

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

OF THE PARISH OF CHURCH WITH CHAPEL BRAMPTON

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th APRIL 2019

IN THE BRAMPTONS PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.30PM

1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs J Slinn, welcomed all present to the meeting ensuring that all had an agenda, minutes of the 2018 meeting and the Annual Financial Statement.

Present were 8 Parish Councillors, 23 Parishioners, Nigel Shields from Althorp, Cllr John Shephard (District Councillor) Sergeant Sam Dobbs and PCSO Jo Wright (Daventry Police) and Mrs M Howe and J Parry from DDC Planning Dept

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2018

The minutes of the 2018 meeting had been distributed and attendees given time to read them. It was agreed that they were a true record of that meeting and were signed by Mrs J Slinn

3 Report by Chairman of the Parish Council

Mrs Slinn reported that ten statutory meetings and numerous special planning meetings had been held during the year with the Parish Council continuing to give a balanced opinion on such matters based on planning policy and special guidelines.

Traffic calming continued to be challenging and controversial but the annual monitoring would be carried out shortly and the mobile speed monitor purchased in the past year seemed to be successful. There had been a continued focus on the Chapel Brampton Crossroads with ongoing surveys and meetings.

Meetings had been held with Gigaclear regarding the disruptions and infrastructure problems and reassurances had been received that the Church Brampton verges and footpaths would all be made good by the end of April and in Chapel Brampton at the conclusion of the work.

The sponsored PCSO had been in place since September 2018 and it was hoped that his continued visibility will help both villages.

The Bus service through Chapel Brampton is being supported by a small contribution from the Parish Council and the situation will be reviewed.

A planning application was submitted for the extension to the Playing Field car park but further work is not planned at present due to the cost. The situation will be monitored.

The two vacancies on the Parish Council were both filled but one councillor has since resigned as has the Clerk to the Council and these two positions are currently vacant.

4 The two representatives from Daventry District Council outlined the requirements and benefits of parish involvement in the planning process. There are three levels/avenues which are Parish Plan – a plan of action created some years ago but not currently effectively used; Village Design Statement (VDS) – outlines the characteristics of the village and indicates to

the planners what the parishioners would like to see in future developments and taken into consideration when planning applications are being looked at.; Neighbourhood Plan – has a more formal use and is required to be considered by the planners when determining applications.

VDS and Neighbourhood Plans (NP) both identify the open and green spaces within the village confines and determine the extent and rate of future development as well as declaring the design requirements of developments, both residential and commercial.

The process of creating the NP would require the involvement of parish councillors and between 5 and 10 other parishioners over a period likely to take a minimum of two years. The costs can be high but grants of up to £9000 may be available to offset those.

After being formally adopted by the District Council, the NP would be incorporated into the local development plan and would be required to be used by planners in determining future planning applications. 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – the tax paid on every property built – to provide for the services these dwellings need, can be requisitioned by the Parish Council to provide facilities for the whole of the village.

It was pointed out to the DDC representatives that a VDS had been submitted by the Parish Council a few years ago but DDC did not have the resources to consider it at the time and had declared that it would not be considered in the future as NP would take over. The DDC representatives suggested that the VDS be resurrected and re-submitted when it could be amended as necessary and possibly replace the requirement for a NP. There was a suggestion that a VDS for smaller villages might be adequate and that NP was much more useful for the larger villages.

There was no further discussion from the floor and the chairman thanked the two presenters and declared that the Parish Council would seek to consider resubmitting the VDS as a starting point.

5 Nigel Shields - Estate Director, Althorp – outlined the current farming crops on the estate land, the trees being planted (including 250 which had to be replaced following theft) and advised that there would be a tree health survey this year which would determine those which may have to be felled or have tree surgery carried out on them. He urged parishioners to keep to the footpaths and bridleways and keep dogs under control. He would seek to build into the estates plans a planting of ‘Black Pines’ to replace those which are a feature of the villages and which have reached their expected life span.

The development of Dallington Grange on the estate land was ‘creeping forward’ and likely to start within the next year or so. Fly tipping had been a problem and had cost the estate £28,000 during the past year including £8000 to remove dumped asbestos on their land.

6 Councillor Judy Shephard (County Councillor for the area) was unable to attend and her report was covered by Councillor John Shephard in his report.

7 Councillor John Shephard (also representing fellow DDC Spratton Ward Councillor Sarah Peck) reported on progress being made towards the formation of a Unitary council for the area following the proposed reform of local councils due to the financial difficulties experienced by the County Council. It is seen that Daventry and South Northants councils will join with Northampton Borough to form one of two Authorities. Because of the proposed changes, local

District and County Council elections would not take place in 2019 as the new authorities are likely to be formed in 2020 or at least in 2021 and existing councillors would continue to serve until April 2020.

In the meantime, the DDC has entered a new environmental service contract with the Norse Group to cover household, re-cyclable food and garden waste and is perceived to be running well.

Councillor Shephard had been heavily involved in the sponsoring of a PCSO (Paul Miller) by the parishes of Spratton, Pitsford, Boughton, Bramptons and Harlestone. He also reported that the Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire had ringfenced £3m towards combating burglary and a better service for the victims of crime.

In addition to the subsidies being allocated by parish councils towards the local bus services, the DDC are in discussions with Uno Bus to pilot a 'demand responsive' bus service in the district using single-decker buses in a 'Uber-like' service.

The Department for Education has cast doubt on the need for a primary school on the Buckton Fields development and district and county councils plus the developers are resisting the suggestion that the school might be significantly delayed or even abandoned.

Following a question from the floor, Councillor Shephard stated that detailed plans for the Northern Orbital road from the A428 at Duston to the A5199 junction with Sandy Lane were likely to be published in late spring/early summer of 2019

8 Sgt. Sam Dobbs (Northamptonshire Police, Daventry Area) reiterated the extra monies being put into dealing with burglaries and other policing issues in the area and the force increase in officers from 1220 to 1310. There was still a police base at Brixworth which it is proposed will be moved to the Fire station in the village. There is a commitment that all victims of burglaries will be visited in future and crimes more actively investigated. There are still house crimes aided by insecure premises, valuables easily accessed (including car keys) and many thefts occurring via the rear of properties and from insecure outbuildings/garages. He urged residents to improve basic security and advised on low value but effective alarm systems. He praised the Neighbourhood Watch and alert initiative in both villages and stressed the importance of reporting details of any suspicious vehicles or activities seen in the area as quickly as possible.

9 Reports from Village organisations

9.1 There were no Litter Wardens present and Councillor Slinn advised the meeting that the two main litter wardens and two footpath wardens continue to do a sterling job.

9.2 Following the retirement of Keith Davidson last year, the parish council are still seeking a Footpath Warden to 'police' the network of parish footpaths and bridleways.

9.3 David Buxton reported on the activities at St Botolph's church and commended the tireless masterminding of Marion Peel in fundraising the cost of £75,600 to tower repairs. That work was now complete, but more work is still required on other parts of the building. A roof alarm to safeguard the lead on the roof has been fitted.

The Venerable David Painter would be retiring in mid-May and the Reverend Andrea Watkins would be instituted on the 2nd June to the Spencer Benefice. Andrea comes from the Blisworth Benefice and will live in the Brington Rectory. In July a new female

Curate will be joining as Deacon for one year and as Deacon and Priest in her second year and will be living with her family at the Church Brampton Rectory.

Details of social events being held in the church were also given.

9.4 David Buxton also gave a brief report on the Discussion Group detailing some of the speakers they had in resident's homes during the winter months and a theatre visit, all organised by Sylvia Robertson.

9.5 Whilst no one was officially representing the Spencer Club, Mrs Dorothy Cumbleton told the meeting that the club was still meeting at Boughton Village Hall every month and had some particularly good speakers.

9.6 John Gillett (Head Teacher at the Bramptons Primary School) advised the meeting that the school was the most oversubscribed school in Northamptonshire but ensured that all children from the catchment area were accommodated as a priority. Happy children and happy staff had resulted in the school being the most successful in Northamptonshire for the third year running and was classed in the top 50 primaries in the country (0.1%) and received official praise from the Government Education minister. The school had also strengthened its ties with the church and the children had visited Brampton View and the Spencer Arms to sing Christmas Carols. The Brampton STARS (Parents group) had reformed and was holding regular coffee mornings and social events to support the work of the school.

9.7 Richard Gent outlined the ways in which parishioners could get involved in and benefit from being members of Neighbourhood Watch and by signing up to the police Neighbourhood Alert scheme whereby they could be advised in real time of any incidents occurring in the area. Basic crime prevention advice was available and there is also the village email and closed Facebook schemes which villagers can make use of. An initiative by one young person in the village was monitoring vehicles over the 7.5 tonne weight limit on the Harlestone Road.

10 The Chairman drew attention to the published accounts on the back of the agendas which showed similar regular income and expenditure to the previous year but with a reduction in reserves as upgrading of the last street lights in the villages and the sponsoring of the PCSO had taken place.

A suggestion was made from the floor that in future years the accounts could show income and expenditure separately to the bank reconciliation/ reserve funds held by the council.

11 In Open Discussion, it was queried whether it was right that St Botolph's Church be charged for use of a brown garden refuse bin. The Parish Council will look into this and consider whether, if DDC/Norse do not waive the charge, the Parish Council might cover the cost.

12 In her closing comments, Mrs Slinn thanked those who had given reports and attended the meeting and said that the council's aims were to promote community spirit, support and help for each other.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

