



**Minutes of the Annual Brixworth Parish Meeting
Held on Wednesday 26th May 2021.**

The Library and Community Centre Hall, Spratton Road, Brixworth.

Present: Councillor Moxon – Chairman of Brixworth Parish Council
Councillor Neal Brown
Councillor Jackie Bird
Councillor Kevin Parker (and West Northants Council)
Councillor Lynne Compton
Councillor Tom Mitchell
Councillor Elaine Coe

Mr Peter Rowbotham – Parish Clerk

Jonathan Harris – Councillor, West Northants Council

5 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded attendees of the location of the fire exits in case of a building evacuation.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ian Barratt.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th April 2019

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th April 2019 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record. This was proposed by Councillor Compton and seconded by Councillor Moxon.

4. Announcements – Chairman

The Chairman reviewed the previous municipal year. It had been a relatively quiet year because of the impact of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Despite COVID the Parish Council had adopted a 'business as usual' approach.

- The Parish Council was the first in the County to move to Video Conferencing meetings.
- New Grounds Maintenance Contract was let.
- Supported s106 bids for the Cricket Club and indoor Bowls Club.
- Secured funding for new play area, MUGA and enhancements for sport at the Community Centre.
- Wildflowers on Northampton Road & Holcot Road – partly funded by DDC.
- Grant awarded to the Community Food Share Project
- Grant to the Brixworth Centre for the provision of new windows
- Appointed a Parish Council solicitor to hold our files and manage our work. Work underway with the Cricket lease at St David's.
- All trees inspected and work undertaken where required.
- Set up a Retail Working Group to look at the impact and issues of the new Coop Store.

- Dealt with planning consultations and have offered a local voice on the Coop site, proposed retail at the Cricket Club and the employment zone north of Mercedes.
- The Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group have successfully reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council had also instigated new projects for future delivery:

- Railway Benches
- Holcot Road Enhancements
- Adoption of BT Box

6. Matters Raised from the Public

Cricket - Mike Parsons, on behalf of the Cricket Club, thanked the Parish Council for the grant which had contributed towards the toilet improvements at the Clubhouse. This was necessary to improve the facilities to encourage and grow the ladies cricket section. It was thought that the Brixworth ladies was the most vibrant group within the County.

The s106 grant had been processed but the payment was awaiting the conclusion of the legal agreement.

The introduction of the Sports Liaison Working Group was welcomed. There was an understanding of the ground's maintenance issues and costs.

The Cricket Club continued to be community focussed with 160 young people to coach and 110 playing members. Charities are supported through at least one game with a range of organisations including Help for Heroes, Sport for All, Breast Cancer, Stroke Association, Mighty Magnus, First Responders and supporting Incubators for Hospitals.

The Club has had its financial challenges because of COVID but has been alleviated by Government Grants.

Future projects include improving the ventilation within the changing rooms and showers.

Next year (2022) will mark the 175th Anniversary of the Cricket Club and work is in hand to celebrate the occasion.

Football – Simon Compton thanked the Parish Council for allowing the football season to be extended because of the COVID issues. The Juniors currently ran 19 teams. The number of teams and number of pitches within Brixworth meant that two teams were based outside of the village.

Current challenges included the provision of accessible changing rooms to facilitate the growth in ladies' sport.

The sports clubs are now working together looking at the bigger opportunities to develop local sport.

Areas for suggested improvement included the car parks at The Ashway and St David's. It was thought that the entrance to St David's did not encourage people to use the car park.

The condition of the pitches remained very good, and thanks were recorded for this.

Community Issues – Councillor Harris reported on the volunteer network of 110 people who had helped during the COVID pandemic. The priority now is to build upon this community spirit. There are opportunities for Parish Councils to develop community resilience through a Good Neighbour initiative.

There were further opportunities for Parish Councils to work together to work on common issues. For example, climate emergency work could be developed collectively.

Councillor Harris outlined the need for improved rural bus service connectivity and informed the meeting of the new bus service. To date there had been no usage figures. This service had been partly financed by local parish councils.

7. Questions & Any Other Business

The Section 106 money for the Toucan Crossing on the A508 was still available to use. The Parish Council had already paid £4,000 to prepare the scheme and this project was now 'on the shelf' and ready to go. It was now up to West Northants Council to fund the project balance.

The work of the Brixworth Neighbourhood Planning Group was highlighted. The Neighbourhood Plan had been successfully reviewed which was a great team effort. This was thought to be the only Plan within the former DDC area that had been successfully reviewed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12th May 2022.

The meeting finished at 7:30pm.