

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 15th April 2009 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mr B Fitton, Mrs S Wilks (Chair), W Millen, Mr J Harca, Mr S Briggs

1 Public Forum

1 member of the public present, the chair welcomed those present

2 Apologies

J Steward and Mrs A Marsden-Findlay

3 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

4 Chairman's report

This year has been a very productive one for the Parish Council.

I am delighted to report that at last the Meadow lease has been signed, along with the agreement with the Cricket Club, and the Meadow's future has been secured for another 28 years. The fence has been renewed, the gate repaired, and the Meadow is looking tidy and well-tended. Thanks once again to the Cricket Club for their efforts to keep it looking nice for all users.

Plans for the bridge linking the Meadow to the village hall have been approved, a grant applied for, and Robert Spencer has even offered to open it, so I hope that this project will come to fruition within the next few months. The whole scheme is being very ably managed by Chris Allen and Stephen Calnan and I think we shall end up with something which will be a great asset to the village and improve access to an important open space.

The precept was set at £18,000 which gives us an acceptable cushion against unforeseen expenses. Last year we had to call an election to fill two vacant places on the parish council, but, although this involved us in quite a bit of expense, we gained two valuable new councillors who were democratically elected.

We continue to be concerned with the traffic on the A6116. The road survey that was carried out and the subsequent report that was produced regarding the implications of all the building at Eurohub and the rest of Corby was unimpressive. We are not sure

what is going to happen in the future and we continue to liaise with other villages along the route.

There have been one or two interesting planning issues which have been tackled with great efficiency by William with continued help from Barrie. The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston local plan is in its final draft and we are satisfied that the Brigstock section is as we would have wished. Also the Conservation Area expansion has been put in place with little opposition. I feel that this provides us with a few more planning reinforcements which will make it easier to keep the integrity of the central area of the village, as was our intention when we produced the Design Statement. The saga of the Swan Avenue footpath continues.

The recent spring litter pick was once again organized by William. There didn't seem to be quite as many bags as last year and this may be because our litter picking efforts are keeping things under control. Thanks to all those who took part and to everyone else who makes an effort to keep the village tidy, particularly Janet and George Cooper who have taken on the maintenance of the cemetery, churchyard and war memorial. All these areas are looking really tidy and an asset to the village. Janet has also taken over the cemetery burial paperwork from Jenny Spencer. Jenny has done this job for a number of years and we are very grateful for all that she has done so quietly and efficiently.

Money has been received via Rupert Reichhold our County Councilor for Cemetery improvements and we look forward to seeing the difference that this will make over the next few months.

Once again Brigstock has remained relatively crime free. We appreciate the efforts of our community policemen to keep an eye on the village. However, it would be good to see the neighborhood watch areas expanded.

The village website is a useful means of communication in the village as is the "Down your way" column in the Evening Telegraph and thanks again to Bill Simon who continues to report village matters so effectively.

Once again we enjoyed having a Christmas tree on the green and thanks go to Harry Ainsworth for carrying on the tradition.

Parking continues to be an issue, particularly in the High Street, but I feel that we are looking at the problem from different angles to

see if we can come up with a satisfactory solution that will alleviate some of the problems.

Nigel Searle has done his usual sterling work keeping us all on our toes and informed about council matters. Thanks to him and all the parish councilors who have supported me this year. I think we have a good team.

I feel that this has been a very positive report this year. Lots of things achieved to the benefit of the village. One blot on the landscape is the lack of a post office but I hope that this can be resolved in the very near future. The proposed wind farm north of Catshead Farm continues to give concern but not for long I hope. Brigstock continues to be a very pleasant place to live mostly thanks to the people in it who care about the village and are willing to make it the lovely village it is.

5 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

Receipts	£2,276.24
Administration insurance etc.	£0,353.75
Payments & Grants	£1,126.83
Cash in Bank	£2,959.10
Investments	£25,893.31

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

April 2010

The meeting closed at 7:25pm