

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 18th September 2024 at 7:30pm

Present:

Mr G Couldrake Chairman
 Mrs D Allingham Vice Chairman
 Mrs C Nelson
 Mrs G Morgan
 Mr M Andrews
 Mrs S Dorey
 Mrs F Copsey
 Cllr Andrew Grant, WNS
 4 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence and Quorum –

2. Review of and Approval and signature of previous meeting's minutes (18.7.24). – 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) –

- **Request for provision of dog bins. Discussion ensued. Council agreed to consider issue and will put it on the next agenda. Clerk to check costs of bins and emptying.**

5. West Northamptonshire Council Report

– Cllr Grant reported on the following:

- Grass cutting – lack of response from WNC over grass but had a response about pond. There has not been a walk around the village as yet. The grass has been cut.
- Cllr Copsey reported that the Bedford Road footpath needs clearing and also that soil from field next to Billing Road bus shelter is covering footpath encouraging vegetation.
- World Tour cycling event was very well organised and supported.
- Refurbishment of Town centre and market is nearly complete.
- Children Services – plan to build improved facilities
- Bus transport – improvement to services
- Cllr Allingham asked whether Volunteering Opportunities Grant was still available. (for voluntary mowing arrangements). Cllr Grant will find out.

6. Planning Applications for comment

– nothing on register between 18.9.-11.9.24

Signed-----

Date-----

7. Estate Matters:

- Footpaths – any issues for report – see above
- Street lighting – no issues for report
- Pond – update on flooding issue and ownership of land – no update from Fisher German who had stated they are waiting for response from WNC who have no problem with the issue. FG should now be applying for possessory title of the land.
- Grass cutting of verges in village – update
- Bins – Cllr Allingham had quote for installation of 3 bins - £350. The Council agreed that this should go ahead. Cllr Allingham will order.

8. **Play Area** – update - Any health and safety concerns – Clerk reported that Annual inspection had been requested, there is a slight delay on timing. Handgrip for climbing frame ordered again.

9. Highways

- Updates on Fix my Street reports – none
- Billing Road – traffic calming – installation of VAS device, update on Dragons teeth and gateway which should arrive in less than 6 weeks. **Clerk** to chase company for VAS device again. Need volunteers for moving the sign around the WNC approved poles (brackets supplied) This request will go into the newsletter. An attending resident volunteered to help with this.
- Mowing issues – Cllr Allingham reported NCALC had stated some villages have ‘swapped’ arrangements whereby volunteers cut areas such as the Green – away from the road – and paid contractors cut the verges alongside roads. Cllr Allingham is looking into grant availability to fund the purchase and insurance of a mower.
- Cllr Nelson reported that the Billing Road Bus timetable not legible because cover panel has weathered. Clerk distributed latest timetable and has displayed it on website.

10. Finance

- The Payments and Bank Reconciliation (see annexed list) were agreed.
- Internal Control Report for April – July 2024 – Cllr Allingham reported there were no issues. **Clerk** to send September bank statements to Cllr Allingham for next check.
- External Audit Report this had been received, circulated and accepted by the Council. Clerk had carried out the statutory obligations – notice of conclusion of audit and External Audit report is on the website.

11. **Website Enhancement** – Council to review – **Clerk** to give address details to Cllrs Dorey and Allingham

12. Items for Village Newsletter –

- WNC walkaround for grass cutting
- Dog poos bins new bins

Signed-----

Date-----

- Street lighting, still waiting for dragons teeth and VAS
- Pond update
- Volunteers for moving VAS

13. Any other items for future meetings

14. Summary of Action points for each Councillor.

Cllr Couldrake – liaising with Cllr Grant re verges

Cllr Dorey – newsletter and website

Cllr Copsey – newsletter

Cllr Allingham – Internal report and Grants for Green Spaces

15. Date and time of next meeting - 20th November

Signed-----

Date-----

Payments agreed at meeting on 18th September 2024

Payee	Detail	Total	Net	Vat	Ref
R Aldridge *	Salary Jul-Sept	307.20			23
S Gautrey *	Salary Jul-Sept	153.40			24
V Hartley *	Salary Jul-Sept	1057.32			25
S Dorey	Re-imberse for printing newsletter (Doxdirect)	23.89			26
Green Leaf Gardening Services	Invs 2422+2462– play area grass & hedge July and August	400.00	400.00	-	27
Brown and Barden	Invs 5472+5454 Green maintenance Jul + Aug	432.00	360.00	72.00	28
V Hartley	Re-imberse for Virus protection from Macafee	109.99	109.99		29
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	252.00	42.00	210.00	30

Total £2483.80
 *to be paid at end of September

Bank Reconciliation

- Balance current A/C at 11.9.24- £ 7952.12
- Balance at 1.10.24 Less above payments £7952.12 (precept of £10250 to come in at end of September)
- Balance on Deposit Account at 11.9.24 - £ 10227.19

Signed-----

Date-----