

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brassington Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 July 2007

Present: Cllr P Horrocks (in the Chair), Cllr J Allsop, Cllr D Brown, Cllr D Ede, Cllr J Grant-Nicholas, Cllr D Massey, Cllr D Rippon, Police Community Support Officer Jo Dales, the Clerk, and 5 members of the public.

1. Public Participation

Mrs Val Allcock read out a letter addressed to the Council, regarding an incident involving Cllr Allsop and Mr & Mrs Don Charity, which allegedly occurred outside the Village Hall following the Council meeting on 19 June 2007.

2. County Council Representative

The Clerk reported that Cllr Irene Ratcliffe had informed him she would try to attend the meeting following a Central planning committee meeting.

3. District Council Representative

Cllr Grant-Nicholas passed on apologies from Cllr Lewis Rose.

4. Police Representative

Jo Dales explained her role within the community, and confirmed the area which she serves. She confirmed that the first meeting of the "Hulland Safer Neighbourhood Team" was scheduled for 11 July at 2pm at Carsington Water, and Cllr Horrocks confirmed that she would be representing the Council.

A Neighbourhood Watch meeting has been arranged for 8 August at 7:30pm.

5. Monthly Meeting

1.07/07 Apologies

There were no apologies other than those already recorded.

2.07/07 Declarations of Members' Interests

No councillors had any interests to declare.

3.07/07 Complaints

Cllr Horrocks revealed that she had received several complaints of shouting by Cllr Allsop outside the Village Hall following the meeting on 19 June, and about shouting, by Cllrs Allsop and Rippon, at Mr Brent Wherry whilst he was addressing the meeting.

A lengthy and sometimes heated discussion followed, concerning the alleged incidents, the Code of Conduct governing Parish Councillors' behaviour, the handling of the public participation part of the 19 June meeting, etc.

It was resolved, by a majority of the Council, that Cllr Allsop should apologise formally to anybody who had been intimidated by anything he had said or done outside the Village Hall following the meeting on 19 June.

4.07/07 Minutes

The Council considered the minutes of the last 2 meetings, on 5 June and 19 June.

Cllr Massey pointed out that the minutes of the latter meeting stated that he had declared a personal interest in the planning application on behalf of Longcliffe Quarries. This was in fact incorrect – he had declared a personal interest in the planning application on behalf of the New Village Hall Project, due to his involvement in the Royal British legion.

Subject to this item being corrected, it was resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 5 June (proposed Cllr Massey, seconded Cllr Grant-Nicholas, all in favour) and on 19 June (proposed Cllr Rippon, seconded Cllr Allsop, all in favour) accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

5.07/07 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Massey proposed Cllr Brown, but he declined, feeling that he was insufficiently experienced.

Cllr Grant-Nicholas enquired whether Cllr Massey would be willing to put himself forward, but he was non-committal.

Cllr Allsop proposed Cllr Rippon, but he declined as he was unwilling to undergo training.

Cllr Horrocks proposed Cllr Grant-Nicholas, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Massey. A majority was in favour, and Cllr Grant-Nicholas was duly elected.

6.07/07 Play Area

The Council discussed what was required in the immediate future and long-term to keep the play area safe and secure. Cllr Rippon confirmed that he had secured a source of free stone to replace the fence with a wall to extend the existing one. It was resolved that:

- a) The gate on the roadside, and its catch, be repaired by the handymen as soon as possible
- b) The gate at the other end of the fence be replaced with a matching one to be purchased from Lester Lowe
- c) The missing slats in the fence should be replaced and wired in place, and the wiring should be in place at the bottom as well as at the top
- d) Cllr Horrocks and the Clerk would investigate the possibility of grants
- e) Cllr Allsop would supply a specification for a new wall to replace the fence, and the Clerk would use this as a basis for an invitation to Daniel Smith, Mark Allcock and Stephen Smedley to submit quotes by way of sealed bid.

7.07/07 Code of Conduct

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Grant-Nicholas, all in favour) that the New Code be adopted.

8.07/07 Ongoing Matters

- a) Training
The next session was due to take place at Hulland Ward Village Hall on Saturday 21 July from 9:30am – 4pm. Cllrs Brown, Ede and Grant-Nicholas were due to attend.
Cllr Horrocks asked the Clerk to request an invoice as soon as possible.
- b) Vehicular Access, Meadow Rise
The Clerk read an e-mail received from the representative of Dales Housing, and undertook to follow it up. Cllr Horrocks explained what was hoped for.
- c) Wirksworth Dale
Cllr Horrocks confirmed that she had contacted Cllr Irene Ratcliffe, who would contact Cllr Allsop directly.
- d) Cleaning of the Dale
Cllr Horrocks said that she and the Clerk would visit Cleanaway to find out how far the previous Acting Clerk had taken the matter, and she would also contact Mr Robert Shields.

- e) Dog Fouling
Cllr Horrocks read the relevant item in the draft of the Newsletter, which the other councillors approved.
- f) Wind Farm
Cllr Grant-Nicholas presented a very thoroughly researched outline of the potential effects of the proposed wind farm on the village, and the best strategy to adopt should the Council consider an objection was appropriate.
After a lengthy discussion, a vote was taken. 4 councillors were in favour of the application, 2 were opposed, and 1 abstained. Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas wished it to be recorded in the minutes that they had voted against the application.
- g) Village Pond
Cllr Rippon reported that 5 tonnes of puddling clay could be purchased for £100, delivered, at a day's notice.
It was resolved that this should be taken up, delivery to be in liaison with Cllr Allsop.

In a non-agenda item, the Clerk was requested to contact the Highways department to request that the grass verges at Wirksworth Dale be mowed as soon as possible.

9.07/07 Planning

App. No. 07/00471/FUL – Erection of conservatory (retrospective) for Mr Trevor Tayles at Paddock House, West End, Brassington – No objections.

10.07/07 Correspondence

The Clerk was requested to obtain as many “No Smoking” notices as the County Council would supply, and arrange for these to be placed in the bus shelters, and also the shelter in the play area.

11.07/07 Finance

The Clerk proposed to defer his claim for wages and expenses until the next meeting, when the terms of his appointment had been fully confirmed.

There was a hiatus regarding the Handymen's wages, which the Clerk would resolve as soon as possible, with the aid of his predecessor and the Chairman.

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Allsop, seconded Cllr Rippon, 2 abstentions, nem con) that the Accounts for the previous year be approved.

Members of the Public were requested to leave to enable the Council to discuss exempt items.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: