



Minutes of the Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 18 October 2023, Reading Room, Great Brington
www.bringtons-pc.gov.uk email:clerk@bringtons-pc.gov.uk

Present: Chairman Cllr K White, Cllrs R Gardner, T Lane and S Beuesart

Also Present: Clerk, Ward Cllr Morton and 4 members of public

Meeting Start: 7.45pm

- Action
- 54/2023 To receive and approve apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr J Milne (Vice-Chair), Cllr N Tompkins and Ward Cllr P Bignell and were approved by acclamation.
- 55/2023 Members are requested to make any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests relating to items on the agenda.**
None declared
- 56/2023 Public Time**
- a) A Member of the Public submitted a written question and asked if the Parish Council still had a Footpaths Warden, the Chair responded that there was one and he would pass the details to the Clerk. Cllr White/Cllr Lane
- b) A member of the public had submitted a written question requesting improvements in the upkeep of footpaths and the Chair indicated that he would be raising the lack of support that rural parishes got from WNC with regard to landscaping and highways issues with the Leader of WNC with whom he had arranged to meet in November 2023.
Footpath issues can also be reported by residents to WNC at <https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/report> Clerk
- c) A member of the public had submitted a written question asking if a temporary gazebo structure in a village garden required planning permission and the general advice was that in the UK, most gazebos do not require planning permission as long as they met certain criteria. Government guidelines advise that a gazebo can be installed without planning permission. However, there are some exceptions to those rules e.g. if the property is within the Conservation Area.
The Parish Councillors commented that to their knowledge it was a temporary structure.
- d) A Member of the public indicated their interest in applying to stand as a Parish Councillor and Clerk confirmed she would check the process and advise details. Clerk
- 57/2023 To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 20 September 2023 and any matters arising**
It was unanimously agreed that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record subject to Minute 42/2023 a) being amended as follows: Chair/Clerk
- i) A grant of £350 to the Village Newsletter was proposed by the Chair and approved unanimously. The Chair indicated he would contact the Gardening Club Village Newsletter.
- 58/2023 Reports**
- a) **Chair**
Cllr White indicated that he requested a meeting with the Leader of West Northants Council in November to highlight various issues with regard to WNC Street Works Support for rural areas and Planning issues.

58/2023

(Cont)

b) **Clerk**

The Clerk's report was noted (see appendix)

c) **Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Morton had no issues to report.

d) **Police Report** No report received.

e) **West Northants Council Parish Liaison Officer**

The Parish Council received a presentation from Alan Burns (WNC Parish Liaison Officer) who summarised that his role came about after the merger of the three non-metropolitan districts of Daventry, Northampton, and South Northamptonshire into West Northants Council which had absorbed the functions of these districts, plus those of the abolished Northamptonshire County Council on 1 April 2021:

- As a result of internal restructures following the merger in 2021, there were vacancies in most areas within the Authority that it was trying to fill; many staff had left during restructure which had resulted in local knowledge being lost although this was now being built up.
- West Northants Council is a Unitary Authority and is more removed from local councils than under the previous County Council and District Council structure
- AB has set up a larger Parish Councils Forum which meets regularly with the Clerks from the 13 largest Councils in the Authority and senior personnel from WNC to take issues forward and improve relationships with the Parishes. This will be rolled out to include smaller Councils in the future.
- Current topics include the devolution of services to Parish Councils and to ascertain commonality of issues and develop a programme to improve these.
- In response to a question, AB confirmed that emails to WNC were required to be responded to within 5 working days, even if it was only an acknowledgement.
- Cllr White (Chair) indicated that it was critical to devolve services to parish councils in order to localise them as the Parish Councils could respond much more quickly e.g. footpath maintenance.
- In response to a question about how AB should be contacted, he responded that contact should be through the Parish Clerk which is the correct procedure and he has set up a "Landing Page" to enable this.
- In response to a question, AB indicated that he met regularly with Cllr Nunn, the Cabinet member with responsibility for Parish Councils, to keep him up to date with Parish Council issues.
- In response to a question, AB confirmed the next Local elections would be held in 2025.

The Chair thanked AB for attending the meeting and commented that he was pleased there was engagement with Parish Councils on a more formal basis.

59/2023 **Planning**

a) **New Applications:**

[2023/7033/FULL](#) at 1 Fermoy Court Little Brington for Replacement Windows and Door in existing apertures **Deadline for comments 24/10/23**

The Council indicated that the proposed changes to windows would be an improvement and had no comments to submit.

b) The Council noted the status of previous Planning Applications:

- i) [2023/6271/PA](#) - At Church House Farm Steeple Lane Little Brington NN7 4HN – Determination as to whether prior approval is required (under Class Q of Part 3 of the

- 59/2023 (Cont.)** above Order) for the change of use of an agricultural building to one dwellinghouse (Use Class C3.) Deadline for comments 5 September 2023 **Approved Subject to Conditions 06/10/23**
- ii) [2023/6584/FULL](#) at Homefield Nobottle Road Little Brington NN7 4HL to remove existing conservatory and replace with extension to kitchen and new front entrance. Deadline for comments 19 September 2023. **Approved Subject to Conditions 02/10/2023**
- c) Other Planning Matters** Cllr White
 Cllr White (Chair) indicated that he tried to speak at the WNC Planning Committee 4 October 2023 in objection to Planning Application No [WND/2022/0930](#) Workshop and Premises, East Haddon Road, Great Brington Northamptonshire but due to a technicality had not been allowed.
 It was noted that the Planning Application was Approved at that Meeting.
- 60/2023 Environment**
- a) Althorp Footpaths** SC Althorp
 In response to the residents' concerns about the footpaths, S Coleman (Althorp Rep.) explained signs had been put up following the movement of cattle and included QR codes for walkers to scan. It was pointed out these the QR codes were on the wrong side of the notices and were misleading to strangers. SC indicated this would be corrected.
 Cllr White (Chair) requested that details be sent to the Clerk so they could be included on the Parish Website
- b) Reading Room Lease** SC Althorp
 SC advised that the Lease was finalised and a copy for signing would be sent to Cllr White (Chair).
- c)** The annotated plan of Althorp areas of responsibility had been provided to the Parish Council and SC indicated that he would confirm to the Clerk if this could be included on the Parish Council website.
 Cllr R Gardner commented that not all the trees owned by Althorp had been identified on the plan and Althorp were asked to correct this. SC Althorp
- d)** Cllr White (Chair) advised that the Land Registry had confirmed that the Medieval Cross was on land owned by Althorp and therefore not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
- 61/2023 Communication**
- To receive an update on the Website** Clerk
 The Clerk advised that training been carried out on 17 October and the Council's website had been updated with the Kimbells Field Hire Agreement, and Minutes and Agendas for the recent past, however there were still some teething problems which would be dealt with.
 Cllr Beuesart advised that payments to the previous provider would need to be checked. Clerk
- 62/2023 Play Area Project** Cllr RG
 Cllr R Gardner advised that he had received quotes initiated by Cllr Tomkins which were helpful and he would collate these with the other quotes received.
 He mentioned that it would be difficult to apply for external funding until the project and budget had been finalised and also that the Clerk had provided him with some funding information. Cllr Morton
 Ward Cllr Morton indicated that WNC had lists of funding providers that could be passed to the Parish Council through the Parish Liaison Officer.
 A member of the Public indicated that fundraising could be carried out at a village event.
 Cllr White indicated that it would be helpful to finalise the costs and equipment in order that the building work could be scheduled for the Spring 2024.
- 63/2023 Community**
- a) Kimbells Field Boundary**

- 63/2023 (Cont)** Cllr White (Chair) advised that the responsibility for the maintenance of the hedges around Kimbells Feld was being investigated as new hedging had been planted around the perimeter in recent years but it wasn't clear who had done this (Althorp or WNC). Cllr White asked for a copy of the Red Line Plan for Kimbells Field. **Clerk**
- b) Miskin House**
Cllr White commented that it was clear that some work had been carried out and asked Alan Burns if he knew how this could be resolved. AB asked that the Clerk forward the details to him. **Clerk/AB**
- 64/2023 Finance**
- a) Payments Made in September (see appendix)**
The payments made in September were noted. **Clerk**
- b) Bank Balance**
The Bank Balances at 30 September 2023 was not currently available. **Clerk/
Cllr JM**
- c) Bank mandate**
The process of including the Clerk on the Bank Mandate was being finalised by Barclays Bank and could take a few weeks.

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 15 November 2023.

Items for the agenda to be received by Friday 3 November 2023.

Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month except in August and December when there is no scheduled meeting.

Signed:(Chair)

Dated: 15/11/2023

1. **Fallen Trees**
A resident reported an incident with a fallen tree and they were directed to the WNC Website to report it direct or to advise the Clerk. Cllr Tompkins was copied in. It was subsequently confirmed by Althorp that they owned the tree and the householder was asked to contact the Estate direct.
2. **Overgrown Hedges at Back Lane – On Agenda**
A resident reported overgrown Hedges at Back Lane and asked if the Parish Council could cut these back. The Lease identifies that the Parish Council is responsible for issues within the redline plan (see attached).
The resident also offered to advise the name of a contractor who could undertake this Work.
3. **Gardening Club Grant**
The Gardening Club thanked the Parish Council for the Grant and advised that they are currently changing their bank account and will advise the new bank details as soon as they are available
4. **Defibrillator Batteries**
These will need replacing soon however they are out of stock and the Clerk will be notified when they are available.
5. **Subsidence in Station Road near the Church**
This was reported to WNC Highways under reference number **5024668**. WNC inspected and advised that it did not warrant repairing although they would monitor it.
6. **West Northamptonshire Council Planning Briefing - Online**
I am pleased to invite you to send **up to two delegates** to our online **West Northamptonshire Council Planning Briefing** taking place on Thursday **30 November 2023** from 1000 to 1100.
To register your place(s), please visit the event page at <https://www.northantscalc.com/event/west-northamptonshire-council-planning-briefing-2023-11-30-760/register>
Stephanie Gibrat, Assistant Director – Planning and Development at WNC, will give an update on the current situation of the planning department, and what the short- and medium-term plans are. It will be an excellent opportunity for you to hear directly from Stephanie and to ask any questions about planning and development control at WNC. We have deliberately kept this first briefing to one hour online and we will look to provide further such briefings in 2024.
Danny Moody, Chief Executive, Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils
7. **British Legion – Remembrance Day Benches etc**
Email from British legion asking if we wanted to order from their collection of meaningful and poignant Remembrance Tommy Statues, flags and signs.
8. Website Training arranged for 17 October.

Payments to Note 18 October 2023

Payee	Detail	Amount	VAT
S Muir	Clerk September	424.20	-
HMRC	Income Tax September	106.20	-
R&G Landscape Serv.	120164	271.20	45.20
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv 01322231	Direct Debit	15.85	0.76
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv. 01322230	Direct Debit	102.06	4.86
Reading Room (Sept Meeting)	Inv 230903	16.00	-
EON Inv Sept	Credit Note A-EA4D0588- 25778090-1e	-£83.00	
W Northants Norse Ltd	Church Litter Bin Inv 521554	316.80	63.36
Village Newsletter	Parish Grant	350.00	
Gardening Club	Parish Grant	200.00	