

BRAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Draft Minutes of the Meeting

Held On

WEDNESDAY 10 April 2024 AT 6.30 PM

Brampton Memorial Centre
Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB

Present: Councillors Bainbridge, Childs, Chitty, Clarke, Footner, Long, Maggs, Mellor, Pope, Rusden and Shellens. County Councillor Billington, District Councillors Shaw and Jordan. Jane Coggin, dementia Group, Peter Menczer, Village Hub, Judith Chitty, Thrift Shop, Steven Hodgson, Bramshed, 5 members of the public. Tess Rogers, Parish Clerk.

1. Introduction

Alan Mellor, Chair of the parish council, welcomed all present, to the meeting. He mentioned that:

- i) The parish council had offered the Shakespear at the George theatrical group the possible use of the Lady Olivia Centre as they were looking for new premises in which to perform.
- ii) The formal green spaces at the Lady Olivia Centre had not yet been passed to the parish council.
- iii) Those dropping off and picking up at school start/end times are still parking often illegally and inconsiderately.
- iv) The Memorial Centre is the initial emergency centre in the instance of severe flooding and similar.
- v) There is a vacancy for a parish councillor should anyone be interested in offering their skills to aid the community.

Questions from the audience:

- i) Ongoing parking problems around the village, particularly at school drop off and pick up times. Could there be a temporary closure of the road outside the school for 30 minutes either side of these times? Promote walking to the school. Encourage 'Take 5' whereby parents/carers park a 5 minute walk from the school gate. Mike Shellens suggested parking enforcement be introduced. The money from ticketing would go to the District Council. Dave Shaw said this might be looked at in 2025.
- ii) Would the parish council consider live streaming its' meetings? This will be placed on the next parish council meeting agenda.

2. To Receive Apologies

Councillors Hodgson and Roberts, Mick Forsdick, Royal British Legion, Lianne Simpson, Diamond Hampers and Sue Rowland, Craft Club.

3. Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 26 April 2023.

These had been published and taken as read.

4. Brampton Parish Council

Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council and Chairpersons of the various committees. Questions on Parish Council and Committee business will be taken by the Chairpersons.

The reports had been published in the Brampton Magazine and on the parish council website.

4.1 Finance: Jon Chitty read through his report. Questions from the audience:

i) What projects have been identified for using the current reserves? The project spend working group is meeting to update considerations for spending.

ii) How much Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding has been awarded to Brampton Parish Council over the past 5 to 10 years?

CIL funding awarded between 2015/16 and Dec 23 is £718,610.23.

iii) How much BPC CIL funding has been committed for infrastructure projects in Brampton and how much CIL remains unallocated?

so far £426,094.95 spent on infrastructure in Brampton with £292,515.28 yet to be spent by 31 Mar 29. Projects are already being considered/lined up for this spend.

iv) Will Brampton Parish Council consider using CIL funding to upgrade approximately 300 metres of the very muddy public footpath number 15 to make this footpath usable all year round? This path gets extremely muddy during the winter months and very overgrown in the summer months.

Footpath 15 financing yet to be considered - we still await action by developers.

v) How much money is in Brampton Parish Council's reserves and is this amount in keeping with the recommended level of reserves?

Total held in reserves is £471,768.09 - which is 'marginally' greater than the recommended limit of current precept.

vi) Why does the parish council run with a reserve?

Policy was to always increase the precept to avoid a huge increase when the reserves had run down.

4.2 Allotments

Mike Bainbridge presented the allotment report.

There has been a problem with drainage on a couple of the Brampton Park allotments, the situation will be monitored as there has been an above average of rainfall in the last few months. There have been illegal trespassers to one allotment on the Thrapston road site. This has been reported to the police. Questions regarding securing the site have been asked and will be addressed by the allotment committee at its' next meeting. In addition the local police will be asked for advice when the parish council next has an opportunity to meet with them.

The idea of there being a community allotment was voiced. This will be added to the waiting list.

4.3 Churchyard

Margaret Footner presented the Churchyard & Cemetery report. There were no questions.

4.4 Greens & Footpaths

Nigel Maggs presented the report. Questions asked:

The large horse chestnut tree on the Green has had a bough removed? The bough had actually fallen due to the dry, then wet, weather

When is the parish council going to weed kill around the footpaths on Horseshoes Way and Chestnut Close? The ground staff will be asked to check these areas,

Footpath 24 has been upgraded but the grass on either side of the path has not been maintained? The County Council will be notified.

5. Representatives from the following organisations present to give reports and answer questions:

Steve Hodgson

Bramshed

Ken Billington

Cambridgeshire County Council

Lianne Simpson

Diamond Hampers

Jane Coggin
Patricia Jordan)
Dave Shaw)
Police representative
Mick Forsdick

Dementia Activities in the village
Huntingdon District Council
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Royal British Legion

Judith Chitty/Charlotte
Robinson
Peter Menczer

Thrift Shop and Brampton Events
Village Hub

All reports were presented by the representatives of the individual organisations and are available upon request from the parish council. Where a representative was unavailable the report was read out by a parish council member.

6. Open Forum – questions asked included: The parish council appears to have a high volume of staff?
- i) The parish has grown extensively over the past 5 years. The staff in post are all required for the smooth running of what has now become a business rather than a small parish council as it might once have been described.
 - ii) The Village hub is looking for storage space for the toy library.
The toys were once stored at the Lady Olivia Centre where the toy library was situated. However without notice the parish council was informed that the toy library would be moving to the Family Hub and the toys were removed from the Lady Olivia Centre immediately. The Village Facilities committee will address the query at its' next meeting.
 - iii) There is no disabled access into the Community Centre on the High Street?
This will be addressed once improvements to the hall are finalized. Quotes have been received for new doors and windows, but other improvements are necessary. Therefore until these are agreed the new doors cannot be sited.
 - iv) The narrow footbridge leading from Layton Crescent to Brampton Park isn't wide enough for wheelchairs etc. Can it be improved?
The parish council has considered this on a couple of occasions. To widen the footpath would entail the purchase of a portion of local neighbours' land. When enquiries to this end were made, they were met with a negative response. In addition, a nearby utility monitoring point would require moving. Therefore, currently this is a project that can't be undertaken but may be revisited at a later date.
Why has the parish council applied to fence in the 'Tractor' play area at North Road on Brampton Gate, this is something the residents don't want?
Some years ago, the parish council received a request from residents to fence in the play areas on Brampton Park as there were concerns that children can run straight into the roads and dogs can access the areas. The parish council applied to the management company who refused the play areas within the site but did give permission for the Tractor Park which is on the outskirts of the site. The parish council would pay for the fencing and would assume responsibility for it but would not take on responsibility for the play area itself. The parish council was perplexed that the residents appear not to want this safety feature.

There were no further questions and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:
Chair

Date:

