

**MINUTES of a MEETING of BRINGTON and MOLESWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
held on 8th December, 2016 in BRINGTON SCHOOL at 6.45pm.**

Present: Cllrs. Vanessa Littleboy (Chair), Paul Naples (Vice Chair/RFO), Simon Foulds, Chirria Hutchison

Meeting chaired by Cllr. Naples. Temporary Clerk/Notetaker - Cllr. Littleboy

Parishioners Open Meeting:

There were none.

16/106 Apologies for Absence or Non-Attendance:

Cllr. Rupinder Innes.

16/107 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:

There were none.

16/108 Reports from District and/or County Councillors:

There were none.

16/109 Approval of the Minutes of meeting held 27th October, 2016.

These were confirmed as a true record and signed by Vice Chairman P. Naples.

16/110 Matters Arising:

- i) Meeting with DLP – Cllrs. Naples and Littleboy had met with representatives of DLP and Mr. Graham Brown who outlined his ownership of parcels of land in Brington that he wishes to develop in the near future. Cllrs. requested he presents us with a schematic plan in first half of 2017 so that this can be further discussed and opinions sought from parishioners.
- ii) Fireworks and Bonfire - The notices pinned on the Millennium Green Gates had been removed within an hour of placement and left littering the ground nearby.

16/111 Correspondence:

All emailed correspondence had been circulated.

- i) Parish Councils providing funds for Churches – information received from CAPALC/NALC regarding the Local Government Act 1894 which states no financial contributions should be made by the council to the church property or grounds. Cllrs. decided the Precept would be amended accordingly. A letter of regret to be written to both PCC's with relevant excerpts from Local Govt. Act document.
Action: V. Littleboy
- ii) Town and Parish Logos – HDC had requested any Parish logo was submitted for use in future publications. Cllrs. felt it would be good for our parish to have a unique logo. Cllr. Hutchison said she would put some thought into producing one.
Action: Cllr. Hutchison
- iii) Childrens Christmas Party – Mrs. R. Foulds requested a donation towards funding the annual party for children within the Parish. It was agreed to give £3 per child and an invoice to be presented.
Action: Cllr. Foulds
- iv) Brington PCC – Mrs. O. Cutting had written on behalf of the All Saints, Brington PCC to query a believed misunderstanding between them and the Parish Council regarding the use of monies offered by Campbell Buchanan and the option to refit the Church to make it more useable as a meeting facility and their need for financial help. Cllrs. discussed the issue and contend that all options were discussed. Any beliefs about the intentions of Brington residents are held due to the views raised at the Public Meeting, to give all village residents opportunity to offer opinions, and the subsequent Community Survey. Options of a stand-alone venue, adaptation of the Church and provision of space and furniture in either the school or St. Leonards Hall were presented and it was overwhelmingly voted that no facility was needed. At the Public meeting the Church option only drew one supporter and it was noted that all PCC members were against the proposal. A letter to be written explaining the Parish Council position based on the information gathered from the consultations with the parishioners.
Action: V. Littleboy

16/112 Planning and Tree Works Applications:

i) 16/02165/TREE Proposal: Hornbeam: reduce the crown by approximately 3 metres and laterally reduce the sides all round so as they are in keeping with the top. Thin the remaining crown to around 15% and remove dead wood to reduce the weight of the lean. (Previous application 15/01984/TREE). Location: Rose Cottage, Church Lane, Brington. Cllrs. had discussed this with the exclusion of Cllr. Naples who has an interest in the application. It was agreed unanimously to support the application.

Action: V. Littleboy

ii) Moved from Correspondence to discuss as too late to be included as an Agenda item: 16/02496/FUL Proposal: Proposed alteration works and extension to existing studio maisonette. Location: Studio, Manor Barn, High Street, Molesworth. After discussion of the application and plans it was agreed to respond that no observations had been made to recommend either Approval or Refusal.

Action: V. Littleboy

16/113 Millennium Green:

Cllr. Foulds would be addressing the ongoing issue of the missing fence/gate.

Action: Cllr. Foulds

16/114 MUGA:

The matter regarding the financial contribution from the MUGA Committee to the Parish Council had been discussed and agreed at the last meeting but no action motioned to write to the MUGA Committee. This would now be done.

Action: V. Littleboy.

16/115 Highways and Maintenance:

It was discussed and decided that following research by Cllrs. Naples and Innes that the Council would look into Traffic calming measures for High Street, Brington. Costs and effectiveness of Radar signs along with any other options would be sought and also the use of LHI funding in 2018.

Action: Cllrs. Innes and Naples

16/116 Footpaths:

Cllrs. had all been given a prototype copy of the proposed map that Cllr. Naples had produced. It was met with great approval. Cllr. Naples to research printing costs and receive quotations.

Action: Cllr. Naples

16/117 Brook in Molesworth and Flood Risk:

i) Brington School – Cllr. Littleboy had met with Headteacher Mrs. T. Reid and been informed of flooding issues on the playground which were creating serious problems on the access path into the pre-school hall. The Parish Council cannot directly deal with this but contact info for the CCC Flood Risk team was provided and the issue logged onto the CCC site.

Action: V. Littleboy

ii) Molesworth Brook – The most recent complaint received by Mr. G. Brighty was of great concern as he implied the Parish Council had let him down and not been actively working to ensure the Brook was cleared and demanded immediate action be taken. This is both unfair and inaccurate as Cllr. Littleboy demonstrated by recounting the numerous exchanges of emails, telephone conversations and meetings between the Parish Council and the Cambridgeshire County Council Flood Risk Officer. The chain of events started in November 2015 when Mr. Brighty contacted Cllr. Foulds with his concerns related to flooding on his property after heavy rainfall. He considered that the flow of water from run-off on the fields behind him and out along the public footpath – Gitty Path – was impeded by the vegetation in the Brook and in particular alongside the Hangars and remainder of the road leading out of the village where it joins the B663. Cllr. Foulds brought this to the Councils attention and followed up with a photographic presentation of the Brook and its flow which at the time seemed to be unhampered and not potentially problematic. After careful considered discussion at the January 2016 meeting it was felt by all Cllrs. that as we are not experts we needed to consult those who are and this resulted in a meeting between Cllr. Littleboy and CCC Officer Brian Heffernan on a very wet 1st March. From his findings Mr. Heffernan concluded there to be no real issue but to hopefully ease tensions a reminder to all riparian owners of their responsibilities in maintaining optimum water flow should

be sent.

9th March saw extreme rainfall and serious flooding of the road from the airbase gates right down to the B663 caused by excess run off from all the surrounding fields. Several photographs were sent to Mr. Heffernan. He continued to believe that the build up of water would not have been lessened by removal of all vegetation in the Brook. Mr. Brighty was not in agreement and felt the advice given by CCC was misleading and requested Cllrs. Littleboy and Foulds walk the length of the Brook with him and 2 other residents whom he considered knowledgeable. It was agreed with Mr. Brighty at this meeting that the Parish Council would again express his wishes to CCC to have riparian owners clear pertinent sections of the Brook and in particular the rushes and grasses along the stretch from the Cross Keys to the road junction adjacent to the sewage works. Cllr. Littleboy contacted Mr. Heffernan who agreed to set up a meeting with Mr. Sworder and write to the other noted riparian owners. Over the following weeks regular contact was made between Cllr. Littleboy with Mr. Heffernan to enable updates to be noted at Council meetings and responses sent to Mr. Brighty's continued emails which expressed concern about the lack of any clearance work being done and suggested the Council take matters into its own hands, and pay the cost of someone to clear it. It was pointed out that not only was this illegal but also not an acceptable use of community funds.

By October and following further exchanges of emails it was confirmed by Mr. Heffernan that he had again spoken with Mr. Sworder who was compliant in carrying out clearance work. At this point the Parish Council had done all it could within the limits of its legal power.

Any enforcement could only come from CCC and the matter was now completely at the discretion of the authority. This was explained to Mr. Brighty in a non-confrontational manner and with genuine concern at what for him was a frustrating outcome. It was also suggested he had far more weight behind any action being taken if he approached the riparian owners directly as the affected party and expressed the possibility of insurance claims if his property was flooded. The Council is not aware that he has yet felt able to make these personal approaches.

Whilst we as a Council do have all residents interests as our priority and will endeavour to do all we can to find solutions to issues within our recognised areas of responsibility - and often beyond - we do have to work within the law. Having to draw a line at further intervention by the Parish Council is not failure or letting people down but recognition of our limitations and leaving it to those with the proper authority and legal responsibility to find a solution.

16/118 CIL, Parish Plan, Neighbourhood Plan:

- i) Cllr. Naples had submitted the annual CIL report and it needed to be published on our website.
Action: V. Littleboy
- ii) Confirmation of booking the school for the Parish Plan Update Steering Group formation meeting on Saturday 7th January 2017 - 3-5pm. Cllrs. Naples, Littleboy and Hutchison were aiming to attend.

16/119 Risk Assessment Register:

Cllr. Foulds circulated a proposal document outlining all areas to be considered and how they should be managed. It was recognised that some considerable time and commitment was required and that the tasks should be shared amongst all Councillors over the coming year. Cllr. Hutchison said she was happy to start working on various items listed.

16/120 Transparency Funding:

Discussion deferred to future meetings.

16/121 Finance:

- i) Bank Reconciliation for period ending 31st October, 2016 was circulated and agreed.
- ii) Approval of payments to be made – proposed by Cllr. Foulds and seconded by Cllr. Hutchison as follows:
 - £768.00 – HJHorticulture – Millennium Green Grass Cutting 2016 – Chq. 742
Awaiting invoice for Brington School Hire therefore to be included on next Agenda
- iii) New Millennium Green Charity account had been approved by Barclays Bank and is in progress. To add to next Agenda discussion on moving all existing accounts to Barclays.

16/122 Precept:

The prepared Precept of £5117 had been circulated to all Councillors. Proposed by Cllr. Foulds and seconded by Cllr. Hutchison it was unanimously approved. Cllr. Littleboy signed the forms.

Cllr. Naples to return the completed forms by 16th December to HDC.

Action: Cllr. Naples

16/123 Clerk Vacancy:

It was noted there has been interest shown and an application was expected. However the deadline for applications had been set to 31st January, 2017 and wider advertising may bring in further interest.

16/124 Councillors Portfolios:

Cllr. Naples expressed his concern that the bulk of the workload was falling on 2 councillors and that we need to manage our tasks more efficiently and distribute the work amongst all councillors.

16/125 Website, Grapevine and Publicity:

Cllr. Littleboy noted that the website seemed to be easily accessed and she would continue to update as often as possible to ensure 'traffic'.

Cllr. Hutchison would submit information to be included in Village Matters about the facilities ready for use on Hill Place and advertise the Parish Plan Update Steering Group Formation Meeting.

16/126 Any other Business and items for Information only:

Cllr. Littleboy asked that all councillors check emails regularly and indicate they have seen them even if they had no response to offer. Emails not requiring a response would be marked FYI.

16/127 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 12th January, 2017. 6:45pm in Brington School.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:50pm

Vanessa Littleboy. These minutes are considered draft until approved at the next Parish Council meeting.