

## BRAFIELD ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs V. Hartley, Clerk to the Council, Tel: [07936 419863]

Email [brafieldonthegreenpc@gmail.com](mailto:brafieldonthegreenpc@gmail.com)

Gerald Couldrake, Chair to the Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

**Sargeant Memorial Hall 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30pm**

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

Mr S Clarke, WNS Cllr  
4 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Quorum** – Cllr F Copsey
- 2. Review of and Approval and signature of previous meeting's minutes**  
(15.1.25). – Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Members Declarations of Interest on any Agenda items – Cllr Allingham declared interest in item 16**
- 4. Questions from Parishioners in attendance (note 3 minutes per parishioner)**  
A resident enquired about the purchase of the VAS device. The Chairman informed her that a grant had been obtained to cover the cost.  
A resident asked whether anything could be done to encourage people not to go through a gap in the hedge from Owen Court as a shortcut across private land to the footpath to the church. The response was that this was not within the remit of the Parish Council. The same resident may be interested in becoming a footpath warden and will discuss this with the Chairman.
- 5. West Northamptonshire Council Report – Cllr Clarke reported**
  - Advised Council to report highway/footpath/flooding issues to Fix my Street.
  - Cllr Morgan stated that the PC needs WNC to ensure support for the Stagecoach service and the Village Hopper.
- 6. Parish Council Election/Nomination Process.** Clerk and Chairman will hold Electoral Register for elector numbers. Nomination forms to be submitted by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 7. Consideration of and approval of a variation to the lease of the Alley Lane Playground** – The Church and Poors Land Trust wish to sell a small area of land - 27.5m<sup>2</sup>, as part of a transaction involving the sale of the adjacent Alley lane and garden ground behind 2 Church Lane. The Chairman had met with the Trustees on site and received correspondence from a

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Trustee requesting agreement to the land in question being removed from the lease. The Parish Council agreed to the request and the letter was signed and dated by the Chairman and Clerk to record the change.

#### **8. Planning Applications for comment:**

- 2025/0480/S73 at 95 Billing Road, Brafield On The Green, NN7 1BL (Extension requested) – No comments from PC. **Clerk** to submit response.

#### **9. Estate Matters:**

- Footpaths – any issues for report - none
- Street lighting –
  - Light at the pond –appears to be on all the time
  - Light on Bridle Path - the flap on the post has come away and had been reported.

#### **10. Play Area – No issues**

#### **11. Highways**

- Updates on Fix my Street reports –
- Part of Billing Road will be closed 13-15th May to allow Anglian Water to complete a new connection. 'One Network' will give more information.
- Road works on A428 – 24<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April
- Billing Road – 13-15<sup>th</sup> May

#### **12. Parish Council considered request from Open Gardens Committee to dress the village sign with bunting as part of the Open Gardens – no objections**

#### **13. Billing Road – traffic calming, VAS device update – analysis of data** Cllr Dorey reported. Cannot download and monitor at the same time. Promising in that not many people are going above 32mph. Residents have noticed a decrease in speed and noise. Now located to Bedford Road. Will collate information and make a report. Next location is Horton Road.

#### **14. Verge mowing in the village – Council to prioritize which verges require mowing by Parish Council**

Unable to get information from WNC on what areas they cut. Council discussed whether to take grant and cut what the Parish Council wants? It was agreed for Chairman to contact Brown and Barden to see if they will quote for cutting area next to Village Sign. **Clerk** to send contractor's details to Chairman.

#### **15. Litter / Dog bins – Chairman reported back on the meeting on 16.1.25 with Mr Dan Johnson Street Cleansing Supervisor from WNC. Very helpful useful**

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meeting. WNC will empty 3 new bins. Bin on Billing Road has been removed because it was broken, consequently PC bin is being well used. Cllr Nelson has been monitoring this.

**16. Council appointed Council representative to Church and Poors Land Trust.**

Cllr Copsey was proposed by Cllr Couldrake , seconded by Cllr Morgan

**17. Finance**

- The following Payments and Bank Reconciliation were approved (see annexed list)
- Internal Control Report – Cllr Allingham – Asset Register (new VAS and bins added)and Risk Assessment circulated.
- Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control – the document had been circulated and was signed by the Chairman.
- Minimum and Living Wage to increase in April which will affect salaries of shelter cleaner and litter picker.

**18. Website Enhancement** – Council to review, Cllr Dorey reported photos needed.

**19. Items for Village Newsletter** – listed by Cllr Dorey

**20. Any other items for future meetings**

**21. Summary of action points for each Councillor** – listed

**22. Date and time of next meetings - Annual Parish Assembly on 21st May which is at 7 pm followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30 pm** 16.7.25, 17.9.25 19.11.25 – all at 7.30pm

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**Payments agreed at meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Vat</b>	<b>Ref</b>
ICO	Annual Renewal	35.00			dd
Netwise	Domain Renewal	30.00	25.00	5.00	49
Forde & McHugh 32000	Rprs – Horton Rd and Elm Cl	300.00	250.00	50.00	50
*V Hartley	Salary Jan-Mar	1208.56			51
*R Aldridge	Salary Jan - Mar	319.40			52
*S Gautrey	Salary Oct – Dec	163.80			53
B Osborne	Payroll services	70.50			54
S Dorey	3 newsletter prints	72.33			55
HMRC	Tax for Jan – Mar	35.40			56

Total £2234.99

**Bank Reconciliation**

Balance at 11.3.25 - £9251.46

Balance after above payments of £7016.47

Deposit Account balance - £10278.9

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