



**Minutes of the Meeting of BRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL  
held on Wednesday 20 March 2024, 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), and Cllr J Milne (Vice Chair), R Gardner, T Lane, M Roach and N Tompkins.

**Also Present:** Clerk, Ward Cllrs P Bignell (Late Arrival) and D Lister and 4 members of public

Apologies: Cllr S Beusart

Meeting Started at 7.45pm

		Action
<b>104/2024</b>	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Helen Frampton from Althorp Estates.	
<b>105/2024</b>	<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Beusart and were approved by acclamation.	
<b>106/2024</b>	<b>Members are requested to make any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests relating to items on the agenda.</b> Cllr N Tompkins declared a personal interest in Item 8a, late Planning Application for Kennings Farm as a friend was the property owner.	
<b>107/2024</b>	<b>Public Time</b> 1. Reading Room The Councillors heard from a representative of the Reading Room Trustees who asked for an update on the progress of the Draft Lease between the Althorp Estate, the Parish Council and the Reading Room Trustees and if the Parish Council would consider taking over the running of the Reading Rooms. In response, Cllr Milne indicated that the Reading Rooms Trustees had responsibilities as a registered Charity and the draft lease did not include a mechanism for the Parish Council to take over management of the Reading Rooms and therefore nothing could change. Cllr Milne also stated that he had sense checked the current iteration of the lease and it had been agreed at the February meeting that the lease be signed, subject to review by a professional independent expert. Cllr White (Chair) explained that this was important as the lease would be for 30 years and the Council had a duty to ensure they would not be liable for any anomalies. The Reading Room Trustees representative then asked if the Parish Council was still willing to make an investment in the Reading Rooms and Cllr Milne stated investment in a Television and Screen had been considered at Minute no 102f dated 22 March 2023. 2. Playground Improvement Project A member of the public stated that the Playground Improvement Project was a significant investment, which had not, in their view, been discussed with residents and they were not sure who would benefit. They also asked why it was on the Agenda as a Confidential Item. The Chair indicated a negative statutory 2023 Health and Safety Inspection had been received for play equipment which was thought to be about 30 years old and the Parish Council was responsible for; the play area was an important, well used,	

<p><b>107/2024 (cont)</b></p>	<p>community facility in the Parish for young people and their parents and therefore £18000 had been earmarked for a first phase of improvements with grant applications being made for later phases. It was anticipated that the improvements would add to the offer of the adjacent School which may struggle to maintain numbers and that it was important to invest in the future sustainability of the Parish.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that should the tenders for the project be discussed later on the agenda, for data protection and commercial sensitivity reasons, the Council may decide to consider these without the public present.</p> <p>Ward Cllr Lister confirmed that the Parish Council had discussed the issue and it had been Minuted on many occasions in the last 2 years.</p> <p>3. Website</p> <p>A member of the public asked that the Reading Room availability for hire be made more prominent on the Council's website.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>108/2024</b></p>	<p><b>To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2024</b></p> <p>Subject to Minute 97 being amended to "Cllr Milne indicated that the current iteration of the lease had been sense checked <i>by Cllr Milne</i>".</p> <p>Cllr White proposed and Cllr Tompkins seconded that the Minutes be signed, subject to the above amendment and this was agreed by acclamation.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>109/2024</b></p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p> <p>d)</p>	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p> <p>Cllr White indicated that he nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p>The Clerk's report was noted (see appendix).</p> <p><b>Ward Councillors' Report:</b> Cllr Bignell had submitted a report that had been circulated to Councillors which was noted. (see appendix).</p> <p><b>Police Report</b> No Police representative was present; Cllr Beusart had reported that he and the Chair would be taking part in on-line meeting the following week to discuss the Police presence in the Parish and would report to the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr White asked the Ward Councillors why, when residents paid a precept to Northants Police, no data regarding the performance of the Police was included in the Council Tax leaflet.</p>	<p>Cllr Beusart /Chair</p>
<p><b>110/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Reading Room Lease</b></p> <p>The Parish Council noted that the matter had been discussed in detail at Minute 107/24 1 and there was nothing further to add.</p>	
<p><b>111/2024 (a)</b></p>	<p>To consider the following Planning Applications and Decisions and any additional application(s) presented after the publication of the agenda):</p> <p>(Planning Applications may be viewed at <a href="#">Planning application search - Planning register   Planning register   West Northamptonshire Council (planning-register.co.uk)</a>)</p> <p>Cllr Tompkins having declared an interest, took no part in the discussion about the additional Planning Application <a href="#">2024/1454/FULL</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kennings Farm 3 Folly Lane Little Brington NN7 4JR for the installation of an outdoor swimming pool measuring 10 x 5metres located in the garden of Kennings Farm. The Parish Council discussed the item and comments were recorded.</li> </ol> <p>Cllr Tompkins rejoined the meeting.</p>	

<p><b>111/2024 (Cont)</b></p>	<p>2. <a href="#">2024/1430/FULL</a> Bumblebee Cottage 26 Main St Little Brington for extension of existing chimney stack to 1.6m above ridge, new clay pot to provide 1.8m from ridge to top of chimney. Removal of internal flue liner and replace with insulated flue liner. Deadline for Comments 10/04/24. No comments were recorded.</p> <p>3. <a href="#">2024/1431/LBC</a> Bumblebee Cottage 26 Main St Little Brington Listed building consent for extension of existing chimney stack to 1.6m above ridge, new clay pot to provide 1.8m from ridge to top of chimney. Removal of internal flue liner and replace with insulated flue liner Deadline for Comments 10/04/24. No comments were recorded.</p>	
<p>(b)</p>	<p><b>The Council noted the Decisions of previously considered Planning Applications:</b></p> <p>a. <a href="#">2024/0270/PA</a> Land to the north of Brington Road Hazel Tree Farm Great Brington Northampton NN7 <b>Approved with Conditions 5 March 2024</b></p> <p>b. <a href="#">2024/0203/PA</a> Construction of Agricultural Worker dwelling, double garage and associated Works <b>Prior Approval not Required Approved 08/03/24</b></p> <p>c. <a href="#">2024/0303/COND</a> Kennings Farm 3 Folly Lane Little Brington NN7 4JR for renewal/creation of a concrete yard with inspection pits on existing hardcore base <b>Conditions Discharge 27/02/24</b></p> <p>d. <a href="#">2024/0834/FULL</a> Kennings Farm 3 Folly Lane Little Brington NN7 4JR for erection of a muck store to reduce water <b>Approved Conditions Discharge 27/02/24</b></p>	
<p>(c)</p>	<p><b>Other Planning Matters</b></p> <p>The Council noted the HM Government Permitted Development Consultation that closes on 9 April 2024 and the details are at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights-consultation/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights-consultation">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights-consultation/changes-to-various-permitted-development-rights-consultation</a></p>	
<p><b>112/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p>	
	<p><b>a) To receive updates from the Althorp Estate</b></p> <p>(a) The Council noted that Stuart Coleman would be leaving Althorp Estates on 31 March next and Helen Frampton (HF) and Garth Clark (CEO) would be taking on his duties.</p> <p>(b) 3 sites for dog waste bins had been agreed and HF would forward the “what3Words” locations to the Clerk. The Chair passed a copy of the Dog Waste Bin design that the Parish Council would like to purchase, to Althorp Estate to confirm if it was acceptable. The Clerk would then follow up with the Council’s contractor about adding these to the emptying round.</p> <p>(c) HF reported that there had recently been a burglary at an Estate property and equipment had been stolen.</p>	<p>Althorp Clerk</p>
	<p><b>b) Unstable Wall at Hall Lane Cottages</b></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to write to the householder again and ask them to repair it; as it was falling on a public footpath, WNC Street Doctor should also be contacted.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>113/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>The Parish Council noted the following WNC Consultations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Northants Council Buses and Transport <a href="#">News of bus service changes</a> Find out the most recent changes to services.</li> <li>• West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has welcomed the extension of the Government’s Household Support Fund (HSF). <a href="https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/news/west-northamptonshire-council-welcomes-extension-household-support-fund">https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/news/west-northamptonshire-council-welcomes-extension-household-support-fund</a></li> <li>• An election for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire will take place on Thursday 2 May 2024. <a href="#">North Northamptonshire Council</a></li> </ul>	

<b>113/2024 (cont)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With reference to the May Annual Meeting of the Council, it was suggested that Ward Cllr Bignell be asked to give an update on future plans at West Northamptonshire Council and the Head of the School be invited.</li> </ul>	Clerk
<b>114/2024</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) To Note the Bank Balance at 29 February 2024</b></p> <p>It was noted that the Bank Balance of the Current Account was £1275.17 and the Savings Account was £35482.20</p> <p><b>b) To Note and Approve Payments due in March 2024 (See Appendix)</b></p> <p>With the exception of Althorp Estates Invoice 1647 for £195.00 – Rent for the Reading Rooms which the Council understood should have been sent to the Reading Room Trustees, the Payments were approved.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr J Milne  Seconded: Cllr K White  Approved: Unanimous</p>	Clerk
<b>115/2024</b>	<p><b>To consider excluding members of the public from Item 13 ‘Play Area Project’</b> 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 referring to the financial or business affairs of the Council)</p> <p>Cllr Gardner indicated that he was still awaiting final quotes for the project, therefore Cllr White proposed and Cllr Milne seconded that the public need not be excluded from the meeting; this was unanimously agreed.</p>	
<b>116/2024</b>	<p><b>Play Area Equipment Project</b></p> <p>Cllr R Gardner indicated he was still awaiting a final quote for the landscape clearance part of the project but was finding it difficult to meet the contract tendering requirement of the Standing Orders as he wasn’t receiving responses and asked that the matter be deferred to the April meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk indicated that as it had been documented those quotes had been requested and not received and following the advice from NALC at Minute 112 dated 20 April 2022 for a previous project, if required, it would be acceptable to consider one quote. Cllr Gardner indicated he would follow up on a contact provided by Cllr Roach to carry out the initial ground clearance work.</p> <p>He hoped to bring the final tenders for the Play Equipment to the April meeting.</p>	Cllr Gardner

Meeting closed: 9.20 pm

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

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

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

1.	<b>Althorp Outstanding Payment</b> Helen Frampton advised that the payment received on 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 was used to clear an unpaid invoice from 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2021. Therefore, this is showing £470.76 in arrears for the playing field. Cllr Milne indicated he would check this.
2.	<b>Northants Police</b> – Following the Clerk’s email to Northants Police re the cancellation of the Beat Bus stop in the Parish, Sgt Greg Harrison responded that he had been sighted on some correspondence arising from this and the lack of Police attention that the Clerk raised through the Sector Co-ordinator. He offered to have a meeting with the Chair and Cllr Stephan Beusart, with a view to establishing how they could improve matters, identify and resolve any issues in order to provide us with the service we require.
3.	<b>Parish Council Meetings</b> The Post Office has noted the Parish Council meeting dates for April 24-March 25.
4.	<b>Community Litter Picks - From WNC</b> “If the Parish Council or residents would like to hold litter pick in your community and support the community spring clean please get in touch with WNC to find out more about borrowing free litter picking equipment.” To find out more about the litter charter and to borrow litter picking equipment visit: Cleaner communities   West Northamptonshire Council ( <a href="http://westnorthants.gov.uk">westnorthants.gov.uk</a> )
5.	<b>NCalc Audit</b> Fiona Young has advised she will be aiming to conduct the audit remotely as far as possible after 31st March 2024.
6.	<b>Boris Mckay of Rehab 4 Addiction</b> had asked if the Parish Council would be willing to link to <a href="https://www.rehab4addiction.co.uk/country-wide/drug-alcohol-rehab-northamptonshire">https://www.rehab4addiction.co.uk/country-wide/drug-alcohol-rehab-northamptonshire</a> from <a href="https://bringtons-pc.gov.uk/organisations-societies/">https://bringtons-pc.gov.uk/organisations-societies/</a> on the Bringtons Website.
7.	<b>Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (May Meeting)</b> The Clerk requested confirmation from Councillors of how the Annual Parish Meeting was run and stated that a Parish Council meeting could be held following this to agree payments and any planning applications.
8.	Revised Council Budget was circulated as requested.
9.	The Clerk would be on annual leave from 20-27 April 2024

Ward Councillors Report - WNC Report March 2024

**SEN**

WNC has been informed by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) that they will be beginning their inspection of the Local Area SEND Partnership. The inspection process will run for three weeks, with Ofsted and CQC looking at the full range of services for children and young People with special educational needs and/or disabilities across West Northamptonshire.

**Litter**

WNC will be coordinating and supporting a range of Community Spring Clean activities during this month, as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign organised by Keep Britain Tidy. We have litter picking equipment available to borrow, and can support groups and individuals with guidance on how to safely organise a community litter pick. We also supply sacks and will collect any rubbish that has been litter-picked afterwards.

**Fostering**

Significant improvements to fostering services in Northamptonshire have led to their Ofsted rating rising to 'Good' from 'Inadequate' in the last 12 months. Following a week-long inspection of Northamptonshire Children's Trust Independent Fostering Agency last month (15 to 19 January), finding that 'since the last inspection, there have been significant improvements in how well foster carers are supported and supervised.'

**Housing Allocation**

Work to implement the new West Northamptonshire housing allocations scheme is underway and will be completed by 8th April. It will replace the existing three schemes in Daventry, South Northants and Northampton, and provides a fairer, clearer and more consistent housing provision for our residents. Once the new system is in place, our Housing Team will be in touch with all existing applicants to invite them to re-apply to the new housing allocation scheme using the new online portal.

**Community Spaces**

Council colleagues will soon be putting up new signs in every town and parish to support the introduction of the WNC-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which encourages responsible dog ownership and bans smoking in specific open spaces. Once signs are in place reports of breaches of the PSPO can be reported on WNC website and a breach could result in £100 fine.

**From - Cllr Phil Bignell**

Payments for Noting 20 March 2024

Payee	Detail	Amount	VAT
S Muir	Clerk March 2024	452.07	-
S Muir	Expenses – Mileage & Printer Cartridges	92.85	
HMRC	Income Tax March 2024	113.00	-
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv 01551622	Direct Debit	16.08	0.77
Yu Energy - Streetlighting Inv. 01551621	Direct Debit	127.66	6.08
Reading Room	Inv 240203 February P C Meeting	16.00	
Reading Room	Inv 240105 Website Support Meeting	24.00	
Reading Room	Inv.240301 January PC Meeting	16.00	
Third Avenue	INV 2138 Website Support	187.20	31.20
Compete 366	Inv 19740 365 data backed up via Microsoft Syntex	1.36	0.23
Althorp Estates	Kimbles Field Rent Inv 1653	638.40	106.40
Althorp Estates	Reading Rooms Rent Inv 1647 <b>TBC</b>	195.00	-