

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 PM AT BRAMPTON MEMORIAL CENTRE
THRAPSTON ROAD, BRAMPTON**

Present: J Chitty, ((JC) Chair, M Bainbridge (JMB), Vice Chair, Nigel Maggs (NM), Vice Chair, M. Beswick, (MB), J R Childs (JRC), Ms C Clayton, S Jordan (SJ), A Mellor (AM), Mrs L Ruston (LR), M. Shellens, (MS).
Tess Rogers, Clerk, Debbie Steel, Assistant Clerk.
J Morris (JM), Mrs P Jordan (PJ), District Councillors, P Downes (PD) County Councillor.
P. Menczer, Village Hub, T. Fryer re Footpaths & Borrowpits, Ms L Simpson – Diamond Hampers
9 members of the public.

Note: Mrs M Footner and Mrs L Hicks (Parish Councillors) attempted to attend the meeting but due to unstable broadband connections were unable to do so.

1 Introduction

JC opened the meeting with his introduction as follows:

1.1 Good evening and welcome to the Annual Assembly of the Brampton Parish Council; where we seek to lay out for you the work of the Parish Council over the last year.

1.2 Normally we would do this in one of our Community Centres and we would aim to provide various displays of the village and the facilities and surroundings; as well as refreshments and soft drinks. Sadly, as we all realise now such meetings are still not allowed and last year's Annual Assembly was prohibited at the time under the then Covid-19 restrictions.

But first a bit of background before we get to the next agenda item: importantly - this is not a Parish Council meeting,

1.3 By definition under the Local Government Act 1972, the Annual Parish Meeting is the meeting where the Parish Council report to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year. And under the Act, electors, public and press are invited to hear reports from the Chairman, District & County Councillors, community groups and any organisation that parish council has funded during the year. The Council may also invite the local community policeman, and other organisations to address and inform the audience on community matters.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a SEPARATE meeting from the Parish Council Annual Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting should be a relatively informal event for the community whereas the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is a formal council meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council must be held in the month of May and in an election year the meeting must be held between 4 and 14 days after polling day. This is the meeting of the parish council where they elect the chairman, make other annual appointments and review their insurance, risk management policies, etc.

Initially voting on a question is done by a majority of those present at the meeting and the decision of the person chairing the meeting as to the decision is final unless a poll is demanded. LGA 1972 ss 18(2)

No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the parish council although they should consider them at the next meeting of the parish council. Only members on the electoral roll can vote on an issue. Other members of the public can attend and express their opinions but not vote.

2 To Receive Apologies

2.1 None.

3 Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 17 April 2019

3.1 The minutes were taken as read, there were no questions regarding these from those present therefore they were accepted as being a true record of the meeting.

3.2 There were no outstanding actions from the 2019 meeting.

4 Parish Council Chairman's Report

4.1 Found on the parish council website at www.brampton-cambs-pc.gov.uk and attached to these minutes.

JC read through his report and asked for any questions.

No questions

4.2

Finance Committee – Cllr Mike Bainbridge Chairman

4.2.1

JMB read through his report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes).

4.2.2

One member of the public asked the following:

What financial commitment has the Parish Council made to;

a) The Mens Shed – answer £30,000

b) The Lady Olivia Centre – answer around] £50,000.

c) What are the Parish Council's present reserves and to what are these allocated and for what purpose? – answer, can only give figures to the 28 February as the year end accounts are being prepared for audit and the figures are not yet available. Therefore overall £919,953.89 which includes cumulated Community Infrastructure Levy, much of which is earmarked towards a number of capital projects. The amount of CIL received in the 2020 to 2021 financial year is £211,907 and the amount of CIL spent in that year totals £177,975. CIL income and expenditure is discussed during financial committee meetings.

4.2.3

MB asked if the precept for the 2021 to 2022 financial year was less than that in 2019. JMB confirmed that it was it is currently £120.98 per band D property. In 2019 it was £121.97.

JMB thanked the meeting.

4.3

Greens & Footpaths – no current chairman

4.3.1

JC read through the report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes).

4.3.2

With regard to the traffic light controlled crossing at Brampton Hut and the surface of part of the path connecting Brampton Hut to Grafham Road, there are still some problems but the Parish Council is pushing hard for this to go through.

4.3.4

JMB raised a comment regarding the Local Highway Initiative bids. The Parish Council had asked for two pedestrian crossings at The Green, one each at the raised crossing points. That outside The Hare on the Green was granted but the one on The Green itself was considered unsuitable. JC said the reason given by the County Council was there was no formal crossing across The Green that would line up with a potential crossing at that point.

4.3.5

SJ wished to add to the report. The Parish Council is looking to upgrade footpath 24 which runs between Thrapston Road and Hinchingsbrooke Park, by providing fencing to safeguard the public from the cattle grazing in the field. A meeting had been held the day previous to this meeting. There is a need to recourse the footpath by approximately three metres but there are major problems with rabbit/badger holes and lower down towards the park there is a flooding issue. A wooden boardwalk is required, there had been one in place previously but it had been washed away. Therefore, another would need to be well anchored down.

4.3.6

A question was asked regarding a possible smooth pathway being considered to connect two footpaths which run behind the Co Op towards the new Windborough Homes. At one point there is a gap and pedestrians are forced to walk on the road. JC thanked the member of the public for raising this issue which would be taken forward at the next Greens & Footpaths committee meeting but it must be noted that as the length of missing path is on private land the owners will need to be consulted.

4.3.7

A question was asked regarding three litter bins that the Parish Council had agreed to place on Brampton Park but hadn't been implemented as yet. JC said he would look into this as he didn't have the information to hand.

(note following the meeting – a previous Parish Councillor had identified sites where these bins might be best placed but there were bins in situ nearby and also it was finally decided that the developers were responsible for the bins on Brampton park and should therefore place additional if required.)

4.3.8

A question was asked as to why the Parish Council was looking to fund the upgrade of footpath 24, Thrapston Road to Hinchingsbrooke Park, when the County Council is responsible for footpaths, and these often run across private land. The response was that the Parish Council view the upgrade as a matter of safety for pedestrians and cyclists using it as there are cows in the field through which it passes, and these can cause danger. The pathway is also used for children on their way to Hinchingsbrooke School coming through the park. The Parish Council have agreed to expediate the upgrade as if left with the County Council there is a question as to when the work might be done if at all. It was confirmed that the funding for the upgrade would be paid using CIL money and not from precepted funds.

4.4

Cemetery & Churchyard

4.4.1

JC read through the report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes), as the chairman of the committee, Mrs Margaret Footner, had been unable to access the meeting due to broadband issues.

- 4.4.2 A question was asked regarding the rebuilding of the fallen wall in the churchyard, had the owner of the property in which the tree, which had caused the wall to fall, stood, been approached with regard to his insurance covering the cost of the rebuild? The response was that that the property owner would be responsible for the removal of the tree and because it was unknown when the wall had been built the Parish Council had reached the decision to bear the cost of rebuilding the wall. The quote accepted for the work was £1,700.00. An alternative quote had been received at £6,000.00.
- 4.4.3 It was mentioned that a new vicar has been allocated to the parish and would be taking up his duties in June.
- 4.5 **Allotments**
- 4.5.1 Mike Bainbridge, chairman of the Allotments committee read through his report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes).
- 4.5.2 There were no questions.
- 4.6 **Village Facilities**
- 4.6.1 John Childs assumed his report had been read and asked for any questions (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes).
- 4.6.2 A question was raised that it had been minuted that the Lady Olivia Centre had received a request to rent it for twelve hours a day for seven days a week. Was this fair on the residents? The response was that there had been a possibility that the centre could be used as a Covid vaccination centre, however this had not been followed up.
- 4.6.3 A question was asked that there had been a proposal for provision of upgraded CCTV to cover the Memorial Field, was this still the case? The response was that once the CCTV sub committee can meet face to face, Covid regulations permitting, then a site survey will be undertaken and the proposal then taken forward. This will include CCTV provision at the Lady Olivia Centre.
- 4.7 **Planning Report – Nigel Maggs Chairman**
- 4.7.1 NM read through the report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes)
- 4.7.2 There were no questions.
- 5 Representatives from the following organisations to report and answer any questions**
- 5.1 **Cambridgeshire County Council – County Councillor Peter Downes**
- 5.1.2 Peter Downes read through his report (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes), which, due to a bad broadband connection was a little difficult to hear. He stressed that much of the report was factual and offered his thanks to the Parish Council for the work it has undertaken in the past year under difficult conditions.
- 5.2 No questions were raised.
- 5.2.1 **Huntingdon District Council – District Councillors Jordan and Morris**
- 5.2.2 John Morris read through the report. (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes)
- 5.2.3 PJ said that the Buckden Landfill site has a new manager who lives on the new estate at the golf course. PJ has the manager's contact number and will report any issues reported to her so please advise her of any problems concerning the site.
- 5.2.4 PJ offered her thanks to the Parish Council whom, she feels is always pro active in representing the village as best it can.
- 5.2.5 A question was asked concerning the flooding in December. The development next to golf course suffered the worst, where did this flooding come from? JC responded that at the time of flooding most was from a pond on the golf course which flooded into a dyke which went into the new estate. JC understood some of the gullies are to be cleared out. Whose' fault was the flooding. PJ said it was exceptional rainfall and various departments are gathering information to see what can be done to avoid flooding in the future.
MB said he lives on the farm in Buckden and has suffered no problems in the last 4 years but this year the farm has suffered severe flooding at the farm. All are ready to blame the new A14, new developments etc but this needs to be put into perspective and that exceptional weather has caused much of the problem.
- 5.2.6 A question was asked with regard to the District Councillor report point 6 regarding road safety and school routes. The crossing point by Church Road at the top of Huntingdon Road (near the Obelisk) is particularly precarious. Could a proposal be made to make this a signalled crossing? PD explained that there is an extensive scheme regarding local road safety layout and if the resident would like to contact him separately and he will provide the plans.
- 5.2.7 The landlord of the Black Bull was thanked for keeping cars from parking on the pavement near the pub since the lowering of the Covid restrictions.

- 5.3 **Village Hub – Peter Menczer**
- 5.3.1 Due to communication problems JC read the Village Hub report to the meeting (found on the Parish Council website and attached to these minutes).
- 5.3.2 JC asked for questions. MB said this is a very impressive report and those present should copy it and whenever there are negative comments on Facebook regarding what the Parish Council etc do, then use this as a response. PMenczer ended his report by again thanking the Parish Council for its' support.
- 5.4 **Police – Neighbourhood Sergeant Dominic Carminati**
- 5.4.1 JC read through the report (found on the Parish council website and attached to these minutes, explaining how the Parish Council meet with the Neighbourhood Sergeant on a monthly basis to discuss issues occurring in the village each month.
- 5.4.2 MS said that the number of crimes allocated to Brampton include the Brampton Filling Station on the A1 which inflates the crime figures associated with the village.
- 5.4.3 SJ spoke regarding Speedwatch. The group have not been able to operate over the past two years and is in need of volunteers to undertake both administrative work and to operate the equipment owned by the Parish Council. JC asked that any would be volunteers should make themselves known to the Clerk.
- 5.5 **Diamond Hampers – Lianne Simpson**
- 5.5.1 Lianne gave a brief background to Diamond Hampers. They are a not for profit organisation providing food aid for those in need across the district. Also providing affordable food from their shop, Pantry model, in Huntingdon. Trying to tackle why everyone doesn't have enough food as there is enough produced for all. Have seen a small reduction in amount of food aid required over the last two months. Save hundreds of tons of food waste each year, collected from supermarkets and that to be sent to land fill.
- 5.5.2 JC thanked the organisation for all they do.
- 5.5.3 There were no questions.
- 6.0 **Open Forum**
- 6.1 There were no questions raised.

The meeting was closed at 20.36

These minutes are considered draft until ratified at the next meeting.

J Chitty, Chairman