

**Minutes of the Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on Wednesday 15 November 2023, Reading Room, Great Brington**  
[www.bringtons-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bringtons-pc.gov.uk) email:clerk@bringtons-pc.gov.uk

**Present:**, Cllr White (Chair -Late Arrival) Cllr J Milne and Cllrs R Gardner and N Tompkins

**Also Present:** Clerk and 7 members of public

Meeting Started at 7.45pm

- |                |  |                  |
|----------------|--|------------------|
|                |  | Action           |
| <b>65/2023</b> | In the absence of the Chair at the start of the meeting Cllr J Milne (Vice-Chair) Chaired the meeting.   |                  |
| <b>66/2023</b> | <b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b><br>Apologies were received from Cllr T Lane and S Beuesart and Ward Cllr P Bignell and Cllr K White (Chair) for lateness and were approved by acclamation.   |                  |
| <b>67/2023</b> | <b>Members are requested to make any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests relating to items on the agenda.</b><br>None declared   |                  |
| <b>68/2023</b> | <b>Public Time</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A resident asked several questions with regards to the delays in posting Minutes and Agendas on the Website and various Noticeboards during the summer, the need for the play area equipment project, and the new website.<br/>Councillors noted that the Parish Council had recruited a new Clerk during the summer, and that the play area equipment and the website were on the Agenda for discussion; it was noted that no decision had yet been made about the Play Area.</li> <li>b) A resident thanked the Parish Council for its support of the Village Summer Fete which was a very successful community event.</li> <li>c) A resident stated that Parking on the verges at Bedford Cottages by vans was causing inconvenience and it was noted that this would be included on the January Agenda</li> </ul>  | Clerk            |
| <b>69/2023</b> | <b>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held 18 October 2023 and any matters arising</b><br>Cllr N Tompkins proposed and Cllr R Gardner seconded that the minutes be signed as a true and correct record of the 18 October 2023 meeting and this was agreed by acclamation.  | Vice Chair/Clerk |
| <b>70/2023</b> | <b>Reports</b><br>a) <b>Chair</b><br>Cllr White had submitted a written report which the Councillors noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He had met with Ward Cllrs Bignell and Nunn (Leader WNC) on 31 October 2023 to discuss Planning Approval for the Waddy's Site, concerns about Planning Committee Actions, poor service from WNC to the Bringtons and Delegation of Powers to Parish Councils;</li> <li>• With regard to the Waddy's Site Planning Application (ref WND/2022/0930), Cllr White had raised his concerns that this application had previously lost approval after a planning appeal which objected to the location of the development. This appeared to have been ignored by the planning officer. BPC may challenge this by a Judicial Review after further discussion;</li> <li>• Cllr White had raised concerns about the behaviour of one of the members of the WNC Planning Committee and had followed this up by email;</li> </ul> |                  |

- 70/2023 (Cont)**
- Cllr White had provided photographs of lack of maintenance of roads and gutters in the Parish by WNC and some action has now been taken but this should be automatically programmed and not require complaints from Councillors before action is taken; and
  - Cllr White had asked Cllr Nunn for details of the proposals by NCALC to devolved more powers to Parish Councils and requested this be included on the BPC January 2024 Agenda
- Clerk
- b) Clerk**  
The Clerk's report was noted (see appendix).
- c) Ward Councillors' Report:** No Ward Councillors were present and a report had not been received.
- d) Police Report** No Police representative as present and report had not been received.
- 71/2023 Planning**
- a) New Applications:**
- (i) [2023/7659 /FULL](#) at Waydale Farm Roman Road Little Brington NN7 4HS1 Change of use of gassed area to walk dogs in measuring approx. 1 acre to be fenced off with 6ft high stock fencing and wooden post and include a small car parking area in what is currently the concrete former cattle pens. *Deadline for Comments 30/11/2023*  
The Councillors received a presentation from the applicant who confirmed that:
- the area was surplus to requirements and not large enough to be farmed;
  - The intention was to commercially hire the area out for 1:1 dog training and walking on an hourly basis;
  - car parking was for 1-2 cars for users (1 or 2 cars at a time);
  - Vehicular access would not impede the highway;
  - Dogbins would be provided and emptied by the applicant; and
  - Councillors were invited to visit the site.
- The Councillors indicated that they had no comments to submit to WNC.
- ii) [2023/7614 /FULL](#) at The Stables Main Street Little Brington Change of use of existing buildings from residential to office with no physical alterations *Deadline for comments 1 December 2023*  
The Clerk was asked to request clarification if residential office use was for commercial purposes or domestic office use.  
Councillors indicated that they would check the location and submit comments by email to the Clerk before 1 December 2023.
- Clerk  
Councillors
- b)** The Council noted the status of previous Planning Applications:
- i) [2023/7033/FULL](#) at 1 Fermoy Court Little Brington for Replacement Windows and Door in existing apertures Deadline for comments 24/10/23 **Approved 31/10/2023**
- ii) [2023/5314/FULL](#) Planning Permission Field North East of Kennel & Cattery Hazel Tree House and North of the Brook East Haddon Road Great Brington West Northamptonshire NN7 4JL Brington Construction of a field shelter and shed, along with an associated area of hard standing (part retrospective). **Approved 20/10/2023**
- c) Other Planning Matters**
- i) The Council received a presentation from the owners of Bumblebee Cottage Main St Little Brington in connection with their proposed re-submission of planning application 2023/5569/LBC which had been Refused by WNC on 09/09/23:
- The revised application sought to address the refusal comments that the previous application did not comply with Building regulation with regard to extending the existing chimney stack to 1.6m above ridge, a new clay pot to provide 1.8m from ridge to top of chimney. Removal of internal flue liner and replace with insulated flue liner (chimwrap).
  - They clarified that the application sought to satisfy the applicants buildings insurance requirements and were similar to other changes made by surrounding cottages.
  - They explained that they were seeking BPC's support for when the revised application was submitted.

- They also provided plans and answered Councillors questions.

<b>71/2023 (Cont)</b>	<p>ii) The Clerk advised that a complaint had been received about a temporary structure in the garden of a rented property in the village that appeared to not comply with the Conservation Status of the area.</p> <p>Following a discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to the Landlord of the property and remind them of the Planning restrictions. Councillors to provide the Landlord details.</p>	Clerk/Cllrs
<b>72/2023</b>	<p><b>Cllr White (Chair) joined the meeting</b></p> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>a) The was no representative from Althorp present to answer questions.</p> <p>b) <b>Hedges and Verges at Back Lane</b> A resident asked that the hedges at Back Lane be cut back. The same resident offered to mow the verges during the summer period. The Chair clarified that the hedges were not within the red line plan of the area and were therefore the responsibility of Althorp to maintain and cut back.</p> <p>c) <b>Reading Room Lease.</b> The new draft Reading Room Lease had been received from Althorp and had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr White explained that it was for a 20-year term with a 3-year stepping up of rent; the repairing schedule remained the same and there was no early termination clause. Cllr White indicated that he would request clarification about the inclusion of future developments by Althorp. The revised draft lease would be discussed with the Trustees of the Reading Room before any action was taken. Cllr Milne indicated that he had received a quotation for legal advice and proposed, and Cllr Tompkins seconded, that BPC carry out due diligence and receive legal advice from a third party before any action is taken and a maximum amount for legal fees of £1500.00 was agreed. Proposed: Cllr Milne, seconded: Cllr Tompkins Agreed: unanimously.</p>	<p>SC/ Althorp</p> <p>SC/ Althorp</p> <p>Cllr White/SC</p> <p>Cllr Milne</p>
<b>73/2023</b>	<p><b>Play Area Project</b></p> <p>Cllr R Gardner clarified that the commitment to Play Area improvements followed a negative statutory inspection report from Wickstead Play when it was advised that most of the equipment was out of date and did not meet current safety standards and that landscape maintenance in the field was required. The adjacent local school had also been consulted on the types of equipment as it was an important facility for the school.</p> <p>The Councillors heard that the Play Area was very popular and well used and offered a community space for parents and children at school pick up times and during school holidays. It was reported that improving the offer could make the parish more attractive to young families and add to its sustainability.</p> <p>Cllr Gardner advised that quotes for the existing footprint had been received from Schoolscape for different levels of equipment, however the surrounding hedges and trees maintenance would need to be carried out first and indicated that that 3 quotes for this would be obtained. It was noted that sign off was required for this from the school as the landscaping and mowing was their responsibility. It was acknowledged that this would be required to be done before the Spring nesting period.</p> <p>The Council noted that it might be possible to refurbish some of the equipment.</p>	Cllr Gardner
<b>74/2023</b>	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p><b>To receive an update on the Website</b></p> <p>The Clerk indicated that she had been actively researching the content of surrounding Parish Council's websites with the intention of including further sections in the future. Those present were encouraged to submit ideas for these.</p>	

**75/2023 Finance**

**a) Payments Made in November (see appendix)**

The payments made in November were noted.

**b) To Note the Bank Balance at 31 October 2023**

Cllr Milne indicated that the Combined Bank Balance was £41,808.91

**c) To Note the Taxbase calculations and precept returns dates by WNC**

The Council noted taxbase figures and PR1 return requests would be sent to Parishes by WNC by 6 December; and

the completed return was required to be returned to WNC by 18 January 2024 and it was requested that this be included on the BPC January 2024 Agenda.

Clerk

**d) Bank Mandate**

It was noted that the addition of the Clerk to the Bank mandate had been chased by Cllr White but had not yet been received.

**76/2023 To exclude members of the public from Item 13 'Co-Option of a Parish Councillor' and Item 14 'Parish Clerk Pay Award 2023/24' by virtue of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that there may likely be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (Information relating to an individual)**

Proposed: Cllr J Milne, Seconded Cllr K White – Agreed Unanimously

**77/2023 To Approve the Co-Option of a resident to the Parish Council.**

Following a discussion, Mr M Roach was Co-opted to the Parish Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Clerk

Proposed: Cllr N Tompkins, Seconded Cllr Cllr K White – Agreed Unanimously

**78/2023 To Approve the NCALC/NJC Pay Award 2023/2023**

The NCALC/NJC Pay Award 2023/2024 was approved

Clerk

Proposed: Cllr J Milne, Seconded Cllr Cllr K White – Agreed Unanimously

Meeting closed: 9.20 pm

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 17 January 2024

Please advise items for inclusion on the January Agenda to the Clerk by 5pm Friday 5 January 2024.

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

SIGNED: CLLR K WHITE (CHAIR)..... *K White*.....

Dated: 17 January 2024

## Appendices

### Clerks Report and Correspondence List

Minute 70/2023 (b) refers

1.	<p><b>WNC Discretionary Community Funding Grants – Suspended 8 November 2023</b></p> <p>Due to unforeseen circumstances, WNC are having to suspend the Discretionary Community Funding Grants round due to open today. WNC will maintain your details and notify you when we next open. From the Community Funding Officer, Community Safety, Engagement &amp; Resettlement Team</p>
2.	<p><b>Defibrillator Batteries</b></p> <p>Replacement batteries purchased for £179.99. Thanks to Ray Crossan for his help with the Defibrillator.</p>
3.	<p><b>NCALC Clerks Pay Award 2023/24</b></p> <p>The national unions and the national employers' body have finally reached agreement on local government pay. Spinal Column Points (SCP) 1 to 43 are increased by £1,925 (prorated for part-time workers), with SCP 44 and above increased by 3.88%. The increase is backdated to 1 April 2023. A spreadsheet showing all the scales and new rates is available to Councillors. Councils should now work out the back pay due to staff and ensure that payment is made as soon as possible. If there are any questions about how to implement the pay award please get in touch.</p>
4.	<p><b>Ward Boundary Changes</b></p> <p>On 31/10/23 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its final recommendations for new electoral and boundary arrangements for North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). The conclusion of the boundary review for NNC now leaves the way clear to begin a Community Governance Review (CGR) in North Northamptonshire of parish and town council boundaries and other parish electoral matters. This is expected to get underway in early 2024. Meanwhile, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has already launched its CGR for West Northamptonshire and the first formal consultation period is due to open imminently</p>
8	<p><b>Councillors Code of Conduct in Practice – Training Course by NCALC</b></p> <p>28 November 2023 10:00-11:00 Online – Please advise the Clerk if you wish to attend.</p> <p>This course will look at the practical operation of the Code of Conduct at parish and town council level and will answer all your questions as to what interests to declare and when.</p> <p>All Councillors should attend this course to understand their duty to uphold high standards of behaviour in public life.</p> <p>Cost (per person)</p> <p>£42 + VAT (members)</p> <p>£84 + VAT (non members)</p>
6.	<p><b>Damage to Nobottle Sign</b></p> <p>The "Nobottle" sign was damaged on the face and a replacement was requested. It was reported to WNC on reference no <b>4469990</b>. On 07/11/23 WNC advised: Investigation: Completed (Defect Found), Defect Repair: Work Completed. Please could Councillors confirm this?</p>
7.	<p><b>Consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2025 intakes</b></p>

	<p>The consultation on school admission arrangements for September 2025 is now open.</p> <p>West Northamptonshire Council co-ordinates an annual school admissions consultation on behalf of all schools in the council area. The aim of the consultation is to raise awareness of any proposed changes to school admission arrangements and ensure that these are subject to appropriate consultation for those schools taking part.</p> <p>This survey closes midnight 31 December 2023.</p> <p>Please visit <a href="mailto:schooladmissionsconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk">schooladmissionsconsultation@westnorthants.gov.uk</a> overview for further information for schools taking part and ways to feedback.</p>
8.	<p><b>Free Parking for Small Business Saturday</b> is back again and celebrating its 11th anniversary on Saturday 2 December, and to support local businesses WNC are offering FREE parking across all Northampton town centre carparks on this day, in addition to free parking in Daventry, Towcester and Brackley town centres.</p> <p>Small Business Saturday aims to highlight small business success and encourages consumers to ‘shop local’ and support small businesses in their communities all year round.</p>
9.	<p><b>Trees from Woodland Trust</b></p> <p>Since 2010, The Woodland Trust has given away 13 million free trees to schools and communities across the UK and it is still giving away hundreds of thousands of them every year. Eligible groups can apply for up to 420 free saplings per application window, with deliveries taking place every year in March and November. Applications processed now will receive saplings in March 2024, just in time for planting season! For more information and a link to the application form, please see <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/frequently-asked-questions">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/frequently-asked-questions</a>.</p>
10.	<p><b>West Northamptonshire Council campaign to encourage residents across the area to recycle their electricals.</b></p> <p>The project will encourage residents to recycle small domestic electrical items, including toasters, kettles, sandwich makers, hairdryers, irons and other items alongside their household collections. Small items of waste electrical equipment, which will fit inside a carrier bag should be placed <b>on top</b> of your domestic waste bin, more details to follow.</p>

## Payments to Note 15 November 2023

The following payments were noted and Cllr Milne explained that the situation with EON about the meter reading at the Cricket Pavilion and their charging system was ongoing.

Payee	Detail	Amount	VAT
S Muir	Clerk November	424.20	-
HMRC	Income Tax November	106.20	-
S Muir	Defib Batteries	179.99	30.00
R&G Landscape Serv.	Inv.120253	483.60	80.60
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv 01356842	Direct Debit	15.95	0.76
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv. 01356840	Direct Debit	116.29	5.54
Reading Room (Sept Meeting)	Inv 231007	40.00	
EON Credit Note	KCR-EA4D0588-0005 rcvd 06-11-23	1542.39	