as part of the programme.

534 **11. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF MARCH 2013**

The Parish Manager presented the schedule of payments made for the period until 31 March 2013. The schedule of payments were received and accepted unanimously.

535 **12. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF MARCH 2013**

The Parish Manager presented the financial statements for the period ending 31 March 2013. Members observed that income and expenditure for the end of the year was generally in line with budgets.

536 **13. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Members received the minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committees held on 25 February 2013; and noted that there had been no notifications of decisions received since the Parish Council meeting on 21 February 2013.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Committee for their continuing hard work on the deliberation of planning applications.

537 **14. MINUTES OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Members received the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 28 March 2013.

**15. REQUEST FROM LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE TO REINSTATE A NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICE IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Members considered a report outlining the request from Leicestershire Police for the re-instatement of a Neighbourhood Office in Broughton Astley. They observed that the Police would be able to spend more time in the community and have a higher profile if an office was re-instated. They were pleased that the Police now considered the first floor reception area and Geveze room was suitable for the office, as this would avoid conflict with other users, and potentially a loss of income for the Parish Council.

Members observed that the alarm panel would have to be relocated at a cost of around £200 and various keys would need to be purchased at around £80, in order to allow the Police access to the first floor reception and Geveze Room.

Councillor Golding proposed that the Police should be allowed to re-instate the Neighbourhood Office in the Geveze Room, but that all associated costs should be met by the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Swinfen seconded the proposal. On a show of hands all Members were in agreement.

538 **RESOLVED:**

**That Leicestershire Police should be allowed to re-instate the Neighbourhood Office in the Geveze Room, but that all associated costs should be met by the Community Safety Partnership.**

## **16. REQUEST FOR GRANT FUNDING**

Members considered a request for grant funding from Dunton and Broughton Football Club under 12's. They agreed that whilst it was important to encourage participation in sport, the Club should investigate other ways to raise funds to support their activities. Concerns were also expressed as to the amount of money which was being spent on annual presentations; considering it better spent on equipment and facilities.

Councillor Capewell proposed that 1) a donation of £200 should be provided in support of Dunton and Broughton Football Club; and 2) that the Club should be informed that the funding was a 'one off' grant, and further applications from teams in other age groups would not be considered.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bateman, and the result of the vote was 14 in favour and 2 against.

539 **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That a donation of £200 should be provided in support of Dunton and Broughton Football Club; and**
- 2. That the Club should be informed that the funding was a 'one off' grant, and further applications from teams in other age groups would not be considered.**

## **17. MEMBERS MOTION 01/13 COUNCILLOR GOLDING**

*That the Parish Council seeks to improve the poor standard of maintenance and the condition of the brook, land adjoining the public highway, and in the area of the brook at Church Close Broughton Astley by securing a multi-agency agreement from those responsible for its on-going maintenance.*

Councillor Golding outlined the background to his motion for the improvement of the brook and Church Close area. He said that since the Environment Agency had stopped maintaining the bank due to its designation as a local wildlife site; the brook had gradually silted up, to the extent that it is slow flowing, and liable to flood. The eroding of the bank of the highway side has resulted in a narrow stretch of bank next to a road which is a poor condition.

Councillor Golding explained that a resident had complained about the condition of the Church Close area and, following his site visit, attempts had been made by the Parish Office to resolve the maintenance issues via the agencies responsible with limited success. The formation of a working group, which includes agencies and residents was suggested as they way forward to deliver the motion.

Councillor Golding considered that in order to maintain the area to a consistent standard a multi-agency discussion and agreement is needed to resolve what has been a long term problem. During discussion concerns were raised about the realistic chances of getting the agencies concerned to work together, particularly when budgets are tight. Concerns were also raised about the time-scales in which an agreement could be reached, particularly in agencies had not included this major project within their budgets; and also that the work should not fall on to the administrative staff; diverting resources from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Bateman suggested that the Parish Council should contact Cosby Parish Council for advise on how their stretch of the brook is managed.

Councillor Golding therefore proposed that the Parish Council establishes a Working Group of all interested parties; including appropriate agencies and members of the public, to deliver a long term plan for the improvement of the Broughton Brook through Church Close and Station Road Broughton Astley.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bateman and support was unanimous on a show of hands.

540 **RESOLVED: That the Parish Council establishes a Working Group of all interested parties; including appropriate agencies and members of the public, to deliver a long term plan for the improvement of the Broughton Brook through Church Close and Station Road Broughton Astley.**

541 **18. MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

None received.

542 The meeting closed at 8.51 pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

..... Chairman

Dated .....