MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2013
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY

PRESENT: Councillors N Bannister, 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 Swinfen and R Tomlin

Also present: County Councillor Bill Liquorish and Mr I Norman – resident of Sutton in the Elms.

Clerk: Mrs C M Lord – Parish Manager

508 1. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors J Bateman and Mrs M Stell.

509 2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS
Councillor Bannister notified the meeting of his non-pecuniary interest in item 12 of the Agenda. Councillor Oliver notified the meeting of his non-pecuniary interest in item 10 of the Agenda (disputed invoice).

510 3. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2013
Councillor Grafton-Reed moved and Councillor Porter seconded confirmation and adoption of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 February 2013. The minutes were approved and accepted unanimously. There were no matters arising.

511 4. 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: Parking restrictions - Councillor Golding informed the meeting the capital funding bid in respect of the improvements of the Orchard Road car park had been approved by the District Council.
429: Cricket Club lease – the Parish Manager reported that the Cricket Club was satisfied with the terms of the new lease, and that it would be signed in due course.
478: Skatepark repairs – The Parish Manager reported that the majority of the works required had been completed, with only the railing on one section left to finish.
493: Regular Users policy – The Parish Manager confirmed that there had been no loss in the number of Regular Users due to the introduction of the new pricing structure.

512 5. CHAIRMANS TIME
The Chairman requested that a minute’s silence should be observed in respect of the recent demise of Gerald Alan Talbott who had served as Parish Council Chairman for a total of 17 years.

The Chairman then updated Members on the following items of interest:

Developer Meeting
The Chairman reminded the Members that representatives of William Davis Homes had requested an informal meeting with Members to discuss their proposed development, and that the meeting would be held on Monday 25 March at 7.30pm.
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
The Chairman reminded all relevant Members that a meeting of the NPSG would be held on Thursday 28 March at 7.30pm.

Resignation of Councillor Neil Bannister
The Chairman informed the meeting that he had reluctantly accepted the resignation of Councillor Bannister due to his work and District Council commitments. Councillor Bannister who represents Broughton Ward, will cease to be a Parish Councillor on Friday 19 April 2013.

6. PUBLIC FORUM
Public Forum opened at 7.42 pm.
Mr Norman, resident of Sutton in the Elms took the opportunity to address the Parish Council regarding his views of the Neighbourhood Plan process and the future development of Broughton Astley.
Mr Norman said that in his opinion no villager had been asked whether they wanted a supermarket to be built in Broughton Astley, and the basis of justifying the need for a supermarket had been that 89.9% of responders declaring that they used a private car to go shopping. He said that the key point was that a supermarket would still mean car journeys were required. He said that light pollution caused by the construction of a supermarket and petrol station would be unacceptable. He said that a survey asking direct questions on whether a supermarket is wanted and would residents use it, should be sent around the village. He said that there was no need for further employment facilities, as there were already many empty industrial units in Croft which could be used. He said that the surveys and consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan were irrelevant as the Parish Council had a pre-set agenda for the inevitable expansion of the village.

The Chairman acknowledged Mr Norman’s comments and thanked him for his attendance at the meeting.
Public Forum closed at 7.47pm

7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS
Councillor Bill Liquorish
Councillor Liquorish reminded the meeting that he was due to stand for re-election as a County Councillor on 2 May 2013; and that being it would not be appropriate for him to provide a report, which might be viewed as canvassing.

Councillor Golding
Councillor Golding reported that he had invited Norman Proudfoot from Harborough District Council and a representative of the County Council to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council in order to present plans for the car park improvements.

Councillor Dann
Councillor Dann had nothing of note to report.

Councillor Graves
Councillor Graves reported that he would be attending and making representation at the appeal relating the proposed development off Crowfoot Way which is to be held on 8 / 9 May 2013.

8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES
Councillor Brown reported that the Community Bus Committee is planning to replace the existing bus with a fully accessible 16-seater bus in the near future. He said that funding raising activities will be held and that the Committee will be seeking grant funding from various sources.

9. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 2013
The Parish Manager presented the schedule of payments made for the period until 28 February 2013. The schedule of payments were received and accepted unanimously.
10. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF FEBRUARY 2013
The Parish Manager presented the financial statements for the period ending 28 February 2013. Members observed that income and expenditure for the year was in line with budgets.

The Parish Manager provided a report on efforts made to secure payment of a disputed invoice relating to Baby Sensory South Leicestershire. The Members considered the report and the implications detailed in terms of cost and staff time of attempting to recover the outstanding debt of £178.50 via the Small Claims Court, and accepted that this was not viable. They considered that the recommendation that further bookings should not be accepted unless paid for by cash in advance did not go far enough in efforts to recover public monies owing.

Councillor Dann proposed therefore that no further bookings should be accepted on behalf of either Baby Sensory South Leicestershire or its proprietor Mrs Tracey Hewitt, until the debt owed to the Parish Council has been paid by cash. Once the debt has been paid then any future bookings should be settled by payment of cash in advance, and not be subject to a Regular Users agreement.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Golding; and on the vote 12 Members were in favour and 2 against.

RESOLVED:
1. That the Parish Council should inform Mrs Hewitt the proprietor of Baby Sensory South Leicestershire, that no further bookings of the Village Hall will be accepted until the debt of £178.50 is paid in cash.
2. That Mrs Hewitt should also be informed that once the debt has been paid then any future bookings should be settled by payment of cash in advance and will not be subject to a Regular Users agreement.

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11. DRAFT END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT
The Parish Manager presented an end of year draft balance sheet in order to provide Members with an overview of the Parish Councils investments, and the sums to be accrued in lieu of unpaid invoices at this, the final stage of the financial year. No significant issues of concern were noted, and Members noted that the final accounts for 2012/13 will be presented, ready for the Annual Return in due course.

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12. 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.

RENEWAL OF LEASE – PARISH COUNCIL TRUCK
Members considered a report of the need to renew the 5-year lease on the Parish Council Truck. They were informed that quotations had been received from 4 leasing specialists for the replacement of the ford Ranger truck on a like-for like basis. Members were informed that the option of the lease of an electric pick-up vehicle had been considered, but that there were a limited selection available at present. They agreed that this should be considered in the future. The cheapest quotation was provided by Lex Autolease at a cost of £3,174.84 per year, over a 5-year period.

Councillor Golding suggested that an older second-hand vehicle should be purchased, and ran at little cost to the Parish Council. Members expressed concerns about the reliability of such a vehicle, staff time and the cost implications when the vehicle was in need of repair. The majority of Members considered that the lease deal provided a reliable multi-use vehicle for the Parish Council.
Councillor Graves considered that alternatives models which might be available should be investigated prior to a decision being made.
Councillor Bannister proposed that the recommendation to accept the quotation from Lex Autolease should be accepted. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Porter, and on the vote 12 Members were in favour and 2 against.

520 RESOLVED:
1. That the Parish Council enters into a new 5-year lease contract with Lex Autolease for the supply of a Ford Ranger truck at a cost of £3,174.84 per year for 5 years.
2. That when the 5-year lease period expires that Parish Council investigates the option of the lease of an electric powered pick-up truck.

Mr Norman left the meeting.

RENEWAL OF LEASE – PARISH COUNCIL PHOTOCOPIER
Members considered a report of the need to renew the 5-year lease on the Parish Council’s photocopied. They were informed that quotations had been received through 2 organisations. Members noted that due to improvements in technology the lease of a faster version of the existing model was now possible at a reduced cost; representing a saving of £108.21 a quarter on the existing lease contract.
Councillor Oliver suggested that Members should be offered the option of receiving their Agenda and papers in electronic format; saving time and resources. The Parish Manager agreed to provide this option to those who requested it at the beginning of the new municipal year.
Councillor Bannister proposed that the recommendation that the Parish Council enters into a new 5-year lease contract with Konica Minolta for the supply of the C364 photocopier at an average cost of £289.73 per quarter. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Grafton-Reed and on the vote all Members present were in support of the proposal.

521 RESOLVED:
1. That the Parish Council enters into a new 5-year lease contract with Konica Minolta for the supply of the C364 photocopier at an average cost of £289.73 per quarter.
2. That Parish Councillors are provided with the option of having all their Agenda and meeting papers supplied in electronic format from the beginning of the new municipal year.

522 13. MEMBERS’ MOTIONS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
None received.

523 The meeting closed at 8.18pm

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

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Dated .............................................