

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brassington Parish Council held on Tuesday 4 December 2007

Present: Cllr P Horrocks (in the Chair), Cllr J Allsop, Cllr D Brown, Cllr D Ede, Cllr J Grant-Nicholson, Cllr D Massey, Cllr D Rippon, County Cllr Irene Ratcliffe, District Cllr Lewis Rose, Ms Jo Dales, Mr Brian Barry, the Clerk, and 3 members of the public.

1. Public Participation

- a. Mr Brent Wherry had distributed some documents to the Councillors in connection with the planning application by Mr Sowter for land adjoining Shellboards Farm, and he made reference to certain items.
- b. Mr Brian Barry gave a brief and informative presentation on a seminar he had attended entitled "Action on Energy". He outlined concerns about the effects of unrestricted release into the atmosphere of greenhouse gases, and what steps the village community might take to minimise, or even eradicate, its "carbon footprint". He recommended Brassington follow the example of Ashton Hayes in Cheshire, which had succeeded in doing exactly that. It was suggested that this matter be on the agenda for January's meeting.

2. County/District Council representatives

Cllrs Ratcliffe and Rose were not present at this time, due to prior commitments.

3. Police Representative

Jo Dales had nothing to report.

4. Monthly Meeting – Non-exempt items

1.12/07 Apologies

The Clerk reported that Cllr Ratcliffe had informed him she may be late arriving.

2.12/07 Declarations of Members' Interests

Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application appearing at 5 b) i) on the agenda. Cllr Horrocks reminded Councillors that, now the Council had adopted Paragraph 12(2), it would not be necessary for them to leave the room during the discussion of that item (although they would move to the public part of the room), but that they would leave while the vote was being taken.

Cllr Allsop declared that it turned out he may have had an interest in a matter decided at an earlier meeting relating to Longcliffe. He apologised for not disclosing it at the time, because he was unaware.

3.12/07 Minutes

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Massey, seconded Cllr Rippon, all in favour) that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4.12/07 Ongoing Matters

a) Play Area

The Clerk confirmed that he had produced a specification, and advertised the matter in the Notice boards and on the village website. One response had been received, which would be retained, sealed, for the time being, and one other party, having expressed an interest in tendering, had received a copy of the specification, but had not yet responded.

Since the advertisement had only gone on display a few days before the meeting, it was decided to defer this matter to the next meeting, to allow time for further tenders to be received.

b) Village Pond

The Clerk confirmed he had written to the Head Teacher and the leader of the Brownies, but too recently for them to have replied. Cllr Horrocks said that a contribution could be obtained from the May Heathcote Trust, and the councillors agreed that this should be sought. Cllrs Rippon and Allsop agreed to provide a written estimate of the costs of doing the work, so this could be passed on to the Trustees.

c) Wirksworth Dale access to High Peak Trail

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Council should attempt to bring matters to a head by arranging a meeting. Cllr Allsop undertook to arrange this with Mr Coombs for early in the New Year. Cllr Brown said he would try to contact Mr Ken Parker at the Peak Park, to see if he could render any assistance.

d) Street lighting at Greenview/Wash Hills Close

The Clerk reported that some steps had been taken to lessen the impact, and local opinion seemed to be that, whilst the situation was not ideal, there were advantages as well as disadvantages. It was decided to take no further action at this stage, but to include street lighting in the Council's Traffic Policy in due course.

a) Stile at Well Street

Cllr Allsop reported that he had seen (by chance) the Footpaths Officer, Mr Berry, who confirmed that kits of a more suitable gate-type stile were on order from Gregory's of Darley Dale. Mr Berry would (with Cllr Allsop's assistance) install one of these at Well Street, and another further down the field, subject to the landowner's agreement.

b) West End

Cllr Grant-Nicholas confirmed he had trimmed all the trees and bushes on his land where they had been overhanging the footway and streetlights. He had also spoken to Mrs Jennifer Morrison: she had put plans in hand to cut back the growth which was interfering with the streetlight on her property, but had had to cancel due to prior commitments. She had promised to deal with the matter.

Cllr Grant-Nicholas also reported that the Church had asked him to put forward a request for a contribution (£40 was suggested) from the Parish Council towards more than normally aggressive trimming of the yew tree in the churchyard.

5.12/07 Planning Applications

a) 07/00859/FUL – Erection of two storey dwellinghouse and garage (modifications to planning permission 06/00913/FUL) at land adjoining Shellboards Farm, West End, Brassington for Mr C Sowter

Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas took no part in the discussion of this item, which had been deferred from the previous meeting. Cllr Brown took the chair. Cllr Allsop felt that the Council was being railroaded into agreeing with the Planning Officer's proposals, which he felt were an attempt to cover up a series of errors by the planners which had created the present unsatisfactory situation. After a discussion, it was resolved (proposed Cllr Allsop, seconded Cllr Rippon, all in favour) that the Council adopt the unofficial observations previously submitted, and put these forward as the Council's recommendations.

Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas, who had left the meeting shortly before the matter was voted upon, were invited to rejoin the meeting.

b) 07/00943/FUL – Single/two storey extensions and erection of car port at School View/Dragon Hill, Town Street, Brassington for Mr & Mrs Leach

None of the councillors had any objections in principal to the proposed extensions and additions, with the exception of the proposed car port. Cllr Grant-Nicholas explained his concerns about vehicular access to the site, especially in view of the proximity to the school gates, and felt that the car port merely made this problem worse. Cllr Allsop thought the car port was in the wrong position – it should be set back to the rear of the property – and didn't think the appearance of it was in keeping with the property or the location. It was felt that the location, immediately next to the Tudor House, required even more than usually stringent attention to external appearance.

It was agreed to notify the Planning Department that, whilst the Council had no objection to the alterations at the rear of the premises, it objected most strongly to the proposed car port, for all the reasons outlined above.

6.12/07 Correspondence

Cllr Alsop was very interested to look at the catalogue received from Malcolm Lane & Son Ltd. He said he would try and get some prices to see whether there was any prospect of buying some of their products (notice boards, boundary signs, etc.), and it was agreed to include an appropriate item on the agenda for the next meeting.

7.12/07 Finance

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Grant-Nicholas, seconded Cllr Brown (all in favour) that the accounts as set out on the Agenda (Handymen's wages totalling £80.25) be paid.

8.12/07 County Councillor's report

Cllr Ratcliffe having arrived, she was able to update the meeting on a number of matters, specifically the proposed extensions to Longcliffe Quarry, the road works at Longcliffe, Access from Wirksworth Dale to the High Peak Trail, Dales Housing's proposals for vehicular access/parking at the bungalows off Meadow Rise, and traffic calming measures at the junction of Greenway and Town Street. Cllr Ratcliffe offered to provide £100 of Leadership Money towards the cost of a scheme such as previously discussed for "identifying a village feel", to encourage motorists to drive more slowly through the village.

The Chairman requested Members of the Public to leave the meeting, to enable the Council to discuss exempt items.

Signed: **P E HORROCKS**

(Chairman) Date: **8 January 08**