

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 17th May
2017 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm**

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mrs S Wilks, Mrs M Smith, Mr S Malcom,
Mr W Millen, J Schofield, Mr C Johnson Mrs Searle, Mrs J Lemmy, Mr
K Motion, Mr J Marsh, Mr Widdall Mrs Widdall

1 Apologies

Mrs T Towns

2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes (18th March 2016) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

3 Chairman's report

Welcome once again to the annual parish meeting.

Having asked if we should have the Annual Parish Meeting on a separate day I have had no response so we have left it in its usual format. I assume that there are no burning issues that people want to bring to the fore. However, if anyone has any suggestions as to how we could do things differently please let me know.

Our village events continue to be very well supported and our bonfire night went smoothly and contributed more to the Fireworks Fund. The Christmas Village Advent Calendar, organised by Jane Jones and helpers is becoming an established part of the village Christmas festivities, enjoyed by many residents and visitors and helping to give the village a real community spirit. Thanks to all those who got involved. The Christmas Tree on Hall Hill was sponsored by CTS Transport so thanks to Dave and Sheren Haines for generously supporting the village in this way. Father Christmas once again arrived in a pony and trap and distributed gifts of sweets. Thanks to Tom, Carl Hector and Jane Jones for their contributions.

William Millen has continued to lead the planning committee and co-ordinate responses to planning applications promptly and efficiently. Last year saw the welcome defeat of Gladman Developments' application for 110 homes off Benefield Road. We are very grateful to all those who went along to the appeal hearing and were prepared to get up and speak for the village. This has spurred the Neighbourhood Plan committee on to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. A successful afternoon was organised to give residents the opportunity to look at four sites which had been put forward for development. Thank you to the WI who organised refreshments. People were asked to fill in a questionnaire asking them to rank the sites in order of preference and make other comments. We now have the information we need

to go ahead and complete the plan before the end of the year. I would once again like to thank Chris Allen and the other members of the Neighbourhood Plan committee for giving up their time to ensure that we have a plan that will be good for the next 15 years.

Unfortunately there has been no further progress regarding the Article 4 direction for the Conservation area but we still hope it can be incorporated into the Neighbourhood Plan.

After much deliberation we decided on the style of LED lighting for the village and this is now being installed. We have had to take out a loan to cover the costs but should be able to pay the installments out of the money we save on electricity.

Parking is an ongoing problem in the village but the yellow lines in the High Street have reduced the incidence of congestion. The parking tickets produced with the co-operation of the police have had some success in reducing complaints about inconsiderate parking in the village. Apparently our idea has been taken up by other parish councils.

We are pleased to have been able to open up a walk along Harper's Brook between Grafton Road bridge and Church Walk thus giving residents access to a very attractive part of the village.

Last year we received a prize from CPRE for our annual litterpick efforts and this year saw a good turnout no doubt encouraged by the thought of refreshments afterwards at the WI Hall. Thank you to William Millen and Liz Searle for organizing the pick and the poster competition at the school, and the WI for providing sustenance.

The village website continues to provide the village with up to date information and links to Facebook etc. We have now compiled a welcome pack folder for new residents to provide information on all the village organisations and facilities. This can also be found on the website.

Unfortunately Steve Pooley moved away from the village and gave up the job of looking after the cemetery and churchyard. After being unable to find a suitable replacement in the village we have employed the services of an outside contractor. This is more expensive but so far they seem to be doing a good job and we no longer have to worry about providing equipment and storing it. We also thank John Croker for looking after the outfield on the Meadow so well for us. In fact the whole Meadow looks in very good condition and is a real asset. Thanks too to all those villagers who keep their areas of the village well trimmed. This year we have changed contractors for the village grass cutting and increased the number of cuts to six per year. This should help to keep the village looking tidier and reduce complaints.

Once again thank you very much to all my fellow councillors who have attended meetings and lent support this year. Nigel Searle has continued to do a splendid job of keeping the Parish Council and myself running.

Finally, we have just been judged for the 2017 Northamptonshire Village of the Year competition. Three judges were accompanied around the village and shown the best of Brigstock. Thanks so much to Liz Searle for putting together all the information for us and filling in the application form, and to Steph Beckett and Glenda Stethen for their help. It was a welcome opportunity to take an audit of the village and realize just what a wonderful community we live in.

4 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

The accounts were tabled and there were no issues.

5 Public Forum

No Issues raised

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

May 2018 the meeting closed at 7:15pm

BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

ACCOUNTS 1.2.2016 – 31.1.2017

Brought Forward:	Current Account	£1673.38
	Investment Account	£1679.02
		£ 3352.40

RECEIPTS:

Dividends	1339.89	
Rents	<u>869.66</u>	
	2209.55	5561.95

PAYMENTS:

Insurance	482.08	
Water payment	215.00	
Admin	<u>65.00</u>	
	762.08	4799.87

GRANTS:

Poor	1000.00	
St Andrew's Church	361.86	
1987 Scheme	<u>810.00</u>	
	2171.86	2628.01

Current Account	948.99	
Investment Account	<u>1679.02</u>	
	2628.01	

Investments

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