

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2012  
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Bateman, D G Brown, P Dann, C Evans C Grafton-Reed (Chairman) S Oliver, C Porter, M Stell, M Swinfen and R Tomlin.

Also present were: Mr N Vesty and Mr D Howe – residents of Dunton Road, Broughton Astley

386     **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N Bannister, R H Capewell, C Golding, M Graves and S Page

Apologies were also received from County Councillor Bill Liquorish

387     **2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None received.

388     **3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 20 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Councillor Grafton-Reed moved and Councillor Porter seconded confirmation and adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 September 2012.

The minutes, with the exception of a minor spelling error were approved and accepted unanimously.

There were no matters arising.

389     **4. FORMAL COMPLAINT – MR VESTY**

In accordance with the Complaints Procedure the chairman introduced Mr Vesty and Mr Howe (a neighbour and representative). He briefly outlined the background of the complaint which had begun with an appeal against the decision by the Parish Manager not to approve the wording of a memorial inscription. Mr Vesty's complaint was essentially concerning the way that the Parish Council had handled its deliberations on the matter.

On behalf of Mr Vesty, Mr Howe explained that Mr Vesty had lost his wife last year following a short illness. He had requested approval of the inscription of her memorial; which with the exception of the term 'Babe' for been approved.

Mr Howe explained the 'Babe' was a term of endearment which Mr Vesty had used for his late wife, and that it was important to him that it should be included on the memorial. He had therefore telephoned the Parish Manager to appeal against the decision, and having been informed that a final decision would have to be made by Parish Council at its meeting on 24 May 2012, wrote to request that his appeal should be considered at the meeting.

Mr Howe said that Mr Vesty had been informed after the Parish Council meeting that the Parish Council had not accepted that recommendation of the Executive Committee, that a compromise on the wording had been suggested.

Mr Howe explained therefore, that Mr Vesty's complaint was that had not been informed that the issue would be discussed by the Executive Committee, and that he was not offered the opportunity to attend the meeting of the Executive Committee to make representations. He (Mr Vesty) also considered that he should have been informed of the Executive Committee's recommendation prior to the meeting of the Parish Council.

In addition, to the procedural issues Mr Vesty has discovered that there were several memorials in the Frolesworth Road cemetery bearing inscriptions with terms of

endearment and nicknames, and requested that his application should be re-considered on this basis. Mr Howe presented photographic evidence of the memorials in question to the Parish Council.

The Parish Manager responded on behalf of the Parish Council, explaining that the Executive Committee was a sub-committee of the Parish Council consisting of 8 Members. Its purpose is to make recommendations on financial and policy issues to the full Parish Council to consideration and decision. The minutes of Its deliberations are provided for Parish Council as guidance and recommendation only, but their recommendations should never and cannot pre-empt the decision of Parish Council. In this particular case, there was debate at the Executive Committee meeting which had led to the recommendation of a compromise on the wording; however when the issue was debated by the full Parish Council is recommendation was not accepted. The Parish Manager reiterated that in the case of a formal complaint, the complainant is invited to attend the Parish Council meeting where the complaint would be heard; but at the time Mr Vesty had appealed against a decision made under the delegated powers of the Parish Manager.

The Chairman requested that the Parish Manager, Mr Vesty and Mr Howe should leave the Chamber whilst the Parish Council considered their decision.

Having considered the representations made by Mr Howe on behalf of Mr Vesty, the Chairman informed them both of their decision.

- 390 The Chairman said that the Members did not believe that there had been a breach of written procedures when dealing with the appeal. He said that the Parish Council did regret not inviting Mr Vesty to the Parish Council meeting where the decision was made on the appeal. He supported the Parish Managers actions in dealing with the appeal, and did not accept the complaint concerning the process. The Chairman immediately followed this by saying that based on the photographic evidence provided of a number of memorials in place in the cemetery granted by past Parish Clerks, the Parish Council will re-consider the original application for the inscription at its next meeting on 14 November. The Parish Council will also review its Cemetery Operational Policy to ensure that it is sympathetic to more informal and modern terms of endearment. He thanked Mr Vesty and Mr Howe for attending the meeting and confirmed that the Parish Manager would write to Mr Vesty to confirm its decision and to invite him to attend the Parish Council meeting on 14 November.

Mr Vesty and Mr Howe left the meeting.

391 **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:

361: In response to an update on progress by Councillor Porter the Parish Manager explained that a meeting had taken place between Councillor Golding and representatives from both the district and the County Council to discuss to introducing of waiting restrictions in the Village Centre. Subsequently a letter had been received from Harborough District Council confirming the traffic regulation order for the waiting restrictions would be proceeding and that he recycling banks would be removed from the car park to make more parking spaces. An assessment would be made of the disused toilets and a decision made on whether they should be demolished to make more car parking spaces.

Councillor Dann added that he was also pursuing the relocation of the charity recycling

banks to allow more car parking spaces.

## **6. CHAIRMANS TIME**

The Chairman updated Members on the following items of interest:

### **Proposed Environmental Projects Group**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the idea raised at the last meeting – to form an environmental Projects Group. He said that to date there has been little response from the contacts on existing environmental networks – 3 people have expressed an interest in joining the group. On this basis he moved that it may be better to try again after the busy Christmas period and an article has been produced for Broughton Matters.

### **Invitation to Police Headquarters**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council has received an invitation to send a representative to an event at Police Headquarters at 7pm on 31 October 2012. The event hosted by the Chief constable will outline changes to current policing arrangements from January 2013 which re-align resources to meet demands on new 'Safer Neighbourhood Teams'. He requested that anyone who wished to attend should inform the Parish Manager.

### **Appeal - Sworders**

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Parish Council has now received official notification of Sworders appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for their development off Crowfoot Way. Should the Parish Council wish to make further comments or representations to the Planning Inspectorate they must do so by 14 November 2012. He questioned whether the Planning Committee would like to discuss this further at their meeting on 29 October? Maureen Stell of the Planning Committee commented that she felt they had provided the objections in detail and trusted these would be considered properly by the inspector.

### **A426 Bus Lane – objection**

The Chairman announced that yesterday the Parish Council received an email from Glen Parva Parish Council requesting support for their petition; objecting to the installation of a bus lane along Leicester Road, Lutterworth Road and Aylestone Road in Leicester. He reminded the meeting that whilst it is too late to consider a formal resolution by the Parish Council, any personal responses to the consultation can still be sent and must be received by the County Council by 26 October.

### **Carol Concert**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that this year's Carol Concert is due to take place on Friday 14 December and that the Parish Office staff give their time on the evening on a voluntary basis. This year they may be short of help to serve refreshments, raffle tickets etc. He asked Members to let the Parish Manager know as soon as possible if they are able to help to ensure this popular village event can go ahead.

### **Budget and Precept setting**

The Chairman issued a reminder that the next Parish Council meeting on 14 November will be the budget estimates meeting when the draft budget will be presented. Although there will be opportunity for discussion on the evening prior please ensure that any specific issues which Members would like to have examined and considered are channelled correctly through either the Scrutiny Committee or the Administration and Finance Committee to allow the staff time to make any investigations necessary.

Any amendments can then be made at this stage and then presented for resolution and precept setting at the 29 November Parish Council Meeting.

393 **7. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

394 **8. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

*Councillor Dann*

- Councillor Dann reminded the meeting that the District Councils new waste collection and recycling system would commence on 19 November. Information issued to date had received a positive response, and the new waste containers would be delivered over the next couple of weeks. He added that by adopting the new collection system Harborough District Council anticipated that they would be in the top 5% of recyclers in the country.

395 **9. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Parish Manager presented the schedule of payments made for the period until 30 September 2012. The schedule of payments were received and accepted unanimously.

396 **10. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2012**

The Parish Manager presented the financial statements for the period ending 30 September 2012. Members observed that expenditure for the year was in line with budgets and that there were no unexplained debtors or creditors outstanding. Members were satisfied that the Parish Council was in a healthy financial position at the half-year stage.

397 **11. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Porter reported that he had attended the latest Community Forum meeting. He added that he was concerned that consultation was once more being carried out on a review of library service.

Councillor Grafton-Reed reported that the Christmas Fayre organised by Broughton Alive would take place on Saturday 8 December 2012.

398 **12. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Members received the minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committees held on 17 September and 1 October 2012 and the schedule of planning decisions made since the Parish Council meeting on 18 September 2012.

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

399 **13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Members received the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group held on 17 September 2012.

400 **14. RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF STREET LIGHTING ENERGY SAVING SCHEME**

Members considered a letter from Leicestershire County Council inviting the Parish Council to raise any issues of concern that they wish to feed into the review of the street lighting energy saving scheme.

Councillor Swinfen requested that the Parish Council should seek assurance that the County Council is investigating cheaper and more efficient methods of lighting supply e.g. LED lighting.

Councillor Oliver concurred that in some areas street lighting was retained overnight and to a high standard through the use of energy saving LED lighting.

Councillor Evans requested that the Parish Council should seek assurance that the County Council is able to re-adjust the street lighting system either centrally or locally to meet the variances in the seasons i.e. for fewer hours during the summer nights. Councillor Porter questioned whether the public had been informed of the review and suggested that an article should be placed on the Parish Council's website. The Parish Manager was requested to respond to the letter making the points raised by the Parish Council.

**Agreed:**

**That the Parish Manager should respond to the review of the review of the street lighting energy saving scheme seeking assurance on the following:**

- **That the County Council is investigating cheaper and more efficient methods of lighting supply e.g. LED lighting in order to retain overnight lighting.**
- **That the County Council is able to re-adjust the street lighting system either centrally or locally to meet the variances in the seasons i.e. for fewer hours during the summer nights.**

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**15. VILLAGE HALL ENERGY AUDIT**

Members considered a report on the need for an energy audit of the Village Hall in order to establish whether the installation of solar panels of the south-facing side of the roof would be financially viable.

They noted that quotations for the audit from 2 environmental consultants had been obtained; the cheapest quote being £900; and that the Parish Council could apply for grant funding to cover 75% of the cost of the audit via the Council Councils Shire Community Climate Change Grants.

Should the results of the energy audit establish that the Parish Council are able to reduce its energy costs over a period of time, then another grant funding application can be made during the next financial year via the Shire Community Climate Change Grants of between 20% or 50% towards the cost of practical projects, such as the installation of the solar panels.

Councillor Grafton-Reed proposed that the Parish Council should apply for a Shire Community Climate Change Grant to cover 75% of the cost of an energy audit of the Village Hall. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stell. All Members supported the proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

1. **That a Shire Community Climate Change Grant application is made in respect of 75% the cost of an energy audit of the Village Hall.**
2. **That if the grant funding application is successful, the remaining cost of the energy audit of the Village Hall is met from existing 2012/13 budgets**

**16. RESIDENTS PETITIONS**

Members acknowledged receipt of copies of two petitions which had been submitted to the Parish Council

1. A request for traffic calming measures on Frolesworth Road
2. Objections to proposals made in relation to changes in parish arrangements made as part of the Community Governance Review

**Noted: That the Parish Council acknowledged receipt of copies of two petitions which had been submitted to the Parish Council.**

Councillor Dann informed the meeting that he had written to the lead petitioners from Frolesworth Road to inform them that the petition had been sent to the County Council (as the Highway Authority). He had also informed them that the planning application in relation to the site off Frolesworth Road is in the process of validation by Harborough

District Council.

**1. MEMBERS' MOTIONS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

None received.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

..... Chairman

Dated .....