

## BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Gerald Couldrake, Chair to the Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Sargeant Memorial Hall 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7:30pm

**Present:** Mr G Couldrake Chairman

Mrs C Nelson

Mrs F Copsey

1 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence and Quorum** – Cllrs Andrews, Morgan, Dorey and Allingham
2. **Review of and Approval and signature of previous meeting's minutes** (15.11.23). – Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Members Declarations of Interest on any Agenda items - none**
4. **Questions from Parishioners in attendance (note 3 minutes per parishioner) - None**
5. **West Northamptonshire Council Report – none available**
6. **Planning Applications for comment** – no recent applications  
Clerk and Cllr Nelson attending NCALC briefing on Community Infrastructure Levies on 30.1.24
7. **Estate Matters:**
  - Footpaths – no issues for report
  - Street lighting – no issues for report
  - Pond – Update on meeting with Fisher German re flooding- The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Andrews had attended a meeting with Matthew Trembath from Fisher German. The flooding is probably caused by a collapsed drain pipe from a brick culvert. Davidge maintain that they own the pond and not the adjacent grassland. On checking the grass either side is unregistered. The trust has paid for the cost of jetting the pipe but it is blocked where the ground is common land – permission for work to be done must be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate. This could take 40 weeks. Highways and Anglian Water are unlikely to assist. The Chairman is willing to apply for permission with a view to the work being done over the summer. The council considered whether the cost of approximately £2000 should be considered in the budget.  
It was resolved that given the level of reserves available to the Council, it was not necessary to make any additional provision in the budget for this issue.
8. **Play Area** – update from Cllr Copsey - new swings installed. Any health and safety concerns. **Clerk** to speak to contractor and request that the bramble on

Signed-----

Date-----

the inside of the play area are cut at the base. Cllr Allingham reported that hopefully after this cold spell James O'Dell can place the bins and the playground game.

#### **9. Highways**

- Updates from Cllr Copsey on Fix my Street reports – all the gullies in Billing Road have been cleared and recent heavy rain has flowed away. Grass growing at the edge has also been removed.
- Review of WNC verge cutting
- Council to consider 'No Mow May' project – Clerk has registered interest
- Update on Request for Bus Stop Suspension and Bag off Request for Traffic Lights and Pedestrian Crossing on A428 – 3 Way traffic lights are to be used for 3 days on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.
- Cllr Allingham has sent information on recycled benches for Bedford Road.

**10. Council to consider membership of NACRE** - Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England – £35 per annum – it was agreed that the Council should trial membership

**11. Council to consider hosting a Textiles Recycling Bin for Senbotex** – this had been tried in the past and it was agreed not to repeat the exercise.

#### **12. Finance**

- The Payments and Bank Reconciliation were approved (see annexed list) –
- Internal Control Report – Cllr Allingham, not available. Clerk reported that the Fixed Asset Register still needs to be produced with more detail.
- Clerk to send Cllr Allingham bank statements for internal control report.

**13. AGREEMENT OF BUDGET FOR 2024/25** – it was agreed to set a budget of £20500 (not including any extra for the Pond flooding issue) and the Council resolved to apply for Precept of £20500 for 2024/25 to cover the budget. – The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget.

**14. Website Enhancement** – Council to review

**15. Items for Village Newsletter** – the Chairman reported that Cllr Copsey had taken on the Newsletter and he thanked Cllr Nelson for her work in the past.

**16. Any other items for future meetings** – the D Day Celebrations should be on the next agenda.

**17. Summary of Action points for each councillor** – Councillors had their own list

**18. Date and time of next meetings** – these will be the third Wednesday of March 20<sup>th</sup> May 15<sup>th</sup> , July 17<sup>th</sup> , September 18<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>

**Payments to be agreed at meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Ref</b>
N Power	Supplies Oct – Dec	1159.60	1104.38	55.22	35
HMRC – chq	Tax Oct - De	24.40	24.40	-	Chq 206
NACRE	Annual sub	35.00			36

Total £1184.00

**Bank Reconciliation**

Balance at 10.1.24 - £14345.56

Balance at 17.1.24 Less above payments of £13161.56

Signed-----

Date-----