

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brassington Parish Council held on Tuesday 13  
November 2007**

**Present:** Cllr P Horrocks (in the Chair), Cllr J Allsop, Cllr D Ede, Cllr J Grant-Nicholson, Cllr D Massey, Cllr D Rippon,  
District Cllr Lewis Rose, the Clerk, and 2 members of the public.

**1. Public Participation**

Ms Sam Jackson of The Old Pump House, Greenview, gave some background concerning the new street lighting at Greenview/Wash Hills Close.

**2. Monthly Meeting**

**1.11/07 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Police Community Support Officer Jo Dales, County Cllr Irene Ratcliffe and Cllr David Brown.

**2.11/07 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas declared an interest in the planning application appearing at 7 b ii on the agenda.

**3.11/07 Minutes**

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Massey, seconded Cllr Ede, all in favour) that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4.11/07 Ongoing Matters**

a) Play Area

The Clerk had not yet produced a specification, and undertook to give this top priority, as Cllr Allsop had been approached by someone who was interested in tendering for the job.

b) Village Pond

This was another item which the Clerk had failed to get round to, but would also be at the top of his list of priorities. Cllr Allsop reported that the clay which was on offer was of excellent quality

c) Access to High Peak Trail

i. Wirksworth Dale – Cllr Allsop reported that he had heard from Chris Coombes that a problem had arisen regarding the proposed route of the access, since it potentially interfered with a local newt population. It was felt that this should not be an insurmountable problem, and the Clerk was asked to get details from Mr Coombes in the hope that the Council could liaise with those who were concerned, to reassure them.

ii. Longcliffe – The Clerk apologised that he had not yet written as requested at the last meeting.

d) New Sports Field

Cllr Lewis Rose outlined the present situation: the Council had exercised its option, and this would proceed whatever else happened. The other party's option period did not run out until 9 January 2008. He reassured Cllr Allsop that the Council's situation was safe, and the land it proposed to purchase could not be legally sold to a 3rd party. This matter would be on the "Exempt" part of the agenda for the next meeting.

e) Grass Heap, Wirksworth Dale

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Morgan Est, and after a site meeting, at which they had been very apologetic that materials had been stored in Wirksworth Dale without prior reference to the Council, they had undertaken to clear the area and make good. This had been done, and Cllr Rippon confirmed that a good job had been done. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to thank Morgan Est. A sign asserting proprietorship was suggested, subject to cost.

Cllr Allsop reported that he had been informed by the responsible person at the County Council that resources for cutting verges were severely stretched, and priorities had ruled

out the cutting of the verges in Wirksworth Dale in 2007. He knew that Mr Ian Mellor would be visiting Brassington in the near future with machinery capable of doing the job. He proposed that the Council arrange for Mr Mellor to do the verges at Wirksworth Dale. Cllr Grant-Nicholas seconded the proposal, and all were in favour.

f) Traffic Calming

The Clerk and Cllr Allsop reported a site meeting with Mr Simon Tranter of the County Council Highways Department and County Cllr Irene Ratcliffe regarding possible measures to improve road safety at the junction of Greenway and Town Street. Many suggestions were put forward, but the response was universally negative. Cllr Grant-Nicholas showed some artist's impressions of how the entrances to the village could be emphasised, and a lengthy discussion ensued. The consensus was that the Council should establish a Traffic Policy, and, to this end, a special meeting should be arranged in January, when the Council's proposals could be put forward, and the public could respond.

g) Cemetery

The Clerk had been in touch with the District Council, but the response was unhelpful. The Chairman undertook to assist in making contact with someone who was in a position to be more helpful.

### **5.11/07 Village Matters**

a) Street lighting at Greenview/Wash Hills Close

The Clerk reported that new streetlights had been installed, and that the type of lighting and the positioning had been unsympathetic towards some of the local residents. Some improvements had already been made, but the lights were unnecessarily bright and inappropriate for a rural setting. Councillors were disappointed that the local authority chose not to consult the Council on such matters – this was another item to be potentially included in a future Traffic Policy.

b) Stile at Well Street

The Chairman explained that several members of the public had reported to her that a new stile had been put in place, which was very high, and some of the people who regularly used it were having difficulty climbing over.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Footpaths Officer, who had promised to visit and look at the stile. If appropriate, he would make a stile kit available to the landowner. Cllr Allsop felt it might be possible to circumvent the inevitable delay this would cause, by asking the landowner if he would be prepared to install a more suitable stile. Cllr Grant-Nicholas undertook to approach Mr Wain, and if the approach were successful, Cllr Allsop would arrange for a stile kit to be made available.

c) Hillside Lane

The Clerk had had a letter from Mr & Mrs Ogle, pointing out the poor condition of the road surface on Hillside Lane. The Clerk had thanked them for drawing his attention to this, and would write to the Highways Department

d) West End

Cllr Allsop identified a number of locations where lighting was blocked by vegetation and tree branches. Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas undertook to approach the owners of the properties in question to request that they prune appropriately.

### **6.11/07 Code of Conduct**

The Clerk and The Chairman explained the significance of Paragraph 12(2), and pointed out (as they had learned at the seminar they had attended) that the paragraph was not automatically adopted when the Council had previously adopted the updated Code of Conduct.

It was proposed by Cllr Massey (2nded Cllr Rippon, all in favour, that paragraph 12(2) be adopted.

### **7.11/07 Planning**

- a) The clerk gave details of the determinations of 2 planning applications, as set out in the agenda.

- b) 07/00828/VCOND (s. 73 application) – Single storey extensions to provide additional bar/bistro area, games room, kitchen and lobby areas (Variation of Condition 6 of planning permission 05/00115/FUL) at Knockerdown Farm for Gainsborough Leisure Limited

None of the councillors objected to the application, and indeed were pleased to support it, since this business was run by local people for the benefit of local people

- c) 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

As a result of the postponement of this meeting, it had coincided with the Planning Committee's deliberations on this item, and the Parish Council was therefore unable to give an opinion before the other meeting. Cllr Rose had attended the Planning Committee's meeting. He reported that a proposal to approve the application in line with the Planning Officer's recommendation had been voted down. There was then a proposal to refuse the application, but all the grounds for refusal were rejected by the Planning Officer, and a decision was deferred until the next Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Rose felt that the application was unlikely not to be granted.

Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas then left the meeting. Cllr Rippon proposed, and Cllr Ede 2nded, that Cllr Massey be appointed temporary Chairman to deal with this item. After a brief discussion it was agreed to defer consideration of the item until the next meeting. Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas were invited to rejoin the meeting.

#### **8.11/07 Correspondence**

The Clerk was asked to write confirming the Council's approval of the proposed alterations to the boundaries of the Conservation Area.

#### **9.11/07 Finance**

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Grant-Nicholas, seconded Cllr Massey (Cllr Allsop abstaining, all others in favour) that the accounts as set out on the Agenda be paid.

The Clerk presented a breakdown showing available funds for the rest of the financial year, and thanked the Chairman who had prepared the figures.

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been approved by the External Auditor without query.

The Parish Estimate would be dealt with at the next meeting, when the Budget and Precept for 2008/9 would be settled.

#### **10.11/07 Clerk**

In an additional item, the Clerk reluctantly tendered his resignation from the post with effect from the end of the calendar year, and arranged to liaise with the Chairman to advertise the vacancy.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed: **P. E. HORROCKS**

(Chairman)

Date: **4-12-07.**