

# **Draft minutes of the BRAMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022 AT 6.30 PM**

**Brampton Memorial Centre  
Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB**

**Present:** Mike Bainbridge, Parish Council Chairman, Nigel Maggs, John Childs, Jon Chitty, Margaret Footner, Linda Hicks, Simon Jordan, Alan Mellor, Liz Ruston, Ronald Stevenson. Tess Rogers Parish Clerk.

District Councillor Patricia Jordan, Peter Menczer - Village Hub, Jane Coggin - Dementia Group, Steve Hodgson - Bramshed, Judith Chitty - Events Group, Police Constable Tom Russell and six members of the public.

1. Introduction

Mike Bainbridge thanked everyone for their attendance and explained how the meeting will proceed.

2. To Receive Apologies

Parish Councillors, Malcolm Beswick, Glen Brown, Catriona French and Mike Shellens, District Councillor John Morris, County Councillor Ken Billington, Lianne Simpson – Diamond Hampers, Dominic Carmanati – Police Force Neighbourhood Sergeant and Mick Forsdick – Royal British Legion

3. Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 21 April 2021.

Available on the website, from the clerk prior to the meeting and taken as read.

4. Annual Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council and Chairpersons of the Allotments, Churchyard & Cemetery, Greens & Footpaths, Finance, Planning, Sports & Recreations and Village Facilities committees.

All reports are available to view on the Parish Council website at [www.bramptonpc-org-uk](http://www.bramptonpc-org-uk) and on pages 4 to 10 of the May edition of the Brampton magazine. In addition, the Clerk read out a summary of funds held as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The annual accounts, as yet unaudited, will be finalised on the 5<sup>th</sup> May when the year end procedures are undertaken by the accounting software company before being internally audited. The accounts will be presented to the full Parish Council at the June meeting for sign off before being sent to the external auditor by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

4.1 Questions were asked of the Greens & Footpaths Committee.

Q There is a large bush at Park Road which has grown too large and pushes pedestrians to walk on the road, will this be cut back.

A. This is the responsibility of the County Council and has been reported.

Q Will there be a new map showing the footpaths in the village?

A. There is one already on the Parish Council website, however, we are waiting for the county Council to supply numbers for the new footpaths. The map will be printed off and placed on notice boards and for the library.

Q. The bridge between Leyton Crescent and Brampton Park is not wide enough for wheelchairs or buggies, can anything be done?

A. This is currently being addressed. However, there are problems relating to the placement of drains and power supplies. Also to widen the bridge would require cutting into a neighboring garden

5. Representatives from the following organisations presented reports and took questions:

5.1 Steve Hodgson - Bramshed

Reported upon the success of the project since its recent start up and how it has benefited a number of its members from a social viewpoint. The initial site consideration for the shed failed for a number of reasons. However, it has found a home next to the Thrift Shop on Montague Road, Brampton Park. The shed has become a member of the Men's Shed Association and is networking with other local sheds.

Ex County Councillor, Peter Downes, congratulated Steve and his team on a great start.

Q. What are the Shed's opening hours.

A Saturday pm, Monday pm and Thursday am.

#### 5.2 Jane Coggin - Dementia Friendly Activity Action Group

Reported that the group offers facilities to four groups in the village, Love to move, Reconnect, The dementia choir, and the Thursday Club which allows carers to have some time off. Since the pandemic some members of these various groups have been lost. However, now that the activities are back up and running face to face it is hoped that numbers will return. The challenge is to reach out to those who need help and the group are looking into a new website and other methods of making their activities known. People are known to have moved to Brampton because of the immense support offered to dementia sufferers and their carers.

#### 5.3 Patricia Jordan - Huntingdon District Council

John Morris had prepared a report for the meeting but, at the last minute was unable to attend. Therefore, Patricia stepped in. She reported that the District Council's planning department was badly affected during the pandemic. There were no site visits undertaken and the department was very short staffed. However, it is trying to catch up now. Councillor surgeries are held one Saturday each month and are attended by District, County and Parish Councillors.

John Morris is not standing in the forthcoming elections. Dave Shore, ex postmaster will be standing along with two other candidates from the village.

There have been some problems with the Buckden Landfill site. A liaison committee group has been set up and a site visit undertaken by the group which included some residents. There are now fewer occasions where the smell is unbearable as the site managers have put in place a number of actions to prevent this. A question was asked as to how it can be concluded that smells come from the site and not the sewage plant? Patricia said that most often it is proven to be the landfill site and advised residents to contact the Environment Agency if there is a persistent smell as the more complaints received the more likely action will be taken.

#### 5.4 PC Tom Russell - Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Reported that in the past year there had been 588 crimes reported in the area, this does include Brampton Hut. Thirty eight have had positive outcomes and sixty eight are under investigation. Dominic Carminati meets with the Parish Council on a monthly basis and has acted on a number of concerns voiced at these meetings. There is currently a trial being carried out at the school, whereby at school closing time the road to the school is closed to promote a safer road scheme. The police will be working with speed watch now that it has been re activated. Other issues being tackled are drug dealing, theft from motor vehicles and those unsavory individuals who are targeting the vulnerable in a negative way. Tom said that the neighbourhood teams are small, with only five officers to cover a huge area and there has been no increase in staffing.

Questions were taken

Q. Can anything be done regarding cyclists behaving badly?

A. Dependant upon the age of the individual, if school children then the police can go into schools to educate the children.

Q. Are electric scooters legal?

A. No these are illegal on the road or in a public place. These can be hired in Cambridge but are treated as motor vehicles and you need a full driving licence plus insurance to use one.

Q. Can anything be done about parking on The Green and cars going the wrong way around it? Police vehicles have been seen going past and taking no notice of illegal activities being carried out by drivers.

A. The police have to manage risk and if on their way to a more important matter they must continue without stopping.

#### 5.5 1 Judith Chitty - Thrift Shop and Brampton Events

Reported on the Open Garden event that took place in June 2021. Fifteen gardens were open and £1000.00 was made, from which a small amount was spent on purchasing a number of daffodil bulbs which were planted on the small green where the village sign is sited. The village fete was held in 2021 where a swing jive group provided great entertainment. In November the Christmas fete was held. Judith is stepping down from organizing the Christmas lights this year therefore a volunteer is needed. The lights are strung between a number of trees on The Green and at least fifty per cent of the strings have now failed. It is thought that in the future these will be wound around the trunks of trees to save having to access them via a ladder.

There will be a 'bring your own picnic' on The Green to celebrate the Queen's jubilee in June where the Huntingdon Big Band will be playing.

5.5.2 The Thrift Shop re-opened twelve months ago at new premises on Montague Road, Brampton Park. It makes around £500.00 each month, and this goes towards helping groups with military connections. The shop prides itself on stocking 'out of season' requirements ie ski suits in the Summer along with bric a brac, clothing of all sorts and toys.

#### 5.6 Peter Menczer - Village Hub

Reported that the purpose of the Village Hub is to improve the well being of Brampton Residents, working with fourteen organisations offering a support package building kit. The Hub wouldn't exist without the support of the Parish Council.

The Hub is working with five organisations to provide various levels of support to refugees such as help with family liaison, obtaining benefits, accessing doctors' surgeries and getting children into local schools.

Launching in the near future will be the Brampton Youth Club/Drop in and an Information Centre to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

#### 6. Open Forum

There were no further questions

Mike Bainbridge said this now concludes the reports and once again thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: