



Brixworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 21st December 2023 at 7.30pm

Community Centre & Library, Spratton Road, Brixworth NN6 9DS

- In attendance:** Cllr Lynne Compton (Vice Chair), Cllr Christine Ware, Cllr James Collyer, Cllr Elaine Coe, Cllr Alan Aisbett, Cllr Tony Nixon and Cllr Barbara Lunnon.
- Absent:** Cllr Jackie Bird (Chair), Cllr Neal Brown, Cllr Gary Spratt, Cllr Gaurang Mehta, Cllr Tom Mitchell, Cllr Frances Peacock, and Cllr Ian Barratt
- Clerical Support:** Gavin Kirkup
- Members of the public:** 5

MINUTES

PART ONE – OPENING PROCEDURES

23/6420	Welcome Vice Chair, Cllr Lynne Compton, welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the evacuation procedures and notified all present that the meeting was being recorded.
23/6421	Apologies for absence and acceptance of apologies for absence The following apologies were received and accepted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cllr Jackie Bird▪ Cllr Gary Spratt▪ Cllr Gaurang Mehta▪ Cllr Tom Mitchell▪ Cllr Ian Barratt▪ Cllr Frances Peacock Prop. Cllr Compton. Sec. Cllr Lunnon. Unanimous. NB : Cllr Neal Brown submitted his apologies, which were received and accepted, but were not reported at the meeting.
23/6422	Declarations of Interest a) There were no declarations of any disclosable pecuniary or other interests to consider. b) There were no dispensations or written requests for dispensation of DPI to consider.
23/6423	Agree and Sign the Minutes of Previous Meeting Council RESOLVED to the Vice Chair Cllr Lynne Compton approving the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting dated the 30 th of November 2023, as a true and accurate record.

Members of Brixworth Parish Council

*Councillor Jackie Bird (Chairman), Councillor Lynne Compton (Vice Chair), Councillor Alan Aisbett
Councillor Ian Barratt, Councillor Neal Brown, Councillor Elaine Coe, Councillor James Collyer,
Councillor Barbara Lunnon, Councillor Gaurang Mehta, Councillor Tom Mitchell, Councillor Tony Nixon,
Councillor Frances Peacock, Councillor Gary Spratt and Councillor Christine Ware*

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	<p>Prop. Cllr Compton. Sec. Cllr Ware. 1 Abstention.</p> <p><u>November Confidential Minutes</u> Council RESOLVED that the confidential minutes from Thursday the 30th of November need to be amended in line with the email sent to the Clerk by Councillor Nixon before they can be signed as a true and accurate record. Prop. Cllr Nixon. Sec. Cllr Compton. Unanimous</p>
<p>23/6424</p>	<p>Public Open Forum Session Views/statements were received from members of the public as follows:</p> <p>a) WNC Cllr Jonthan Harris reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WNC Consultations - the Parish Council were informed of the current consultations which includes trees; 24/25 budget; park visitors; Grey Friars future use and e-scooters. - WNC 24/25 budget – there will be an increase to £416 million from £378 million, but this doesn't include service growth; £15.5 million has been built in for inflation. Pressures remain in adults and children's services including temporary accommodation. These three areas will be scrutinised. 70% of the budget is children's and adults, and statutory services that require funding. Medium term financial budget has a predicted £42 million short fall. - Local Area Partnerships - Cllr Harris is a part of the LAPs working on health and wellbeing for WNC and has present ideas on the future use of Boniface House, which has ceased as a care home but remains a council asset, and proposed this could be a combined operation, such as flats or social housing with community space built in. - Allotments e-petition - 520 online signatures have been garnered with a further 90 on paper. Cllr Harris is looking to take this to Council in March 2024. - 59/60 Bus Service - has its challenges as the current contract with Uno ceases in March. WNC are putting the contract out to tender and are optimistic of getting a replacement provider. <p>b) WNC Cllr Parker noted that WNC Citizen Space lists all the current consultations. He also noted that the town and parish briefing was issued on the 18th of December.</p> <p>c) Northampton Allotments – a Grant application has been submitted to Council with the committee members thanking Council for their support. It was reported that the role the allotments play within the community and the challenges allotments face nationally are clear. The committee are working with the National Allotment Society and the Parish Council grant application is to support the acquisition of the allotments and allow for surveyors to be approached for a valuation and to gain legal advice. The committee are also looking to acquire funding through the Government Community Asset Grant as well as exploring other charity grants. There is a need to clearly identify the true value of the land. The landowners have given a valuation in excess of a million pounds and offered the land to the Allotment Society at half a million. BBC Radio Northampton are now involved and want to meet the allotments society with a representative of the council. In the new year, the Allotments Society are planning to launch an appeal within the village and surrounding companies to raise funds and progress all matters. Cllr Compton proposed to council that the grant application motion (item 23/6431) be brought forward and considered earlier in the meeting. All present RESOLVED to this course of action.</p>

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PART TWO – FOR DECISION

23/6431	<p>Grant Application - Allotment Committee Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the full sum of the grant application received from the Northampton Road Allotment Committee for £3,100.00 and for the payment to be made via BACS. Prop. Cllr Nixon. Sec. Cllr Ware. Unanimous.</p>	JF/GK
23/6425	<p>Budget 2024-25 The Vice Chairman permitted WNC Cllr Parker to ask a question about the 2024-25 Reserves and Cash Flow being similar to that of the current reserves, during the closed session. Cllr Compton noted the query and agreed to liaise with the Clerk. Council RESOLVED to approve the budget of £223,990 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, as reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee on the 14th of December 2023. Prop. Cllr Lunnon. Sec. Cllr Nixon. Unanimous.</p>	JF
23/6426	<p>Precept 2024-25 Council RESOLVED to approve the precept of £185,950 for the 2024-25 fiscal year, as reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee on the 14th of December 2023. Prop. Cllr Lunnon. Sec. Cllr Nixon. Unanimous.</p>	JF
23/6427	<p>Finance Council RESOLVED to approve the payments list for December 2023. Prop. Cllr Ware. Sec. Cllr Lunnon. Unanimous.</p>	GK
23/6428	<p>WNC Consultations – Tree Strategy and DRAFT Northampton Town Environmental Policy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Council RESOLVED to <u>not</u> submit a corporate response, instead inviting Councillors to submit their own individual responses. It was agreed that BPC would encourage local residents to respond to the Tree Strategy consultation utilising social media channels by the 1st of January 2024. Prop. Cllr Ware. Sec. Cllr Coe. Unanimous. Council RESOLVED to <u>not</u> submit a corporate response to the Town Centre Environmental Policy Consultation, inviting Councillors to submit their own individual responses. BPC would encourage local residents to respond to the policy consultation utilising social media channels by the 28th of January 2024. Prop. Cllr Compton. Sec. Cllr Ware. Unanimous. 	GK
23/6429	<p>Holocaust Memorial Day Cllr Lunnon raised concerns over the timing of this considering the current conflicts in Israel and Gaza and stated by doing this now, it could potentially be antagonistic. Council needs to think about what message we are giving by doing joining this initiative. Cllr Compton agreed with this view. Council RESOLVED to defer this item and to bring it back to Council on the September 2024 Agenda. The Holocaust Memorial Trust were to be contacted and apologies given for not participating on this occasion. Prop. Cllr Coe. Sec. Cllr Lunnon. Unanimous.</p>	JF
23/6430	<p>2024-25 Meeting Dates Cllr Lunnon thanked the Officers for the advance notification of the calendar dates for next year. Council RESOLVED to approve the calendar of meeting dates for the 2024/25 council year. Prop. Cllr Lunnon. Sec. Cllr Ware. 1 Abstention.</p>	GK

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23/6431	Grant Application - Allotment Committee This item was considered earlier in the meeting straight after the public open session.	-
PART THREE – FOR INFORMATION		
23/6432	Saturday Surgery Council received and NOTED the Saturday Surgery Report of 2 nd December 2023. Cllr Ware & Cllr Collyer attended.	-
23/6433	Committee and Working Group Minutes Council received and NOTED the following sets of minutes/notes, as circulated to Council: a) Finance Committee Meeting held on 14 th December 2023. b) Planning Committee Meeting held on 18 th December 2023.	-
23/6434	Clerk’s Report Council received and NOTED the report.	-
23/6435	Parish Councillor Representatives Updates Council received reports from the following: a) Village Hall – Cllr Lunnon reported the Village Hall had been approached by a company that installs industrial sized washing machines to see if the village hall could be a potential site. b) Thomas Roe Charity – there were no new reports to receive. c) NCALC – it was reported that all councils have been asked to add the Community Governance Review onto their January meeting agendas. d) Police Liaison – there were no new reports to receive. e) Armed Forces – there were no new reports to receive. f) Verification Officer –the next verification meeting will take place in January 2024. g) Environment, Highways and Climate Change Champion - Cllr Ware reported four people completed their Carbon Literacy training and all have gone for assessment. If successful there would be six people who will be certified Carbon Literate and ready to go for bronze accreditation. Training will be offered again as a one-day session in the new year. We have received good press from Carbon Literacy trust on a global level. h) Central Sports Rep – Cllr Nixon reported the club caretaker is finding electricity costs have spiked for the MUGA and the sheds, which are currently not charged to the Parish, may need to be in the future. Possibility to consider adding to 24/25 budget. i) Host a Councillor Updates – it was reported that take up is slow but will push again in the new year.	-

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23/6436	<p>To Note the Dates of the Next Meetings: Council NOTED the following meeting dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parish Surgery (Community Centre) 6th January 2024 EC & LC Attending. ▪ Planning Committee Meeting – 8th January 2024 ▪ BCAG Meeting – 9th January 2024 ▪ Buildings Working Group Meeting – 15th January 2024 ▪ Full Council Meeting – 25th January 2024 ▪ Planning Committee Meeting – 29th January 2024 	
23/6437	<p>Traffic Safety Council received and NOTED the Q3 (October - December) report.</p>	-
23/6438	<p>Housing Needs Survey It was reported that all surveys were delivered to all households within the parish and the public consultation event was held on Monday 11th of December and was successful. The deadline for survey responses is 14th of January and a reasonable return rate has been experienced thus far. West Northants Council will arrange to collect all completed surveys and a decision is to be made in due course, as to how the BPC officer team will aid the data collection and input.</p>	-

PART FOUR & FIVE – CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 sect 1.2, to discuss matters of commercial and personal confidentiality (Papers for Members only), due it being prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
Prop Cllr Compton. Sec Cllr Coe. Unanimous.

The Press and Public were requested to leave the meeting, which was closed at 20:16pm

23/6439	<p>Northampton Road Allotments</p> <p>a) Council received and NOTED the progress report. b) Council RESOLVED to APPROVE the draft terms of reference for the Allotments Working Group with an amendment to include the status of the group as a closed working group within the Quorum and Meeting section of the paper. Prop. Cllr Ware. Sec. Cllr Compton. Unanimous.</p>	JF
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Open session resumed at 20:30pm

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PART SIX – URGENT MATTERS

23/6440	Urgent Matters for Report Only a) Cloudy IT – Upcoming price changes for software and licensing, which is increasing. This was noted. It was suggested that when the contract comes to end, we should be looking at other providers. b) LED Lighting – The received £3487.20 quote is being contested, however Council agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk to get the works completed, authorising a spend of up to the quote value. This will be further ratified at the January meeting. Prop Cllr. Compton. Sec Cllr. Ware. Unanimous.	-
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PART SEVEN – CLOSING PROCEDURES

23/6441	Next Ordinary Meeting a. There were no items reported for inclusion on the January Ordinary Meeting agenda. b. Council NOTED the next meeting date for the Ordinary Council Meeting as 25 th January 2024.	-
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In the absence of further business, the meeting was closed at 20:37pm

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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Cllr Jackie Bird – Chair
Brixworth Parish Council
Date: 25th January 2024

Minutes Prepared by:
Gavin Kirkup
Administrator

Brixworth Parish Council
T: 07983 141786

E: parish.clerk@brixworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

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