

BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN: Alan Mellor



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held at the Memorial Centre
Thrapston Road on Wednesday the 31st of January 2024
At 7.30pm

Present: Alan Mellor, Chair (AM), Mike Shellens, Vice Chair (MS), Mike Bainbridge (JMB), John Childs (JRC), Jon Chitty (JC), Sue Clarke (SC), Margaret Footner, (MF), Brian Hodgson (BH), Jacqui Long (JL), Max Robers (MR), Natasha Pope (NP).

In attendance: 4 members of the public. Ken Billington County Councillor, Tess Rogers Clerk.

01/01/24 Chairman's Opening Remarks

AM welcomed attendees to the meeting. JMB asked that a vote of thanks go to the Clerk for the organization of the Councillors training which took place on the 27th of January for which all agreed.

02/01/24 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Nigel Maggs, Annual Leave, Liz Ruston, Annual Leave, Patricia Jordan and Dave Shaw, District Councillors.

03/01/24 To Receive Declarations of Interests

All dispensation requests must be made to the Clerk prior to the meeting. You must comply with the statutory and the Authority's requirements to disclose and withdraw from participating in respect of any matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

There were none.

04/01/24 To Agree to hold a Public Forum Maximum time allotted for the Public Forum 15 minutes. If no members of the public are present the meeting will continue. At the close of this agenda item members of the public will no longer be permitted to address the Council.

It was agreed to hold a public forum therefore the meeting was adjourned while this took place.

04/01/24.1 One member of the public spoke regarding the regular parking taking place on the foot and cycle paths in the village, more particularly on the footpath by the Huntingdon roundabout where residents park blocking the path for cyclists. Parking also takes place on the dropped kerb. He mentioned that he has raised this with Huntingdon District Council, also Cambridgeshire County Council. He has been told this is a police matter and he needs to be able to produce photographic evidence. MS responded that this is an ongoing problem and that the Parish Council has no enforcement powers. However, HDC will be getting prosecution powers in 2025. The matter will be discussed when members of the Parish Council meet with the local police constable.

04/01/24.2 One member of the public was present to speak regarding his allotment shed being used by undesirables for the use of drug taking and vaping. The shed has been broken into and it appears that chairs from perhaps another

- allotment have been moved in. The police have been informed but say they don't have enough to follow up on. The Parish Council is being asked if security can be improved. JMB is the allotment committee chair and has contacted the local police constable regarding this. AM thanked the member of the public for raising the issue and said the Parish Council will discuss the options and determine the best way forward.
- 04/01/24.3 One member of the public spoke regarding the recent incidences of extreme odours coming from the Buckden Landfill site. The management of the site have issued reasons for this and how they are looking to remedy any problems. The Clerk said there is a meeting to be held at the site on the 6th of February and the Parish Council will report back where necessary.
- 05/01/24 Village Hub**
No report or representation.
- 06/01/24 Youth Matters & Funding**
No report or representation.
- 07/01/24 District Council Report**
Neither District Councillor was present, but a written report was received. The main points were:
Civil parking enforcement mentioned in 04/01/24.1 above.
Buckden Landfill mentioned in 04/01/24.3 above.
- 08/01/24 County Councillor Report**
Ken Billington was present and reported as follows:
- 08/01/24.1 A decision has been made at County level that the weeds growing in the kerbing will now be sprayed. Any damage or drain blockages caused by the weeds should be reported to the County Council.
- 08/01/24.2 Has the Parish Council been informed of the possible intention to pedestrianise the road to Buckden? The response is no, and the Parish Council can do nothing until formally approached if indeed it ever is.
- 08/01/24.3 The local school has been broken into, but nothing taken. CCTV is being installed.
- 09/01/24 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th of December 2024.**
JC proposed acceptance of the minutes as being a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by NP and agreed by all.
- 10/01/24 To Receive an Update about the Progress of Resolutions from the last Meeting.**
- 10/01/24.1 202/12/23.2 Local fire stations closing. Outstanding with Ken Billington.
- 10/01/24.2 204/12/23.2 Footpath closure 01/11/23 to 20/12/23. The work had not been started. SC reported that this is now due to start on the 4th of March 24 and will take sixteen weeks to completion.
- 10/01/24.3 185/11/23.2 Separation line for cyclists and pedestrians on the path between Layton Crescent and Brampton Park. Currently awaiting signs at either end of the footpath indicating its' shared use.
- 10/01/24.4 204/12/23.4 Repainting of white lines, outstanding with Billy Blissett.
- 10/01/24.5 204/12/23.5 Costings re double yellow lines, outstanding with Billy Blissett.
- 10/01/24.6 Key clamp barrier at the Thrapston Road end of footpath 24. Still waiting for details of the new Green Team at the County Council.

- 10/01/24.7 205/12/23.3.1 Football club querying free use of the playing field. The outstanding action is to investigate the receipt of a letter from G Binns (as a copy of an original letter from G Papworth) purported to request the free use of the playing fields by clubs.
The current (ongoing) discussion regarding the priority use of the Memorial Centre rooms (Kitchen etc.) by the youth teams (football) which includes discussions regarding the hire costs and FA grant (non-receipt to date) is a separate activity being investigated by the Sports & Recreations Committee.
- 10/01/24.8 Request to install a sign indicating the presence of war graves in the churchyard. MF and the Assistant Clerk will meet at the churchyard to clarify the site for the sign.
- 11/01/24 To Note the Minutes of the Following Meetings and to Consider the Approval of the Recommendations being made within them.**
- 11/01/24.1 Finance held on the 17th of January.
The minutes were unavailable therefore will be brought to the next meeting.
- 11/01/24.2 Village Facilities held on the 30th of January.
The minutes had not yet been typed up. However, notes of the meeting had been made available. There were no recommendations to be made to the full council regarding any spending costs. The minutes will be made available at the next meeting.
- 11/01/24.3 A quote has been received from Surebuild for the renovations to the kitchen and storage areas. A figure of £20K for this has already been agreed by full council. JRC has applied for other quotes to no avail.
- 11/01/24.4 The Village Facilities committee had agreed that the Memorial Centre shouldn't be booked out to other hirers when the Spartans are playing at home. However, the Clerk was asked to supply figures for how much income would have been lost in the last year if this was the case. The matter will be further discussed at the next Sports & Recreations committee meeting. JRC will attend that meeting.
- Action: S&R**
- 12/01/24 Parish Council Matters**
- 12/01/24.1 To Review Parish Council Documentation -Retention & Disposal Policy.
The document previously updated and formally adopted on the 15th of December 2020 has been updated to the Society of Local Council Clerks model policy dated 2022 and adapted for the use of Brampton Parish Council. MS proposed acceptance of the updated policy, seconded by AM, all agreed.
- 12/01/24.2 To consider the frequency of meetings.
MF was concerned that no Churchyard & Cemetery or allotment meetings had been scheduled for Saturday mornings during 2024, saying this doesn't allow for members of the public present at the sites to converse with the committees. However, she and JMB had held a discussion with the assistant clerk who agreed to attend 5 meetings throughout the year on Saturday mornings. The calendar of meetings will be reflected to show this. In addition AM asked that the Assistant Clerk's contract be checked to see if there is a clause regarding attendance at Saturday morning meetings and if not that this should be added to the contract.
- Action: Clerk**
- 12/01/24.3 Final placement of 'War Grave' sign
See 10.01.24.8
- 12/01/24.4 2Commune website termination
Following on from the Parish Council receiving notification that the current website provider would no longer be able to provide support from the 31st of March 2024. The Parish Council is waiting for contact from Cuttlefish,

- the company that has been working alongside 2Commune, should they be prepared to supply website support. If contact hasn't been made by the end of February the Parish Council will look for an alternative company.
- 12/01/24.5 **Worknest Health & Safety Service Proposal**
Cambridge and Peterborough Association for Local Parish Councils have recently promoted Worknest as being a company that can assist Parish Councils with various necessary services. Worknest has supplied Brampton with a Health & Safety service proposal. This was discussed but decided expensive and a concern that it would be a 5-year contract. It was decided to set up a working group to ensure the Parish Council has all the required documentation in place. SC, JRC and MR will make up the working party.
Action: SC,JRC,MR
- 13/01/24 Planning.**
- 13/01/24.1 MR introduced the meeting to the report dated the 20th of December 2023 to the 26th of January 2024. The report now summarises the number of applications, new applications, those approved over the last month, those refused and those withdrawn along with those pending, at the beginning of the report.
- 13/01/24.2 A discussion was held regarding planning application 23/02351/FUL to raise land levels at Bromholme Lane. NP said this would be for storing aggregate which could cause more flooding. MS asked that the local planning department should be approached to ensure that there was no rubbish left on the road whilst the work was undertaken if the application is approved.
- 13/01/24.3 JMB proposed acceptance of the report, MF seconded. Eight agreed, with one abstention.
Action: Clerk
- 14/01/24 **Parish Communications**
Taken under correspondence received, below.
- 15/01/24 Representatives Reports**
- 15/01/24.1 MS reported on a meeting he had attended with the Family Hub regarding their patrons using the Memorial Centre car park. Some solutions were put forward for consideration and another meeting will be arranged.
Action: MS/JMB
- 16/01/24 Correspondence Received**
- 16/01/24.1 Power to fund works to property relating to affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity (England only).
On 26 October 2023 the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (the 2023Act) received Royal Assent. Section 82 of the 2023 Act amends the Local government Act 1894 by inserting a new section 19A into the 1894 Act. Section 9A came into force on 26 December 2023. Therefore, Councils can use their discretionary powers to fund church repairs or improvements, or property held for an ecclesiastical charity.
- 16/01/24.2 Huntingdon awarded District's first Community Biodiversity Grant.
Noted.
- 16/01/24.3 St Neots Town Centre Improvement Project Commences.
Noted.
- 16/01/24.4 2024/25 20mph funding process now open until Friday 15th March 24.
There are no requirements for any further 20mph restrictions in the village currently.

17/01/24 To Accept Notices and Matters for The Next Agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item, LGA 1972 s12 10(2)(b) state therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion

17/01/24.1 To consider that all councillors be provided with council ipads.

17/01/21.2 To consider the introduction of a 'Whatsapp' group to comprise all council members.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

18/01/24 Confidential Matters.

None.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm

Signed:

Date:

Chair