

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 16th May
2018 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm**

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mrs M Smith, Mr S Malcom, Mr W Millen, Mrs Searle, Mrs J Lemmy, Mr K Motion, Mr J Marsh, Mr Bamford, Mr Cole, Mr Andrews, Mrs Beckett, Ms H Pack, Mrs Stephen

1 Apologies

Mrs S Wilks, Mr C Johnson and County Councillor W Brackenbury

2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes (17th May 2017) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

3 Chairman's report

Welcome to the annual parish meeting 2018.

The great achievement of this year has been the completion of our neighbourhood plan. It has proved to be a marathon task but has given us the opportunity to undertake a thorough appraisal of the village and its assets. I am very grateful to Chris Allen the chair of the committee and to all the other members who contributed to the plan. It has still to be approved and a referendum conducted but we hope that the village will agree that our neighbourhood plan will carry us forward for the next few years and enable us to have some control over planning and other issues relating to the long term future of the village.

I am pleased to report that we will shortly have the Article 4 direction in place. There was very little opposition to the proposal which will give us tighter control over planning matters in the conservation area. I hope that this won't cause too much inconvenience for householders and that everyone will agree that it has been done with the preservation of the historic centre of the village in mind.

We had the best attended bonfire night ever in 2017. I think we are getting a reputation for an excellent show. Everything went very smoothly and this was down to the cooperation of many of the organisations in the village and a core of willing volunteers. The "Firework Fund" has a healthy balance as a result.

The Christmas Village Advent Calendar was a great success once again and we even had a dramatic performance on one of the evenings. The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on Hall Hill was a cold and snowy event with Father Christmas having to arrive on foot. Thanks to all those who got involved.

Ken Motion leads the planning committee and co-ordinates responses to planning applications promptly and efficiently. Fortunately we have few planning applications that are controversial.

The newly installed LED lighting has been well-received in most parts of the village and we have been able to make enormous savings on our electricity bill. Looking back through the annual parish meeting minutes I see we spent a staggering £3,500 on lighting maintenance in 2004. By contrast our maintenance bill for the coming year should be a tenth of that.

Visitors visiting the country park but who park in Lyveden Road to avoid paying parking charges are an ongoing problem in that they park inconsiderately and take up spaces used by residents. I have been working with the rangers to come up with a flyer that we can put on car windscreens encouraging them to use the parking spaces across the road.

This year we had an excellent turnout for the annual litterpick no doubt encouraged by the lovely posters provided by the children at the primary school. Thanks to Liz Searle for organizing the poster competition and William Millen for coordinating the litterpick. As part of the village tidy up this year we have organized an "adopt a lamppost" scheme where volunteers undertake the rewarding task of removing years and years worth of rusty staples from the village lampposts and keeping the posters tidy. Thanks to all those kind souls who put their names on the list.

The village website continues to provide the village with up to date information and links to Facebook etc. Although Facebook has had its name tarnished in the past few months it continues to be an excellent method of keeping villagers informed about what is going on.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme seems to be working well with regular alerts about crime incidents in the area. Unfortunately, due to cuts in the police service, police presence in the village is minimal. Fortunately we are still a low crime area but we get regular complaints about antisocial behaviour and minor acts of vandalism from a few of the village youths.

Our cemetery and churchyard maintenance has been done very efficiently by the contractors and we have renewed their contract for this year. I planted some native daffodil bulbs, bluebells and crocuses around the village which I hope will spread and naturalise. We have also had a yew hedge planted at the top of the cemetery to separate the old part from the new. Councillors agreed to a small parcel of cemetery land which is not suitable for burials being sold to the residents of a house in Mauntley Avenue which will assist them in tidying up their garden. We shall have a sum of £1000 which might go towards the future upkeep and enhancement of the cemetery.

After consultation with the school and other interested parties, and following an open morning at the village hall to present plans, we are considering having a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) installed in the Meadow. The project is being lead by Margaret Smith and thanks to her for all her hard work in seeking quotes, liaising with the companies involved and for searching out sources of grant monies to finance the considerable cost.

John Croker has once again done a great job looking after the outfield so well for us. Visitors have remarked about how lucky we are to have such a lovely communal recreation space. We have begun an experiment to try and introduce some wild flowers along the bank by the fence and thanks to Eileen Simpson for taking on this project.

I think the village benefits from having more grass cuts per year and we have renewed the contract because we think it is worth the extra cost. However, thanks must also go to all those residents who take on the task of cutting some of the verges themselves in various parts of the village. We now have a rota for tidying the garden around the war memorial and thanks so much to Liz Searle for organizing that. It has made such a difference to the overall tidiness.

Our "Adopt a Footpath Scheme" seems to be working well with walkers feeding back any problems with access. Unfortunately, if there are any issues the County Council is slow to respond.

Since October last year I have been involved with a project called a Partnership Approach to Catchment Area Management which is to do with trying to better understand what makes Harper's Brook flood and how to try and implement strategies to control the flow of water into the brook. This has been a very positive experience and I feel that, whilst we are never going to prevent flooding

completely, Brigstock may not be so much a victim of the flooding incidents we have seen in the past few years. We shall see.

Once again thank you very much to all my fellow councillors who have attended meetings and lent support. Nigel Searle has worked over and above his remit during the past year with all the extra work generated by the Neighbourhood Plan and putting in place the policies that we should have as a parish council. I hope he will be able to get back to normal soon, whatever that is.

Finally, we are about to be judged for the 2018 Northamptonshire Village of the Year competition. Thanks once again to Liz Searle, Steph Beckett and Glenda Stephen for putting together all the information for us and filling in the application form. This is a brilliant community to be part of and we hope that the judges recognize that. And not forgetting Mr Marsh, Mr Solesbury and Mr Beckett for all their hard work in supporting the village by keeping it tidy and managing the speed sign.

4 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

The accounts were tabled and there were no issues and are attached to these notes.

5 Public Forum

Update on Cricket Club Activities

There is now new leadership at the club and Mr Andrews was at the meeting in his capacity of Liaison Officer for the Cricket Club gave an overview of activity and investment in the facility. There are now two senior teams (50% of players from the village) one of which has been promoted to the premier league. Some players are in the county team. Currently looking at female sessions. There are 4 new wickets. Some drainage activity has taken place in the outfield. New covers for pitch. New additional decking area for pavilion. Reconfiguration within the club room. Improvements to heating systems. Decorating the building annually. Investment in machinery to maintain the playing field. Currently looking at internet access.

The club provides excellent facilities for the village and surrounding area.

The club tabled its accounts at the meeting which is a requirement of the lease.

There were general discussions regarding the siting of a MUGA which the parish council are currently progressing. M Smith and S Andrews are to have a meeting to progress a mutually agreeable location for its siting.

Notice Boards

Mrs Beckett gave a presentation on the need for additional noticeboards in the village. See attachment

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

May 2019

Parish Meeting Closed at 7:53pm

Mrs Becket's presentation)

I would like to ask the Parish Council if they would be able to assist with new notice boards for the village. If they could assist with funding that would be good. I could apply to Latham Charity or to other grant holders but I would be unable to do that as an individual so would need the backing of a group such as Parish Council

At present there is a notice board outside the village hall but it is too small.

I would like to have two further notice boards and expand the one we already have. This may have to be done over a period of time. One possible place is by the church where there is already the interpretation board. The second would be expansion of present notice board and I am still seeking advice on a third.

Why new boards?

I am on the group that does the preparation for the Best Village awards. Two years ago a comment was made that the telegraph poles detracted from the look of the village.

What did we do? We went around making sure that the notices were not out of date.

We then decided to have an Adopt a Telegraph Pole. We have had an amazing response and 30 people have adopted one or more poles. They have been stripped of all their staples. This has taken many hours of work. Their adoptees will then make sure that all posters are up to date and staples removed to stop them clogging up again.

In the long term we would like to stop the use of Telegraph poles and have all village organisations using notice boards.

I have already discussed this with some village organisations that are in agreement

How would this enhance Brigstock?

1 Tidy telegraph poles

2. Organisations would only need to produce 3 flyers. 1 for each notice board

3. This would cut down on litter as sometimes posters come down.

4. It would also cut down on the amount of paper going for recycling

5. A large amount of laminate is used at present which is then disposed of. As a nation we are being urged to reduce plastic

6. Also instead of having to scour random telegraph poles information would be in known places.

I am the correspondent for the Brigstock column in local paper. I have to do a tour of lamp posts as they are used in random order so you are not sure where to find anything

I do hope the Parish Council are able to assist. I believe you may still have some funds from litter picking event. I have litter picked for the village each time there has been an event.

If you want any further information do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you
Steph Beckett

S Becket and Stuart Malcom will liaise and put together a costed proposal. Notice boards will be added to the parish council agenda as a permanent agenda item

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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