

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 16th April
2014 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm**

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mrs S Wilks (Chair), Mrs M Smith, Mr S Malcolm, Mrs J Schofield, Mr C Johnson

1 Apologies

Mr. J Steward, Mrs E Wells, Mr W Millen

2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes (April 2013) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

3 Chairman's report

Another year has zoomed by and another annual parish meeting has arrived. Where did the time go?

The cemetery extension has been finished and we look forward to its consecration in June. Hopefully the wildflowers sown there will give a good display. A list of suggested trees has been made for planting in memory of a loved one or just to help enhance the cemetery. Many thanks to George and Janet Cooper for their continued work in keeping the cemetery and other parts of the village neat and tidy and for managing the burial plots.

Christmas 2013 was a memorable one with a Village Advent Calendar organised by Jane Jones. This was very well-received with each window gathering a small crowd around it every evening eagerly awaiting the unveiling (and the accompanying mulled wine and mince pies!). Another Christmas tradition in the making to go with the Christmas tree which was once again erected on the green on Hall Hill. The Parish Council provided some new lights which were switched on to the accompaniment of the newly-formed village choir. Thanks to all those who helped make the events such a success and prove what a great community this village can be. I hope that Father Christmas has recovered from falling off the roof.

In April we heard the good news that the plans for the erection of the wind turbines had finally been dropped after the High Court upheld the decision of the judicial review. For the first time the Parish Councils, the planning authority, the National Trust and English Heritage had all come together to oppose this application. I hope that this sets a precedent for similar applications and that the opinion of the local population will have much more influence in the future. Isn't this what "Localism" should be about? Other planning matters have been uncontroversial and I would like to thank William Millen for leading the planning committee and responding promptly and efficiently to planning applications.

The village sign has been refurbished and re-erected so that the green on Hall Hill with the new posts and chains looks very smart. A new community noticeboard has been positioned outside the village hall which now provides more space for posters and village news.

The garages along Grafton Road have been tidied and we hope that Spire Homes will fulfill their intention to renovate them soon.

Parking is always a problem particularly in the High Street and on Hall Hill. Last year I met with Sarah Barnes from the County Council and we hope to undertake a trial of road markings this year to see if we can persuade those with cars to park more responsibly without the need for double yellow lines.

William Millen organized the village tidy-up once again and thanks to all those who turned up to help with the spring clean. Generally the village is pretty litter-free with many of the residents doing their bit to keep the grass and other areas tidy.

We have managed to keep the precept at the same level as last year. We shall need to undertake a review of the village lighting and budget for replacing some of the old ones, particularly in the centre of the village.

The matter of the link footpath from Swan Avenue to MK which was planned when the extension to Swan Avenue was granted planning permission has been taken up again following requests from local residents. As agreed originally the land is being transferred to the Parish Council from Persimmon Homes with a sum for future upkeep.

Police presence has been minimal this year but I have to say that, comparing crime figures with other places in East Northamptonshire, we are not a crime hotspot. However we should not be complacent and I would urge all villagers to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police.

Finally I should like to thank fellow parish councilors for their support once again this year. Last but not least many thanks to Nigel Searle for all the work he does behind the scenes to make the Parish Council run so smoothly and efficiently.

4 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

These were circulated and are appended to these meeting notes.

It was commented that the charity should be better published so any needy member of the parish can make an application. **ACTION**

5 Public Forum

Three members of the public were present

There was comment regarding the route of the women's cycle race, which was starting at Oundle and coming through Brigstock on route to Northampton. Details to be put on notice board and website

Rev. Colin Simpson outlined that the church wanted to get the community involved with how the church could interact within the wider community. Talks would take place with the congregation and the parish to find out what is needed.

The church needs to hear from the community, so on the 5th July there will be an open day to identify the needs of the community

Also the rectory room is not in good condition and needs refurbishing so it is important to understand how it could be used in the future for the project to be a success.

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

March/April 2015

The meeting closed at 7:40pm

BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

ACCOUNTS 1.2.2013 – 31.1.2014

Brought Forward:	Current Account	£1746.50
	Investment Account	<u>£1644.24</u>
		£ 3390.74

RECEIPTS:

Dividends	1592.70	
Rents	<u>563.15</u>	
	2155.85	£5546.59

PAYMENTS:

Allotment maintenance	266.00	
Insurance	354.53	
Admin	<u>40.00</u>	
	660.53	£4886.06

GRANTS:

Poor	250.00	
St Andrew's Church	373.83	
1987 Scheme	<u>350.00</u>	
	973.83	£3912.23

Current Account	2267.99	
Investment Account	<u>1644.24</u>	
	3912.23	

Investments

COIF Income Shares (2,963.71)		£34,453.43
-------------------------------	--	------------