

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 15th April 2015 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mrs S Wilks, Mrs M Smith, Mrs T Towns, Mr S Malcom, Mr W Millen, J Schofield, Mr C Johnson K Motion

1 Apologies

None

2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes (April 2014) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

3 Chairman's report

Welcome once again to the annual parish meeting.

I am pleased to report that we have managed to keep the precept at the same level as last year.

In June the Bishop of Brixworth consecrated the cemetery extension attended by Rev Simpson and children from the school along with their headteacher, Mr Garley.

In November we organised another successful Bonfire Night and raised enough money to pay for a good display in 2015. Thanks to all those who helped make it a success.

Christmas 2014 saw another Village Advent Calendar organised by Jane Jones. Following last year's successful event villagers looked forward to the evening unveiling and they weren't disappointed. A Christmas Tree was also erected again on Hall Hill, this year powered by solar energy, and Father Christmas arrived in a pony and trap whilst the choir led the carol singing. Another great community event.

I would like to thank William Millen once again for leading the planning committee and responding promptly and efficiently to planning applications. The big planning controversy this year was the application by Gladman Developments for 110 homes off Benefield Road. This led to the formation of a village action group and people coming together to oppose this huge development which would increase the village by more than a quarter. The District Council has recently objected to the application so it will be interesting to see if Gladman's take it to appeal.

2014 also saw interest in creating a Neighbourhood Plan and a working party was formed to start the process. We shall receive confirmation of the Neighbourhood plan area at the end of the month and can then proceed to find out what are the burning issues that affect Brigstock and how we can plan ahead for the future. What kind of village do we want Brigstock to be in the next 20 – 30 years?

Last year Nigel and I toured the village with the conservation officer and decided that we would like to obtain an Article 4 direction for the Conservation area. This will mean that residents in the conservation area will have to apply for planning permission if they want to change the exterior appearance of their dwellings. It gives the Parish and District Councils more control and helps to prevent some of the things that spoil the appearance of the village such as inappropriate doors and windows.

In 2014 we obtained a government grant to provide a flood store which will contain equipment useful in the event of another flood in the village. The store will be situated on the Benefield allotments (if they flood we are in real trouble!) I would like to thank Tony and Ken Chapman for volunteering to become flood wardens and taking charge of the floodstore. I hope we won't need to use it too often.

Spire Homes have fulfilled their promise to renovate the garages along Grafton Road and have agreed to fund a new LED light at the entrance. We shall look again at replacing the village street lights with LED lights this year as the cost of electricity is a significant part of our budget.

After constant nagging (thank you Nigel) the Highways department look as though they are finally going to do something about the appalling state of the High Street and Stanion Road. When that is completed we can go ahead with our trial of road markings.

Grass cutting is always an issue in the village but thanks to those residents doing their bit to keep the grass and other areas tidy.

Police presence has once again been minimal this year. This should not make us complacent and I urge all villagers to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police. If anyone is interested in becoming a village constable please let the clerk know. In the near future a flashing speed sign will be going up along Sudborough Road which has always been a hotspot for speeding. We hope this will have a traffic calming effect. The sign is portable so it can be used along Stanion Road as well. We have been very fortunate in getting some financial help for this from our District councillor Mrs Sylvia Hughes and we thank her for her contribution.

Nigel and I attended a presentation to do with village websites and as a result of this we have signed up to acquiring a new Brigstock village website. This will be an easy to use "one click" site which is integrated with the District and County Council Sites. We shall be able to store unlimited material for future reference and keep local people well-informed about happenings in the village.

Earlier this year we heard that our Cemetery and Churchyard ground maintenance operatives, Janet and George Cooper, are moving away from the village. We thank them very much for all their hard work over the years and wish them a long and happy retirement. Luckily we have found someone willing to take over the task.

Finally I should like to thank fellow parish councillors for their support 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. The forthcoming election will be uncontested so we will need to look at co-opting some more councillors and I would particularly like to encourage representation from some of the younger residents in the village.

4 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

These were circulated and are appended to these meeting notes.

5 Public Forum

Three members of the public were present

No issues discussed

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

March/April 2016

The meeting closed at 7:20pm

BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

ACCOUNTS 1.2.2014 – 31.1.2015

Brought Forward:	Current Account	£2267.99
	Investment Account	£1656.57
		£ 3924.56

RECEIPTS:

Dividends	1379.01	
Rents	<u>1251.16</u>	
	2630.17	6554.73

PAYMENTS:

Insurance	372.25	
Admin	<u>100.00</u>	
	472.25	6082.48

GRANTS:

Poor	1450.00	
St Andrew's Church	539.48	
1987 Scheme	<u>150.00</u>	
	2139.48	3943.00

Current Account	2286.43	
Investment Account	<u>1656.57</u>	
	3943.00	

Investments

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