

BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Sargeant Memorial Hall 20th January 2020 at 7:45pm

Present: Cllr G Morgan (GM)
Cllr F Copsey (FC)
Cllr S Dorey (SD)
Cllr D Allingham (DA)
Cllr H Barnell (HB)

Cllr M Clarke

No members of the public

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr C Clarke,**
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – 18.11.19, These were corrected and signed as a true record of the meeting.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – To receive declarations made under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. (Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a pecuniary interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business).
None was declared.

4. MATTERS FOR REPORT/CLERKS REPORT– NOT COVERED BY AGENDA

Parking issues on Grove Road

Cllr HB asked if there was any progress on the parking issues on Grove Road? Cllr FC has taken photos to show the parking problems. Highways has added new "no parking" lines that has resulted in fewer places for parking. A number of cars are now parking at the top of the road and on the grass.

Parish Councillor resignations

It was with profound sadness the Chair had received a letter from Cllr Kevin Ward stating that he will not be able to continue as a Parish Councillor. KW is prepared to support the PC with any strategic issues on a pro bono basis and both he and his wife will continue to deliver the village newsletter. It should be noted that KW

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felt significantly aggrieved by the attitude of SNC and moreover certain councillors when he represented the PC and stated their views at the Planning Meeting early in 2019

The Chair has also received a letter of resignation from Cllr Helen Barnell who will be officially standing down from May 2020 due to personal reasons.

Cllr Kevin Ward was on the Parish Council for 32 years and Cllr Helen Barnell for 17 years. A wealth of experience has been lost and the Chair reported we must advertise and take up any offers of interest – we cannot sustain three vacancies.

The PC discussed who will be responsible for the village newsletter when Cllr Barnell steps down in May. Cllr Copsey offered to take on this task with initial support from Cllr Barnell.

5. **PUBLIC** - Members of the public are invited to address the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes, each member of the public may speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. Discussion may take place, decisions can only be made on items already included on the agenda. Members of the public may not take part in any other part of the Parish Council meeting. No members of the public attended this meeting.

6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS ESTATE MATTERS**
 Report from Cllr M Clarke: At NCC things are gradually improving. Over the years the problems with children services and the poor OFSTED reports has been widely reported. There are now sweeping changes with Katherine Hadley appointed as new Head of Service and Mr Christy as Children's Commissioner. A key result has been reducing unallocated children's cases (no appointed social worker) from 40+ to a mere 5 in a very short period. Children's services will be overspent by approx. £7M, but this can be mitigated by underspends in other areas.
 Children's Care will be migrated under government instructions to a Childrens Trust as a separate entity that will cover both new Unitary Councils of Northamptonshire. The view is that this change will improve the existing poor image of the service and so draw in better staff when required. This new body will be semi-independent with a reporting duty into the new Councils.
 Budget scrutiny is ongoing and follows 2 years of balanced budgets and there is the expectation that the 2019-'20 budget will also be balanced.
 Adult social care is also being managed correctly and is currently running to budget.
 There should hopefully be more money available for the highways budget next year which unfortunately has one of the smallest budgets of the County services; even though this service is very visible to the public with regard to potholes and poor road surfaces.
 With regard to the organisational move to 2 new larger Unitary Authorities (West (Daventry SNC and the Borough) and North (Corby, East Northants, Corby and Kettering).

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At the moment a lot of time is being spent appointing officers and defining a clear asset classification between the new legal entities, there is much work to do. Elections this May will be for the Councillors for the new Unitary Authorities but will be shadowed by the existing councillors for the next 12 months.

7. PLANNING

A) LOCAL – S/2019/2516/FUL, the PC has reviewed the plans and has no objections.

Clerk to respond to SNC

B) STRATEGIC

Extending consultation period of the local development order; the PC has decided not to comment at this time.

8. ESTATE MATTERS

A) FOOTPATHS – Clerk to check maps for land ownership (previously supplied, Cllr Barnell can resupply if not in possession) and contact NCC and Little Houghton Estates regarding the overgrowing rights of way if not already undertaken..

B) LIGHTING – No reports.

C) GREEN & POND – Nothing to report

D) PLAY AREA – The PC agreed to include a playground sign to the Awards4All grant. Sign 400mm x 600mm for fence mounting, costs £361.63 (incl. VAT).

E) GENERAL ESTATE MATTERS

Cllr Copsey informed that Colin Gautrey is looking into costs of cedar shingles to repair the Bedford Road bus shelter roof because of the quantity we would need to purchase it may be beneficial to do both sides of the roof.

9. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY MATTERS

A) POLICE MATTERS – nothing to report

B) CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – nothing to report

C) GENERAL COMMUNITY ISSUES. The PC has received notice of a Social Housing to let in Brafield on the Green from NRHA. This information will be included in the newsletter. All interested applicants must be registered with South Northants Council.

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10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES – The drains in the village and down the A428 have been cleaned and where necessary repaired.

The growth of tree roots on the footpath between Billing Road and the Church have further deteriorated the surface of the path which FC will again report. Also significant potholes have appeared/got worse on Billing Road between Long Acre and Cares Orchard as well as in Elm Close. Cllr Copsey to report all to Street Doctor.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

A) CORRESPONDENCE - OUTGOING / INCOMING

Outgoing:

- i) SNC – electronic planning equipment request to proceed with the laptop, projector and screen and:
HP On Site Care package (5 years) – £142
MS Office License – £186.
- ii) CPRE Northants October 2019 Planning Roadshow – requested notes for which link was circulated
- iii) South Northamptonshire Rough Sleeping Estimate 2019 – nil return submitted
- iv) Lloyds Bank – request to set up savings account
- v) Cllr Clarke – dates of future meetings
- vi) Netwise - Acquisition on Councillors' email addresses, now obtained. Clerk's having problems with spam.

Incoming:

- vii) NCALC – Updates – circulated by email
- viii) Elections Survey – completed
- ix) South Northamptonshire Local Development Order (LDO) – Consultation
- x) SNC - Sports Club (croquet) Re-location
- xi) CPLT – request to reappoint Cllr Allingham. PC agreed to this request; proposed by Cllr Barnell and seconded by Cllr Copsey.

B) NEWSLETTER – items for inclusion:

- Bios of resigning Cllr Ward & Cllr Barnell (May be next newsletter depending on space)
- Community bus service providing a weekly bus service to various Northamptonshire shopping locations
- Brafield on the Green, Open Gardens 2020
- Saturday 28th March, Spring Litter Pick 10-30 to 12.30
- A contribution of £268 from the residue of the money from the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Commemoration of the start of WW1 has been received to pay for the work on the War Memorial.
- Donation made to The Nene Valley Help Scheme.

C) WEBSITE – in progress

12. FINANCE

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Date-----

PAYMENTS DUE TO BE AGREED

Payee	Detail	Chq No	Total	Net	Vat
E-on	Supplies – Oct - Dec	credit	492.83	469.36	23.47
Sargeant Mem Hall	Hall hire	078	124.00		
Brown and Barden	Green trees and grass	079	276.00	230.00	46.00
V Hartley	Salary Oct -Dec Back pay £68.67	080	971.43		
R Aldridge	Salary Dec, Jan	081	156.00		
HMRC	Tax Oct -- Dec	082	207.00		
S Gautrey	Salary Oct - Dec	083	117.00		
B Osborne	Payroll services	084	64.50		
Netwise	Domain renewal	085	15.00		
Green leaf Garden Services	Grass cutting, Invs 1631,1672,1706	086	120.00		
Nene Valley Help Scheme	Donation	087	100.00		
H. Barnell	Elastic Bands	088	2.49		

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS –

- Council to consider Request for funds towards Nene Valley Help Scheme; The PC agreed to donate £100 as this scheme is a valuable support to village parishioners. Over the last year the scheme has carried out 154 requests from local residents. This was agreed as a Section 137 payment.
- Council to consider Request for funds towards Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire – as this is the Citizens Advice in Banbury the PC felt that our residents would not use this facility and go to the closer Citizens Advice in Northampton.

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- A contribution of £268 from the residue of the money from the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and the Commemoration of the start of WW1 has been received to pay for the work on the War Memorial.

13. **AGREEMENT OF BUDGET FOR 2020/21** – Agreement and Resolution to apply for Precept for 2020/21 – The Clerk had circulated a draft budget. The PC agreed that based on inflation and the expected increase of certain suppliers that the precept for the new year will be set at £14,250. Cllr Allingham proposed, and Cllr Dorey seconded this decision. Clerk to apply for precept from SNC.

14. **SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS FOR COUNCILLORS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

Cllr Barnell: complete the newsletter

Cllr Allingham: prepare and submit grant for Alley Lane play area

Cllr Dorey: Check village grit bins

Cllr Copsey: Check village roads and pavements for potholes and report to Street Doctor accordingly.

15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS**

In future the Newsletter item should be placed as the penultimate item on the agenda.

16. **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS for 2020:**


23.3.20, 18.5.20 (AGM and APM start 7pm), 20.7.20,

21.9.20, 16.11.20

Signed: -----

Date-----

Planning Register at 13.1.20

<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Received</u> 	<u>Status</u>
<u>S/2019/2516/FUL</u>	14 The Green Brafield On The Green	Conversion of outbuilding into self contained annexe	23/12/2019	4 - Consults Despatched

Signed-----

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