

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF THE PARISH OF CHURCH WITH CHAPEL BRAMPTON
HELD ON MONDAY 24th April 2017
IN THE BRAMPTONS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.30PM**

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed those present to the meeting having ensured that all attendees had received an agenda, minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 2016 and the Annual Financial Statement.

Seven Parish Councillors were in attendance, along with County Councillor Mrs Judy Shephard, District Councillor Mr John Shephard and twenty Parishioners. Apologies were received and accepted from two Parish Councillors.

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were distributed and attendees were given time to read them. Minor typographical errors were amended and it was agreed that they then reflected a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

3 Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council: Cllr J. Slinn

- Ten Statutory Parish Council meetings and numerous Special Planning meetings have been held, with planning applications being given careful consideration in light of Daventry's stance on the special planning guidelines covering Church Brampton.
- Speeding and volumes of traffic have again been regularly discussed, with new traffic calming on the Harlestone Road receiving a broadly positive response and meetings being held with a view to making the walk to school safer for children and parents.
- The expansion of homes in the area, particularly at Buckton Fields and Harlestone Manor, continue to give cause for concern. The annual traffic count, which is to begin shortly, will provide further information regarding the traffic impacts as these developments move forward.
- The Speedwatch campaign to reduce speeding in the villages has continued and there have been ongoing issues with HGV's in the weight-restricted area of Church Brampton.
- Funds have been raised towards a Car Park Extension, and the Council have been looking for additional funding to make up the current shortfall.
- The council's website is operational and the parishioners are invited to look at the site and provide feedback, and also to join the Parish's Facebook group.
- The Council has been looking into additional street lighting for Church Brampton after a recent spate of burglaries and the Council has also lent its support to the installation of CCTV cameras in Church Brampton, which is to be funded by the residents themselves.
- Church Brampton's Litter Picker has resigned and the Council has offered its thanks for her hard work. The Council will shortly be appointing a replacement from the applications received. The Council has also applied for additional funding which may allow for additional litter pickers who will be asked to cover the bridleways.
- Councillor Slinn also thanked the members of the Parish Council for their support over the previous 12 months.

4 Report from Althorp: A representative from Althorp was unable to attend the meeting.

5 Address by County Councillor: Cllr Judy Shephard

Councillor Shephard reported that the NCC has now completed the second year of a 4-year budget

cycle. NCC is required to make a £66.9m saving this year. Operations that are currently spread over twelve buildings will be consolidated into one building at 1 Angel Square from May onwards. The Council is to adopt a “Zero Budget” approach, meaning existing budgets will not be considered and resources will be applied according to need. Areas where front line services are currently duplicated will be eliminated.

Since 2012, 13,474 new school places have been created and in the last year 8,000 secondary school places have been allocated (an increase of 300 places). Buckton Fields will have a 420 place primary school, which is expected to be filled with approximately 400 students from Buckton Fields itself. The Highways Alliance has repaired over 40,000 potholes in the 28,000 mile Northamptonshire Network. The Fire and Rescue service has attended over 4000 incidents. ‘Library Plus’ centres have been visited over 3m times and Country Parks have been visited over 2m times. Northamptonshire is to receive an extra £11.5m for Social Care from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the Council creating both the “First for Wellbeing” CIC, which is the largest publicly-owned social enterprise of its type, and the Northamptonshire Adult Care Service (NACS) to support older people in the county. There are currently 132,000 older people in Northamptonshire, and their numbers are predicted to increase by 37,000 (+28%) over the next 10 years.

The County Council will also run a further consultation on the preferred route for the Northern Orbital Route and the North West Relief Road which will begin on June 19th and run for 6 weeks.

6 Address by District Councillor: Cllr John Shepherd

In comparison to NCC’s budget, which is approximately £1bn, Daventry District Council’s net budget is approximately £10m. The District Council has made a small surplus in the last two years. Council tax has been increased by the minimum of £5. A five year land supply has also been identified, allowing conventional planning policy restrictions to be applied. Waste collection is to be revamped and an agreement for a joint venture has been reached with Norse Waste Management Services, with a ‘3-2-1’ refuse collection beginning when the contract with the current provider expires in June 2018.

The Buckton Fields projects are progressing, with earlier problems having been resolved. The County Council is now involved with selling the second phase.

7 Playing Field and Pocket Park Report: Cllr Derek Bland

The Playing Field: The Parish Council is currently investigating raising the additional funds needed to extend the car park with an extra £15,000 required. The main gate has been replaced after twice being damaged and sections of the bund wall have also been replaced after suffering from rot. New football goal posts have been purchased and will be installed shortly. Litter continues to be an issue which has not been resolved by closing the car park gate.

The Pocket Park: The pocket park roadside fence has been replaced after suffering from rot, as have the previous “Deep Water” signs which had been removed by persons unknown. Volunteers for the Pocket Park are always welcome to fulfil its original intention of being a community-maintained recreational space.

8 Community Police Report: Sgt Sam Dobbs

The Force has been assessed by the Her Majesty’s National Inspectorate (HMIC) in Legitimacy, Efficiency and Effectiveness and has been declared ‘Good’, ‘Good’ and ‘Requiring Improvement’ respectively. Specialist resources, such as Special Branch, are now being shared amongst 5 counties to maintain cost effectiveness. The Force is dealing with new threats, such as terrorism, and large increases in offences such as online crime, fraud and child sex abuse, (up 417%). This has led to Forces around the country conducting Policing on the basis of ‘Threat’, ‘Harm’ and ‘Vulnerability’.

Daventry District is considered 'white' on these measures, meaning comparatively low risk. As such, the Policing footprint has been significantly reduced. Daventry District's community policing team is to consist of 0.5 Inspectors, 1 Sergeant, 4 PC's, and 6 PCSO's (+ any Community funded PCSO's). This is a reduction from 1 Chief Inspector, 2 Inspectors, 8 Sergeants, 12 PC's and 12 PCSO's five years ago. Community policing issues such as speeding will not be enforced unless they risk death or serious injury. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Speedwatch schemes will still be supported.

9 SpeedWatch: Cllr Jill Slinn on behalf of Liz Hunt

SpeedWatch continued this year with a team of 16 volunteers. An additional speed camera was used in May for extra sessions that detected 504 vehicles exceeding the limit over a 21 hour period. In September and October the group had the camera for its scheduled sessions, and 406 speeders were identified over 18 hours. This generated 294 Police warning letters for offenders. Traffic counts conducted before and after the autumn sessions showed that speeding had reduced slightly after SpeedWatch had taken place. Over 50,000 vehicles per week were recorded using the Harlestone Road, with the number of vehicles exceeding 35mph dropping from 32% to 21%. The traffic calming near the school and the repositioning of the 30mph signs will make it easier for SpeedWatch to record vehicles. Training sessions for volunteers will be available on Saturday 10th June at 9:30 in Caroline Chisolm School.

10 Reports from village organisations:

10.1 Litter Picker:

Litter pickers were unable to attend the meeting

10.2 Footpath Warden: Keith Davidson (+ Fletcher the Dog)

The footpath warden has now completed his thirteenth year as Parish Path Warden. Branches have fallen on footpath CE2 towards Holdenby, which have been reported to the County Council. Dog fouling on pathways was discussed. The proposal to divert footpath CD17 was discussed and Cllr Judy Shephard will confirm her belief that it the diversion has been approved. Cllr Bland discussed a proposal from DDC regarding the identification of the most and the least used footpaths within the parish.

10.3 St Botolph's Church:

A representative from St Botolph's Church was unable to attend the meeting

10.4 The Book Club: Mrs May

Mrs May reported that the group have met 9 times this year in each other's homes and discuss a wide variety of books including autobiographies and modern and classic fiction. The group will reach 100 books in May 2018 and will celebrate in suitable literary style.

10.5 Discussion Group: Mr K Archbold

The group has been going for many years and meets in the homes of members. There is a maximum of 30 people in the group who share their knowledge and friendship.

10.6 Spencer Club - Mrs D Cumbleton:

Three new members have joined the group which has now reached 26 members. Typically 18-20 members attend each meeting. Thanks were given to the Parish Council for their donation in 2016.

10.7 Bramptons Primary School:

A representative from the School was unable to attend the meeting.

10.8 Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr Slinn on behalf of Cllr Gent.

Cllr Slinn thanked Cllr Gent for his hard work in getting the Neighbourhood Watch scheme up and running. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has proved popular in both Church and Chapel Brampton and Parishioners who are not in the mailing list were invited to join. The Council has given its consent for the CCTV project to go ahead and a site visit from the installers to discuss camera locations is pending.

11 Presentation of Accounts: Cllr J Slinn

The accounts were circulated with the agenda. Payments which had overlapped financial years were explained by Cllr J. Slinn. Technicalities regarding the declaration of the reserves were explained by Cllr Bland and questions as to the intention for the reserves were answered by the Council. These were accepted by the meeting and the Accounts were signed by Cllr J Slinn.

12 Open Discussion:

- A question was raised regarding the increased costs of the playing fields. The Council responded that this was due to the cost of repairing the Bund Wall, replacing the Goal Posts and repairing of the Main Gate.
- A question was raised regarding Corporate Volunteering Schemes that had previously supported the Pocket Park. The Council acknowledged that such schemes are highly desirable, but they are in great demand locally and a successful application cannot be guaranteed.
- A question was raised about security structures and land being cleared at the Fishery. The Council responded that the Fishery lies across the boundaries of the Parish, but that no they were not aware of any planning applications being submitted to date.
- A question was raised regarding overgrown hedges on the Pitsford Road which forced pedestrians into the road near the Brampton Halt. The Council responded that although this section of road is outside the boundaries of the Parish, the issue would be reported through the StreetDoctor website.
- Cllr John Shepherd conducted a straw poll of the Parishioners present regarding the Parish Council contributing in some form to a PCSO to cover the villages. A majority voted in favour (12/20). Concerns were expressed that Bramptons' residents would be paying a proportion of the cost of a PCSO, but may not receive that proportion in cover. Sgt Dobbs commented that a PCSO would not be allocated on a pro-rata basis, and would be employed in the manner considered to be the most effective.
- A question was raised regarding the use of off-road motorbikes around the Golf Course Bridleways. Sgt Dobbs commented that off-road Police bikes were available from Northampton, but not from Daventry District, which has no bikes and only one qualified rider. Sgt Dobbs also stated that intelligence gathering can be as effective as an immediate Police response, as Police riders are not allowed to chase offending bikes if doing so puts public safety at risk.
- A question was raised about whether there was a Public Right of Way to the rear of Great Close. The Council commented that there was no right of way to the West of Great Close, and will write to the landowner regarding securing the hedge that is being used as access into the field from Harlestone Road.
- A question was raised regarding the damaged verges following the roadworks on the A5199 towards Spratton. The council commented that the issue had been raised, that a guarantee had been given that the verges would be repaired, and that the Council were waiting for the work to be completed.
- A comment was made that the School will celebrate 50 years on its current location in July 2017. The Council commented that the school is aware of the significance and that this will form part of its celebrations.
- A comment was made thanking the Parish Council for their efforts in helping to reduce noise pollution from the Brampton Halt in the past three years, which was acknowledged by the Council.

13 Closing Comments:

Councillor Slinn thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 9.06pm.