

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 15th January 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Mr G Couldrake Chairman
Mrs D Allingham
Mrs C Nelson
Mrs F Copsey
Mrs G Morgan
Mrs S Dorey

Mr S Clarke, WNS Cllr
5 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Quorum** – Cllr M Andrews
- 2. Review of and Approval and signature of previous meeting's minutes** (20.11.24). – 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) - None**
- 5. West Northamptonshire Council Report – Cllr Clarke reported.** He read his summarized monthly report. He agreed to pursue Highways regarding the Parish Council taking on the mowing round the village – the Chairman will send him relevant correspondence. He will also look into the 'Public Protection Notices' which are in the name of WNS.
- 6. Planning Applications for comment - none**
- 7. Estate Matters:**
 - Footpaths – any issues for report – none. A request for a volunteer to be Footpath Warden will go into the Newsletter
 - Street lighting – any issues for report – Cllr Dorey reported on some lights the sensors are causing confusion that lights are in need of repair as they appear to come on again after a few days
- 8. Pond Drainage Repair – Update**
Chairman reported that contractors have put camera through the drainage pipe and advice is that it should not be jet washed as it would not withstand it. Dye markers were seen coming through to the pond and flooding has stopped since. He will meet with Kevin Ward to discuss ownership and possessory title of the land.
- 9. Play Area** – Repairs carried out by Wicksteed. Cllr Copsey has cut back overhanging brambles.

Signed-----

Date-----

10. Highways

- Updates on Fix my Street reports –
- Billing Road Ref 6958077 – lifted drain cover but it has been rejected by Fix my Street. Cllr Clarke will follow up.
- 50mph sign down – reported but still not re-instated. Some of the 50 mph signs have been defaced.
- Billing Road – traffic calming, VAS device and Dragons Teeth + gateway Update – member of the public present who has taken on VAS device which is now up and running on Billing Road. 4 brackets to distribute around the village. Batteries will run down and so that would seem a suitable time to move it. Horton Road would be another suitable location. Cllr Dorey will liaise with volunteer to analyse data.
- **Clerk** to insure VAS machine and add it to Fixed Asset register

11. Verge mowing in the village – Update on arrangements – see WNC Councillor report above.

12. Litter bins – Council to consider removal of litter bin on Green as it is being used for an excessive number of dog waste bags.

The issue of litter bins, in particular the one on the Green, was discussed at length. Generally it seems to be the case that WNC will only empty bins they have installed. Cllr Nelson had a record of an email dated 22/10/21 from a Supervisor of Street Cleansing which said he would be '*happy to arrange for them to be emptied weekly*'. The Chairman reported that he has arranged to meet with Dan Johnson Street Cleansing Supervisor to discuss the emptying of bins on 16.1.25.

The Chairman went through a letter from a resident regarding litter bins. A resident who was present was concerned that public monies had been used to install the bin on the Green with no consultation, that it was an unnecessary eyesore. The Council stated that at the time it was purchased it was required and it would cost more money to remove and install it somewhere else.

It was agreed by all that the bin should be monitored to see how much it is used – assuming WNS will do the weekly emptying. The Chairman will report back on the meeting on 16.1.25 and this item will be on the next agenda.

13. Finance

- The payments and Bank Reconciliation (see annexed list) were agreed.
- Internal Control Report – Cllr Allingham reported that the accounts were in order. Clerk to send next bank statements.

14. AGREEMENT OF BUDGET FOR 2025/26 – Agreement and Resolution to apply for Precept for 2025/26 – it was agreed to set a budget of £22000.

The estimated increase in electricity supplies for lighting was put at 20% bringing it to £5500. The Council resolved to apply for Precept of £22000 for 2025/26 to cover the budget. – The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget.

Signed-----

Date-----

15. Website Enhancement – Council to review – Cllrs Dorey and Allingham requested a photo of each Councillor and the Clerk to be added. The previous newsletters will also be added.

16. Items for Village Newsletter – noted by Cllr Dorey

17. Any other items for future meetings – Litter bins – emptying arrangements and need.

18. Summary of action points for each Councillor:

- CD - Ownership of Green
 - Litter bins
 - Mowing arrangements
- FC - Play Area
- DA - Asset Register
 - Website
- SD - Liaise over VAS data
 - Streetlights
 - Website
 - Newsletter
- CN - Fix My Street reports

19. Date and time of next meetings all 7.30 pm except Annual Parish

**Assembly on 21st May which is at 7 pm – 19.3.25, 21.5.25 16.7.25, 17.9.25
19.11.25**

Signed-----

Date-----

Payments agreed at meeting on 15th January 2025

Payee	Detail	Total	Net	Vat	Ref
S Dorey – re-imburse for newsletter printing	Invoices 178803	23.67			42
HMRC	Tax for Oct – Dec	27.40			Chq 211/
N Power	Electricity Supplies Oct - Dec	1186.53	1130.03	56.50	43
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Equipment parts	81.86	68.22	13.64	44
Claydon	Investigation of drain on Green	420.00	350.00	70.00	45
Sgt Mem Hall	Inv 03/25 – hire of hall	214.50			46
Church and Poors Land	Rent for Play Area	100.00			47
Mowerman Grounds Maintenance	Filling of grit bins	241.38	201.15	40.23	48

Total £2295.34

Bank Reconciliation

- Balance current A/C at 31.12.24 - £11610.73
- Balance Less above payments of £9315.39
- Balance on Deposit Account at 31.12.24- £ 10253.31

Planning – no items on Planning Register for period 18.11.24 – 7.1.25

Signed-----

Date-----