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2023 Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Church with Chapel Brampton Parish on Monday 24th April commencing at 7.30 pm, at the Brampton Primary School.

Minutes taken by Clerk, Sarah Stock.

24th April 2023

Apologies:

18 members of the public attending

Cllrs JS, RGn, RGt, WS, SC, MM

Item 1: Welcome address and introductions by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Jill Slinn

Chairman thanked all MOP and councillors for attending. The council has two vacancies if anyone is interested in joining the council.

Item 2: Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Council Meeting approved.

Item 3: Annual report from the Chairman of Church with Chapel Brampton Parish Council

We have had a reasonably quiet year at the parish council with various matters taking our attention. I would like to thank those members of the parish who have worked hard to maintain matters within the village. To Robin, my vice-chairman, who is on hand to help wherever he is needed. To Mick Macmain and Steven Crane who help manage the playing field and pocket park. William Shearer, who with Robin, have been working towards the repairs and improvement to the Chapel in Chapel Brampton and the installation of the defibrillator. Richard Gent works tirelessly in the background to manage the village newsletter as well as being part of the parish council and is an integral part of the village communications. Finally, a big thank you to Sarah, our clerk, who is so very efficient making all our lives a little easier.

We have installed new gates and trip around the car park in the playing field. Pocket Park is having more wildflowers. New poles to facilitate new SID. We have had some success with our PCSO in the villages although it still proves to be a subject of some debate. We currently do not have a PCSO due to sickness and the police have refunded us accordingly. We will meet with the police to discuss whether we wish to join a new scheme in due course. Your comments would be appreciated on this matter. WE have continued to have a traffic survey to ensure we have a good record of traffic in the village.

The roads in and around the village area in poor order and we are regularly reporting problems on street doctor and would encourage you to do the same.

We have been watching the structure of the new road with interest and Sarah been in touch with Balfour Beaty on a few occasions when queries have arisen.

We have held the precept this year. We have two vacancies arising from one absent member and one vacancy. We would very much welcome some new blood.

Item 4: Presentation of the accounts

Council started the year with a bank balance of £28K (councils are advised to hold one year's precept). The council raised a precept of £29,000, and received WNC grants for grass mowing and litter picking (£2,236). We closed the year with £32K remaining. Broadly, the council spent on the following:

- £ 5,165 PCSO Contribution (for 9 months)
 - £2,400 on replacement gate at the playing field
 - £1,750 on Traffic speed/volume survey
 - £1,250 on Defibrillator for Chapel Brampton (covered by donations)
 - £3,000 on grass cutting
 - £15,465 Scheduled running costs (last year £18,927)
- Council is about to submit the annual audit for YE March 2023.

Item 5: Reports from WNC Councillor John Shephard

Not in attendance and no report received.

Item 6: Community Policing Report (report provided by Northants Police) (received by email)

The Daventry Neighbourhood Policing team cover a large geographical area with different demands for the rural areas and within the main town. We have an experienced and committed team on NPT, we have seen some staff movement within the area over the last 12 months. We have welcomed Sgt Greg Harrison, PC's Chris Bates and Lee Stevens to the Brixworth office and PC Harris Woodward to Daventry town. Collectively they bring with them a wealth of community Policing experience, they have been busy right from the start in getting to know their local communities and tackle issues in their respective areas.

Our Locally identified priorities are reviewed quarterly and are now an embedded feature of our daily business. We are seeing some consistent themes in the issues identified, road safety, rural crime and acquisitive crime have individually featured in every LIP period over the last 12 months, as such we have focused our activity towards tackling these issues. We have utilised Police off road motorcycles to tackle illegal off-road motorcycling at Harlestone Firs and Brampton Valley Way. If you would like to contribute to the LIPs by taking the survey, please follow this link:

<https://www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk/LocallyIdentifiedPriorities>

We continue to work closely with West Northants Council to address the ongoing issue of 'street racers' meeting at Moulton and DIRFT. We are in the process of applying for a County wide injunction to prevent such meetings taking place and hope that this will be in place soon. We have also carried out warrants under the misuse of drugs and prosecuted those that control drug dealing in the area.

The beat buses are now a regular feature for us and the villages on our area, we promote these dates on our social media and these events are a great way to speak with your local Officers about any issues that may be arising. Look out for dates (and much more) on Twitter [Daventry Neighbourhood Team \(@DaventryPolice\)/Twitter](#) or Facebook www.facebook.com/daventrysouthnorthantspolice/

We recommend that people residing and working within our communities sign up to Neighbourhood Alert. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address, you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If most of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends, family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle. You can join the Neighbourhood Alert Messaging System by following this link: www.northamptonshireneighbourhoodalert.co.uk

We are currently seeing that a lot of our time is dedicated towards dealing with online crimes, perpetrated by children on either social media, or other such platforms. The vast majority of these involve children of school age.

We have carried out numerous online safety talks at Schools but despite this, children continue to frequently share intimate images with their fellow students. It appears that many school children continue to be unaware that the sending of indecent or malicious communications on social media or other platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, Snap Chat (and many others) can be classed as criminal offences. We encourage parents to take an active overview of the chat groups that their children join and to monitor their on-line activity.

We work closely with our Rural Crime Team and you can follow their work via Twitter: @hutch472 & @NorPolRural. Should you wish to discuss any issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team then please contact either team via: NT-SouthNorthantsdaventry@northants.pnn.police.uk PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THIS EMAIL ADDRESS

Item 7: Report from Althorp Estate

Not in attendance and no report received.

Item 8: Reports from Brampton's clubs and societies (if provided)

a. Brampton Primary School (John Gillet)

Not in attendance and no report received.

b. St Botolph's (John Milne)

2022 saw us settled into a pattern of services, whereby we hold a communion service on the third Sunday of the month and a lay led Worship for All on the fourth Sunday. In addition, we host a 'tea, coffee and chat' session on the second Thursday of each month between 10.30 am and 12.00 pm.

Sadly, the year saw the funerals of several long-standing residents and members of the congregation, but we also celebrated weddings and baptisms.

Our curate Revd. Kathrine Evans moved to Braunston to take on her own group of parishes during the year, but we are fortunate that Revd. Kim McClohy has joined the Benefice while she undergoes her training.

Nicole Smerin again organised a collection of gifts in Advent. These were gathered, added to at the Carol service and then passed on to the Salvation Army to be distributed to families. Thanks go to all those who generously contributed to this endeavor. In response to the increasing cost of living crisis, there is now a box in the church porch for donations of non-perishable food stuffs which are passed on to the Hope Centre for their food bank. We were delighted to welcome the Bramptons Primary School back into the church for their Christmas service. The Mothering Sunday service was an innovative 'café church' when everyone enjoyed coffee, tea or juice and croissants as they celebrated – a format that was popular and is likely to be repeated later in the year. We have also had visits from the Roaming Artisan, providing the opportunity to buy a range of locally produced foodstuffs.

There are still some outstanding pieces of work identified in the five-yearly Quinquennial survey of the church carried out in 2021. These are likely to involve considerable expense and some fundraising will be needed. We shall shortly be planting a new Rowan tree in the churchyard as part of our late Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Churchyard tidy-ups have taken place twice a year and help is always welcome with this and other tasks, such as the rota for opening and closing the church, flower arranging and cleaning the church.

Looking forward on 2nd September we have the Cut a Caper Band giving a presentation on the Life, Poetry, and Song of the Northamptonshire poet John Clare; look out for more information nearer the time.

John Milne and Jane Shearer continue as Church Wardens.

c. Footpath Warden (Jill Slinn)

Generally, footpaths in the parish are in good condition. However, the footpath between Church Lane and Harlestone Road is blocked, and Althorp has yet to clear despite numerous requests. The footpath between Brampton and Mill Farm has been unofficially diverted and cut for easy walking towards the café. The dogs, although intimidating, are no trouble.

d. Litter Wardens (Jemima Hawkins & Grace & Noah Finney) (received by email)

Most of what we have to say is largely a duplicate of last year's report. The children continue to get a lot out of their role, keeping the village tidy and getting lots of fresh air and exercise. Noah and Nigel also recently took part again in the Annual village litter pick (Church Brampton end).

The only thing to comment on that I can think of is the marked increase in debris from car accidents. Not sure if it's part of our remit as litter pickers, but we tend to gradually pick up as many small pieces as we can, there are often hundreds of tiny pieces. We also get rid of medium sized pieces but hope that larger pieces can be disposed of by neighbouring houses.

e. Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr Richard Gent)

Richard invited members of the community to join the NHW scheme. There are regular meetings providing information on crime prevention – including a meeting at Althorp recently. Information regarding security is disseminated by email and WhatsApp.

Item 9: Open Discussion. Parishioners are invited to raise items relating to the parish, district, or county.

Traffic management: Discussion on Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Sandy Lane: SID will face out of the village to encourage drivers coming into the village to slow down. The second post has been installed in the wrong place.

Parishioners asked for evidence of the success of the SIDs. There is anecdotal evidence that the mobile SID on A5199 is effective.

Speed bumps have been considered by the council, but highways advise that nearby neighbours find them too noisy. It is not highways policy to install speed bumps.

Relief Road at Sandy Lane: Due to be finished Spring 2024. The plans on WNC do provide detail but are quite technical. Clerk to circulate quarterly update on FB. Parishioners expressed strong concerns/frustration that it is not clear how the road layout will impact Bramptons or how it was being funded and were very disappointed that Cllr John Shephard did not attend the meeting to provide details on the road. Clerk to contact project manager at WNC.

Chapel Meeting Room: Cllr WS briefed members of the public on the condition of the room and work needed to secure its future. Cllr WS asked attending public if the PC should allocate in the region of £5,500 to make the repairs. MOP were generally positive about preserving the building. Council will embark on a fundraising project.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). SS briefed and discussed with MOP the NDP process, work involved etc Clerk to invite representative from WNC, a NDP consultant and Cllr John Shephard to talk to parish.

Thanks given to Jill for her support as Chairman.

Date of next meeting proposed: 22nd April 2024

Next Car Rally, April 29th. Last one raised in the region of £1,500 for local charities

Meeting closed 21:20