

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 7.30pm
BY ZOOM VIDEO AND WEB CONFERENCING**

PRESENT: Councillors: G Brown, R Capewell, R Davis, R Gahan, D Glenis, C Grafton-Reed, M Graves, D Howe, G Mallaghan, S Oliver, C Porter, R Patrick, P Shipman and Mrs M Stell

ALSO PRESENT Deputy Clerk, 2 Members of staff, County and District Councillor W Liquorish, District Councillor P Dann, District Councillor N Bannister (Dunton Ward), and 3 residents of the Parish.

CLERK: Parish Manager

APOLOGIES RECEIVED: Cllrs C Golding and M Swinfen

2788/02/2021 **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Golding and Swinfen's apologies were noted and accepted.

2789/02/2021 **2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

A declaration of non-pecuniary interest was received from Cllr Mrs Stell as a member of St Marys Church in relation to item 16 on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Manager was asked to check the audio recording of the minutes to confirm that a statement on page 617 was recorded accurately. A request was also made that the statement made by the Chair regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Consultant was inserted on to page 622. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2021 were then accepted by the Members as a true record by a unanimous show of hands.

2790/02/2021

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21 January 2021 are accepted as a true record.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to the meetings) Act 1960, Members supported the proposal to exclude the public and press from discussions concerning the support to Parkwood Leisure (item 17 of the agenda) by a unanimous show of hands.

2791/02/2021

RESOLVED: That members of the press and public are excluded from agenda items 19 and 20 under the Public bodies (Admission to the meetings) Act 1960.

5. MEMORIAL INSPECTION, FROLESWORTH ROAD CEMETERY

Members received a report providing information on the recent Memorial Inspection undertaken at the Frolesworth Road Cemetery and the issues that occurred following certain postings made on social media. The report detailed how the inspection came about, the reasons for carrying out the inspection, who was awarded the contract, the number of memorial headstones that had been affected by the inspection, the number of owners or relatives traced, the number of memorials that have been made safe. Many of the councillors wanted to express not only their thanks to the staff for dealing with this but also their concern that staff had to endure anger and abuse directed at them on the telephone, by email and on social media. It was agreed that any abuse directed towards the staff is unacceptable and as a result a new Social Media Policy will be created and presented to full council for approval at their next Parish Council meeting in March 2021.

2792/02/2021

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Memorial Inspections report is received and accepted by the Parish Council.**
- 2. That a new Social Media Policy is created and put to full council for approval at their meeting in March 2021.**

2793/02/2021

6. PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The report on progress in completing Parish Council resolutions was presented and accepted following the insertion of 'on-going' against PC2781/01/2021.

2794/02/2021

7. CHAIRS TIME

Memorial Bench

Following the sudden and tragic death of Tom Gamble, a young man from Broughton Astley, just before Christmas, his family has approached the Parish Manager with the view to placing a bench in his memory at the Frolesworth Road Recreation Ground. The bench is similar in design to the Commemorative benches in the Memorial Garden and village centre but depicts aircraft as Tom had just started out on his career path in the RAF. After discussions with the family and liaising with the Cricket Club a suitable and agreeable area was identified for the bench to be located. There is a small area of concrete adjacent to the perimeter fence of the Cricket pavilion which is no longer required and would provide a secure anchor for the bench. Once the bench has been delivered, the Parish Council ground staff will fix the bench in place to comply with the council's insurance requirements.

First Response Update

Vince Food of the Lutterworth CRF submitted a report to the Parish Office to inform Members that they have had a very busy year and attended 349 emergency 999 calls for the East Midlands Ambulance Service across the area. This has been a challenging year

with Covid-19 especially during lockdown 1 and have continued to respond to all patients who have required assistance through the pandemic.

The defibrillator the Parish Council assisted in purchasing was deployed on 3 patients in Broughton Astley during 2020.

Dunton Bassett Parish Council Draft Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Manager received a letter from the Clerk of Dunton Bassett Parish Council informing of the statutory consultation period in relation to their draft Neighbourhood Plan. A copy of the draft plan is available to view on Dunton Bassett's Parish Council website should you wish to view it. Any comments made may be considered and may be used to amend the Draft Plan.

Bench Carving

Following the successful award of some grant funding, the decorative bench to be carved out of the felled oak trees was due to take place in February but has had to be delayed due to the recent adverse weather conditions. It is hoped that work will now commence shortly at the Leisure Centre site and it is anticipated it will be complete prior to the reopening of the Centre after this current lockdown.

Free Trees

Many months ago, as part of her role of Grants Administrator, Anita applied to Leicestershire County Council for some free tree saplings. Nothing was heard about this application until late last week where confirmation was given that 15 oak, 15 hazel and 15 crab apple trees have been given as part of this application. Work is underway in conjunction with Broughton Astley Volunteer Group (BAVG) to plant these saplings in a suitable area (quite possibly the Leisure Centre site).

One Way System in Village Centre

Following an application made on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to making the temporary one-way system permanent, an email has been sent confirming that officers at Leicestershire County Council have investigated the Parish Council's request and are more than happy to facilitate the request by do not have the funds to carry out the scheme.

A report will be presented to full council at their meeting in March for consideration outlining the full requirements and funds needed to put such a scheme in place.

2795/02/2021 8. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chair opened the public forum at 8.20pm and invited the first of two residents who wish to speak to address the Members.

Following the backlash that occurred on Facebook following the recent inspection at the cemetery, I would like to ask what the Parish Councils response will be in the future to inflammatory and incorrect information and response to any threats being made which are posted on social media? I also have other questions I wish to raise so will send them in by email to the Parish Office.

The Chair invited the second resident to address the Members.

I know that this is a very sensitive subject. However, this does not justify the pernicious and abusive behaviour of members of the public towards the admin team at the Parish Council. This has resulted in excessive stress on the admin team. Do the Councillors have a duty of care towards the admin team and other employees of the Parish Council? If so, what are they doing to support the admin team and other employees with their mental health and wellbeing.

The public forum was closed at 8.25pm.

2796/02/2021 9. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Liquorish – provided the following report:

- In any dealings I have had with staff on the cemetery matters have been exemplary and I am sorry that they have been treated in this way.
- Footpath to the cemetery – Leicestershire County Council have received the comments and a full reply will be given when received.
- Glean Close – there has been two robberies in the street and a request has been received from a resident to ask that the streetlights are left on overnight, I have advised that a process must be gone through and to also contact the police for support.
- Speed Survey – the speed survey to be carried out on Frolesworth Road will be delayed until the end of lockdown as there needs to be a greater build up of traffic for data purposes.
- New Pedestrian Crossing – the new crossing on Cosby Road is still ongoing as need to know the route of the footpath on the leisure site.

Councillor Graves asked the following question:

What cuts, if any, were made on the County Council budget? Councillor Liquorish replied that the budget has been levied at a 2% increase and 3% for Adult Social Care. All details of the County's budget can be found on their website.

Councillor Brown made the following comment:

If the one-way systems are to stay in place the Millennium stone island will need to be moved as people are still going round it the wrong way.

Councillor Glenis made the following comment:

In respect of the two areas of flooding that were discussed recently, it would be nice to hear back from the Highways department about what is happening. There has been a lot of activity, without improvement and really needs progressing.

Councillor Liquorish responded by saying he has made a note of this and will report back.

Councillor Liquorish left the meeting at 8:33pm

Councillor Dann and Councillor Golding – provided the following joint report.

- FLY TIPPING – very pleased to say that the District Council has won a national award for its fly tipping campaign. It continues to take a proactive approach to tackling fly tipping and environmental crime which has resulted in several fixed penalty notices and prosecutions.
- GREEN BIN SERVICE – pleased to say that following on from an increase in charges the sign up for the new year in the first 21 days was 5306 against the previous year of 3036 this was positive. Approximately 75% were able to use the new self-service arrangement.
- BUDGET – a balanced budget was set at Full Council. £5 on a band D property was the headline, with car parking going up by 50p.
- ELECTIONS - will be going ahead, plans are being drawn up on how to do this safely. The Elections team will keep local councils notified of how this will happen. Postal votes will be very popular. The elections taking place will be for County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, a by-election in Market Harborough and a couple of Neighbourhood Plan referendums.
- BLABY LOCAL PLAN – will be shortly going out for consultation, there are issues for local settlements because of the possibility of a new settlement called Whetstone Pastures. Local councils and individuals will be able to comment.
- COMMUNITY OF PARISHES – was completed and has passed through Council. There were no issues affecting Broughton Astley.
- I would like to thank Anita in the Parish Office for sorting out the issue with a family headstone following the recent inspection in the cemetery.

Councillor Graves – provided the following report:

- DEVITT WAY SHOPS – complaints seem to have dried up on this development, however, there has been an increase in parked cars on the road around it as the residents are only given one parking space and permit.
- OPEN SPACES – Harborough District Council open spaces are continuing to be maintained. The issue surrounding the open space on Pinel Close is still being worked on. The owner is happy for someone to maintain on their behalf!
- BUDGET – there are 4 years of reserves left in the District budget and there will certainly be challenges ahead.

Councillor Dann left the meeting at 8:34pm

10. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Parish Manager presented the schedule of payments made for the period to 31 January 2021. The schedule of payments and the month end statement were received. Acceptance of the schedule of payments was carried unanimously by the Members with a show of hands. The Chairman signed the Bank Reconciliations, on behalf of the Parish Council.

2797/02/2021 **RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments and the month end statements for the period 31 January 2021 were received and accepted unanimously. The Chairman signed the Bank Reconciliations, on behalf of the Parish Council.**

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Parish Manager presented the financial statements for the period ending 31 January 2021. A show of hands accepted the Financial Statements unanimously.

2798/02/2021 **RESOLVED: That the financial statements for the period to the end of 31 January 2021 are accepted.**

12. SECTION 106

The Members were presented with a statement as of 31 January 2021 detailing the S106 payments and expiry dates allocated to Broughton Astley Parish Council.

2799/02/2021 **RESOLVED: That the statement as of 31 January 2021 detailing s106 payments and expiry dates for Broughton Astley Parish Council are accepted.**

13. GRANT APPLICATION STATUS

Members were presented with a report providing the status of any grant application being applied for as of 31 January 2021.

2800/02/2021 **RESOLVED: That the status report provided as of 31 January 2021 detailing the progress of any grant applications is accepted.**

14. ROSPA INSPECTION REPORT

The Members noted the outstanding issues and any new issues arising since the RoSPA report of January 2021 and noted that no new areas of concern were highlighted.

2801/02/2021 **RESOLVED: That the review of the outstanding RoSPA report is accepted.**

15. PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Parish Council received a copy of the minutes from the Planning meeting held on Monday 1 February 2021. The Chair thanked the committee for their work on behalf of the council.

2802/02/2021 1573.21 - 20/02010/VAC
RESOLVED: Noted

2803/02/2021 1574.21 - 20/02079/FUL
RESOLVED: No objections.

This document is also available in large print.

2804/02/2021

1575.21 - 21/00022/FUL

RESOLVED: Members can see no impact on the street scene or neighbours, so no objections were raised.

2805/02/2021

1576.21 - 21/00089/VAC

RESOLVED: Members wish to object to the above Variation of Conditions to Planning Application 14/00495/REM. This application was strongly objected to in May and July 2014 as Members were concerned that the chalets could be used for permanent residence and that the volume of traffic accessing this site would impact greatly on residents.

Committee Members, although aware that this planning application has been approved wish to object to 21/00089/VAC for the following reasons:

1. This site is not in the Broughton Astley Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2028.

The Neighbourhood Plan provided for over 500 homes which is over and above the quota of 400 which was allocated by Harborough District Council. 3.1.10 of Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 referring to Broughton Astley states '*The Neighbourhood Plan also allocates more than enough housing land to meet its needs*'.

2. In answer to Variation of Condition 18 (occupation) 21/00089/VAC

The previous Planning Application 11/00806/ETC Decision Notice stated in Condition 18

'the holiday cottages shall be for holiday purposes only; no lodge shall be occupied as a person's sole or main residence'. The occupation of the lodges shall be for holiday purposes only; no lodge shall be occupied as a person's sole or main residence. The site owners/operators shall maintain an up-to-date register of the name/s of the owners/occupiers of individual lodges on the site, and their main home address, and shall make this information available upon request at all reasonable times to officers of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To prevent otherwise unrestricted residential development in the open countryside, to support tourism objectives, to ensure the use remains compatible with the surrounding area and would not have a significant harmful effect on the countryside and to accord with Policies JN11, EV15 and LE/14 of the Harborough District Local Plan. An unrestricted development of swelling for permanent occupation on this site, which lies outside a sustainable settlement, would not be permitted'.

3. Traffic/Highway

There is only one access to the settlement. At present there is traffic to existing dwellings, the golf course, Nursing Home, Baptist Church, local farms, the Barn (employment) and the go karting site.

A further 11 houses have been built since application 14/00495/REM was approved and Members are concerned with the volume of additional traffic this development would create due to its location at the edge of the settlement.

If approved the change of delivery times will impact on the residents of Sutton in the Elms as the extended times from 7.00am – 9.00pm and weekends will affect the quiet rural location of this hamlet. The increase in delivery hours for this application is unacceptable due to the long hours especially at weekends and bank holidays.

4. Sustainability

The bus service has been reduced and now the nearest bus stop is further away from Sutton in the Elms. This development means that residents will have too far to walk to the village amenities and encourages the use of the car.

Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 Local Plan Objective 10. Transport: *Provide greater opportunities to reduce car use, thereby reducing the impacts of road traffic on local communities, the environment and air quality, by locating development where there is good access to jobs, services, and facilities, and by supporting improvements in public transport, walking, and cycling networks and facilities.*

5. Impact on Sutton in the Elms

Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 Local Plan Objective 7. Historic environment: *Protect and enhance the character, distinctiveness and historic significance of settlements and their wider landscape and townscape settings, thereby recognising the important contribution that heritage assets and their settings make to securing a high-quality public realm and supporting tourism and the economy.*

Sutton in the Elms is part of Broughton Astley but is detached from it by the B581 (Broughton Way) with only one access point, thereby creating its own character and distinctiveness. When travelling along Sutton Lane (formally Leicester Road) the housing density decreases and becomes enveloped by the countryside. To allow this development for residential occupancy would enable the remaining green fields between this site and the current settlement to become infill sites. This encroachment into the countryside would change the small settlement and destroy its character and distinctiveness.

16. GRANT APPLICATION

Members received a report regarding a grant application received from St Mary's Church, Broughton Astley to support the funds required for urgent repairs to the fabric of the building. Members were informed that under the Local Government Act 1894 a Parish Council is prohibited from contributing to the affairs of the church which includes the maintenance of church buildings and land. It was suggested that the Parish Council investigates the possible use of any available S106 funding. As the Parish Council reserves have been exhausted during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is also recommended that the Church reapplies to the Parish Council in the new financial year for funding under s137 which it may be permissible.

2806/02/2021

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Parish Council investigates the possible use of s106 funding for the project.**
- 2. That the application is represented in the new financial year.**

17. PARKWOOD LEISURE SUPPORT

This agenda item was held in closed session due to the confidential and commercial nature of the business to discuss. At its last meeting, the Parish Council agreed throughout the discussions that whilst they are still willing to support Parkwood Leisure through the closure imposed on them because of the latest lockdown, a new Variation Agreement needs to be signed to reflect the period of support requested. The new Variation Agreement document has now been received and the Chair signed it on behalf of the Parish Council. The Members also agreed that a limited of support is provided in line with the projections provided by Parkwood Leisure and any deviation from this will require additional full council approval. Councillor Grafton-Reed proposed, and Councillor Porter seconded the above to be accepted. A show of hands carried this unanimously.

2807/02/2021

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Chair signs the new Variation Agreement on behalf of the Parish Council in relation to providing support.**
- 2. That there is a limit to the support provided in line with the projections provided by Parkwood Leisure and any deviation from this will require additional full council approval.**

2808/02/2021

18. MEMBERS MOTIONS

No Members motions were received.

2787/01/2021

The meeting closed at 9.07pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

.....Chairman

Dated.....