

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Of Broughton Parish Council
Held at St Marys House, Broughton
On Monday 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm

Present

Mrs Leech – Chairperson, Councillors, Mr Byrne, Mr Gardiner, Mr Howarth, Mr Wolstencroft, Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, Cllr George Reynolds and seven members of the public.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of previous meeting held 27th April 2015

These were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting and proposed by Mr Gardiner, seconded by Mrs England and duly signed by the Chair.

3. Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson's report was distributed prior to the meeting.

New Parish Councillors- This year the Parish Council have been pleased to welcome Hamish Gardiner, Neil Howarth and Alan Wolstencroft as new Councillors. Unfortunately after many years of service Bob Johnson has decided to retire from the Parish Council. The Parish Council thanked him for his previous service and wished him well. Mr Richard Byrne has been co-opted onto the Council now to replace Mr Johnson.

Planning Applications- Cherwell District Council has confirmed that they have no plans to build on the village car park at present and the Parish Council continue to try and buy the land. See below.

With regard to other planning applications submitted to CDC, the council gives careful consideration to the impact that the building would have on individuals and to the village as a whole. The Parish Council wish to preserve the rural character of the village.

Highways – The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Highways Authority advising them of works required to ensure public safety. Any potholes should be reported to the Parish Council who will endeavour to have them repaired as soon as possible. The Parish Council are very aware that as soon as the council fill in one pothole another one appears!!

The county were lucky not to have much snow this winter so the council have adequate supplies of salt for the containers to carry forward to next year.

Speeding is still an important issue, especially on the Main Road. The Parish Council has now installed a flashing indicator 30mph sign but despite strenuous efforts to get it to work it is not reliable. They are now looking into the possibility of a solar powered sign. The Council is committed to getting this sorted out. The Parish Council are pleased to report that the police detector van continues to be used in the village on a regular basis.

In addition a small group of villagers are working with the local PCSOs on Speed Watch where the speed of vehicles is measured and informal letters are sent out to speeding motorists. Anyone interested in joining this group please let the Parish Council know.

Neighbourhood Watch- The Parish Council is supporting a revival of Neighbourhood Watch in the village. Many people had signed up in the past and following a recruitment drive recently the Parish Council are pleased to say that most of the village have confirmed that they are looking out for their neighbours.

Car Parking- The Parish Council is looking into the possibility of purchasing the car park in Wykham Lane from Cherwell District Council as they feel that it would be an asset to the village. The CDC's valuer has been out to value the land and he seemed very positive about the possibility. However he is awaiting a reply from his Supervisor and the Parish Council continue to contact him on a regular basis so they can move forward.

Litter- in general the village remains litter free and thanks are extended to all for helping to keep Cherwell District Council who will remove it as soon as possible. A litter pick was held recently and 8 bags of litter were collected.

Grass Maintenance - The Council continue to monitor the contract for grass cutting both in the churchyard and the Jubilee Tree site to ensure that the work is carried out to a high standard. This is important as grass maintenance accounts for a substantial part of the expenditure. Following the retirement of their last grass cutter the Council have employed Andrew Jon Bathe Landscape Gardener to do the grass cutting. He has been employed on a three month trial and the Parish Council are pleased with his work to date.

Church footpath - The footpath is uneven and the Council would advise continued care when walking especially during wet weather.

Dogs – The Parish Council expressed their thanks to the majority of dog owners who responsibly clean up after their dogs. To assist in this the council have recently acquired 3 dog waste bins which will be placed around the village shortly at the top of Wykham Lane, in Jubilee Gardens and outside the Castle Grounds. CDC will empty the bins.

The council extend their thanks to Lord Saye and Sele for the continued facility to the village of access to the Castle Grounds.

Thanks was also given to the Parish Clerk and to fellow Councillors for their continued help and support.

It was proposed by Mrs England and seconded by Mr Howarth that this report be accepted. All agreed.

4. Financial Report

The Clerk presented the accounts for 2015/16, copies of which had been placed on the notice-boards prior to the meeting, circulated at the meeting and are attached to these minutes for filing.

It was proposed by Mr Gardiner and seconded by Mr Goss that these accounts should be accepted.

5. Correspondence

No letters had been received.

6. Open Forum

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm.

Signed

Dated

