

BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Sargeant Memorial Hall 23rd March 2020 at 7:30pm

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

1 member of the public

The chair opened the meeting by stating that due to the current Covid-19 situation this would NOT be a full meeting of the PC but one purely to deal with the legalities of the council to ensure compliance on any matters – although the next meeting is booked we would need to review the safety of this nearer the time if the Pandemic was not under control. Many agenda items at this meeting would be checked for safety issues and postponed to a future meeting.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE District Cllr S Hollowell, District Cllr C Clarke, County Cllr M Clarke, Parish Clerk Viv Hartley**
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – 20.01.20, These were corrected for errors prior to the meeting and signed as a true record.
- 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).
The Chair explained the reasoning behind this to the new councillors present and None were declared from any councillor.

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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 and these were sent to the Clerk for distribution to relevant parties. Because of the current situation with COVID-19, this issue will have to wait until the relevant authorities return to normal duties.

PC letter to SNC regarding retired Cllr Ward

Cllr HB asked if the letter from the PC regarding retired Cllr K. Ward and the poor treatment at the Planning Committee meeting held 3rd January 2019 had been sent to SNC. Cllr G. Morgan to check the status of this action with the Clerk for action if not complete.

Cllr GM informed that the new laptop, projector with stand and (very large) screen has now arrived and is currently with the Chair.

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.

A member of the public attended this meeting to assess the process as she will be co-opted onto the council to replace Cllr HB at the May meeting.

6. **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS ESTATE MATTERS**

Report received from District Cllr S Hollowell: Summary - The Covid-19 epidemic has required the District Council to modify the way in which it delivers its services. As much as possible normal duties are being carried out but staff in vulnerable groups are working from home as are also, all other staff who are able to do so. If there are any problems contacting SNC staff, then contact District Cllr S Hollowell.

Because of Cllr Hollowell's health issues, he is in voluntary quarantine for at least the next 12 weeks and is unable to attend meetings.

With regard to the Local Elections/Northamptonshire Local Government Reorganisation, Central Government are intending to bring in legislation to postpone this year's local elections until 2021.

Central government have said that there will be a £10,000 cash grant available to local small businesses, and that this will be delivered by local authorities. Small businesses including village shops, pubs and so on who qualify will be contacted.

Report received from County Cllr M Clarke: Summary - The 2020/21 Budget of net £447m expenditure was approved on February 28th. The average overall increase in Council Tax bills is ca. 3.7%. A further £21m in savings will be made in the course of the financial year. A new Children's Commissioner, Andrew Christie has been appointed. His main task is to establish the new Children's Trust, which will replace NCC Children's Services Directorate, and act as an overarching body serving both Unitary Councils. The Corona Virus crisis has

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resulted in the elections for Parish, town and Unitary Councils that were planned for May 7th to be delayed one year. It also applies to the election of a Police & Crime Commissioner. The original vesting date for the two new unitary authorities, May 2021 is being revisited in light of the decision to postpone the Council election until May 2021.

Two new machines to improve the quality of pothole repairs have been purchased. Their value will be assessed over the coming months as they are deployed on urban and rural roads.

NCC is following Government advice to postpone all Council Committee meetings until further notice and to follow national guide-lines in terms of quarantine and avoiding gatherings.

7. PLANNING

A) PLANNING APPLICATIONS: No planning applications

B) STRATEGIC: No strategic matters

8. ESTATE MATTERS

A) FOOTPATHS – Clerk to check maps (previously supplied, Cllr HB can support if not clear and will re-supply) and contact NCC and Little Houghton Estates regarding the overgrown rights of way on Bedford Rd/Horton Rd area.

B) LIGHTING – The light on the corner of Mere Close has had a completely new fitting. The light (23) at Elm Close has been fixed. Cllr SD to check light no 17, Horton Road that is only working intermittently and light no 8 on Furze Road that does not work.

C) GREEN & POND – At a later stage a new councillor will need to take on this activity from Cllr HB, who is retiring from the PC at the end of this meeting. There are no activities planned for the Green and Pond till October of this year – this will be re-visited at a later stage.

D) PLAY AREA – The PC is awaiting to hear from the National Lottery if they have been successful in being awarded a grant to replace the play area swings and to upgrade its seating area and wooden seating. Cllr DA has submitted this and is awaiting the results.

E) GENERAL ESTATE MATTERS - Cllr FC informed that Colin Gautrey is awaiting better weather conditions to be able to check the status of the bus shelter roof on Bedford Road. The PC agreed that sufficient material should be bought to complete the full reparation. Cllr GM suggested to enquire at Littlethorpe for cedar shingles; Cllr FC will contact them.

9. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY MATTERS

A) POLICE MATTERS – nothing new to report – a couple of emails had been circulated regarding scams o go in the newsletter.

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- B) CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – Because of the Coronavirus epidemic, the decision has been made to close schools and the majority of children in the village will be home schooling, Cllr GM asked the PC to be vigilant of potential vandalism increasing now that children will be confined to the village for long periods of time – potentially until September.
- C) GENERAL COMMUNITY ISSUES - Cllr GM informed the council of the plans that have been put together to support the parish during the current Coronavirus pandemic, many of which had been suggested by residents themselves. Cllr SD had worked very hard over the preceding few days to get a whatsapp group set up to help residents.

In this month's newsletter, red and green card squares will be enclosed that can be used to place in a visible window or front door glass. Showing RED because you or someone in your home is in isolation and you do not want anyone knocking, GREEN for those who are not currently self-isolating. The parish currently has 32 volunteers, coordinated through Cllr SD who can support villagers with a range of services ranging from shopping to a chat. The volunteers will also now manage the collection and distribution of prescriptions from Denton Village Surgery for vulnerable/self-isolating villagers.

The Village Stores and Butchers and Ramco Services are happy to take orders for goods in stock and the Parish volunteers can arrange collect to door delivery.

A Village Book Loan/Library Service for books, Jigsaws, CDs and DVDs is being set up every Tuesday and Thursday 1.30pm-3pm in the WMC via car pack entrance- this had to be immediately postponed in light of the Governments national 'lockdown'

The postman will knock on doors and leave items on doorsteps, to avoid contact the postman will sign for any packages if needed. It is important that he has time to step away from the doorstep before answering the door.

The Church and Poors Land Trust will be looking to provide small grants to people within the village who need additional financial support for food during the current uncertain COVID-19 period. The trustees are working with the WMC, Village Stores and Butchers and Ramco Services at the moment to finetune arrangements.

10. HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Cllr FC stated that the council has painted white circles around the potholes in Elm Close; this would indicate that they are now deemed deep enough to be repaired.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

A) CORRESPONDENCE - OUTGOING / INCOMING

Outgoing:

- i SNC - SNC Parish Precept Letter 2020-21 - £14250

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Incoming:

- i Kevin Ward – written to Chairman informing her of his resignation
- ii Helen Barnell – written to Chairman informing her of her resignation
- iii NVHS – Thank you for donation of £100 from PC
- iv NCALC – Updates – circ
- v NRHA - Social Housing in Brafield, 3-bed house available
- vi NCALC - Membership Survey 2020 - councillor edition
- vii CPRE Northants April 2020 Planning Roadshow, 2.4.20 Gt Houghton Village Hall, 7 pm – now cancelled
- viii Agri-cycle - NEW - Wheelie bins, Benches, picnic tables and planters
- ix Northamptonshire Youth Commission – Membership Applications
- x West Northamptonshire - Strategic Land Availability Assessment Methodology – Technical Consultation Document
- xi Correspondence from prospective councillors
- xii SNC - South Northamptonshire Part 2 Local Plan Modifications Consultation
- xiii Cogenhoe and Whiston PC – Village Hopper Minutes from 17.2.20 and

Report to Parishes.

- i District Cllr Carole Clarke – request where Brafield PC obtained grant for play area equipment
- ii Wicksteed – asking whether grant application was successful
- iii NCALC – updates on Coronavirus developments and impact on Local Government
- iv Internal correspondence ref Coronavirus support to residents of Brafield.

C) WEBSITE – Cllr HB requested that the article about the Village Hopper is put on the website.

12. FINANCE

PAYMENTS DUE TO BE AGREED

Payee	Detail	Chq No	Total	Net	Vat
Church & Poors Land Trust	Rent for play area	089	60.00		
Bus shelter cleaner	Salary Feb -Mar	090	156.00		
Litter pick	Salary Jan - Mar	091	117.00		
Pay Roll Officer	Payroll services Jan - Mar	092	64.50		
V Hartley	Salary Jan + Feb +Mar	093	751.08		
CPRE	Annual sub	094	36.00		
HMRC	Tax Jan - Mar	095	151.80		

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PCC Northants	Newsletter printing Jun, Jul, Sept, Nov 2019 + Jan '20 + Coronavirus help leaflet		158.34	131.95	26.39
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13. SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS FOR COUNCILLORS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

Cllr HB: - send copy of maps showing ownership of overgrown footpaths opposite Home Farm (side: Horton Road) to Clerk; Complete the newsletter, Email invoice of police printing to Clerk. Complete Newsletter and send to chair for checking
Clerk to send to overgrown footpath maps from Cllr HB to County council and Little Houghton estates, requesting clearance; Check if letter regarding ex-Cllr Ward was sent to SNC.

Cllr DA: Complete PC draft minutes send to chair for checking; Publish that the village litter pick is cancelled

Cllr SD: Ongoing coordination of village volunteers during Corona virus lock down.

Cllr FC: Check status of bus-shelter roof; check status of potholes on the footpath from Billing Road up orchard path.

Chair: send Covid-19 article to Cllr HB and DA, Check minutes, Check Newsletter, send payments of from the council, Check os matters – report back to Clerk for actions outstanding

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND COUNCILLORS' COMMENTS

No comments.

15. NEWSLETTER – items for inclusion:

- Information about village volunteers with regard to Coronavirus
- Introduction of new Parish councillors GC and CT
- Articles for the newsletter can now be sent to Caroline Nelson
- Information about Corona virus hoax
- Village Hopper
- Brafield on the Green, Open Gardens 2020 - Cancelled
- Saturday 28th March, Spring Litter Pick 10-30 to 12.30 - Cancelled

15. DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS for 2020: 18.5.20(AGM and APM start 7pm), 20.7.20, 21.9.20,16.11.20

There being nothing further the meeting closed at 20.30 hrs – the Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next meeting would be wholly dependent on the situation with the nations pandemic and therefore we may have to amend the way we deal with the meeting.

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