

## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of Brassington Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 August 2007**

**Present:** Cllr P Horrocks (in the Chair), Cllr D Brown, Cllr D Ede, Cllr J Grant-Nicholas, Cllr D Massey, Cllr D Rippon, District Cllr Lewis Rose, County Cllr Irene Ratcliffe (who joined the meeting part way through), Police Community Support Officer Jo Dales, the Clerk, and 2 members of the public.

### **1. Public Participation**

There were no representations.

### **2. County Council Representative**

Cllr Ratcliffe's attendance was delayed due to a planning committee meeting.

### **3. District Council Representative**

Cllr Rose had nothing to report.

### **4. Police Representative**

Jo Dales reported that, at the meeting on 11 July a group had been formed to meet once or twice a year. In view of existing networks, it was felt there was no need for additional structures. She intended to attend Parish Council meetings as often as possible. The Clerk undertook to include her in the circulation of Agendas and Minutes of future meetings.

### **5. Monthly Meeting**

#### **1.08/07 Apologies**

The Clerk explained that Cllr Ratcliffe hoped to join the meeting later, but otherwise there were no apologies.

#### **2.08/07 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Cllr Horrocks declared a prejudicial interest in Item 6f on the agenda (appointment of an additional handyman).

#### **3.08/07 Minutes**

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Grant-Nicholas, seconded Cllr Brown, all in favour) that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4.08/07 Proposed apology to people upset by events following the meeting on 19 June 2007**

Cllr Grant-Nicholas reported that, to the best of his knowledge, Cllr Allsop had not made the apology required of him by the Council at the July meeting.

There was a general consensus that the Council itself should not apologise, since this would imply that the Council had done something wrong, which was not the case.

It was resolved (proposed Cllr Massey, seconded Cllr Grant-Nicholas, nem. con.) that the Clerk should write to those concerned, assuring them that the Council welcomed the attendance and, where appropriate, contributions of the general public at its meetings, and expressing the hope that events on the evening in question would not deter them in the future.

#### **5.08/07 Minimum Wage Increase**

The Clerk reported the details of the increases in the rates of the national minimum wage to take effect from 1 October 2007.

## **6. 08/07 Ongoing Matters**

- a) Clerk's Training  
The Council approved the Clerk's request to attend the Accounts and Audit Training at Ripley on 6 November, at a cost to the Council of £15.00.
- b) Vehicular access to the bungalows at Meadow Rise  
The Clerk reviewed recent correspondence, and undertook to keep in touch with all relevant parties and report any developments.
- c) Access to the High Peak Trail  
Cllr Ratcliffe reported that Mr Spencer had given his permission for Cllr Allsop to enter negotiations with the County Council with a view to providing suitable access from Wirksworth Dale. There were apparently 2 options, and good progress was being made.  
Cllr Horrocks reported that the access in Longcliffe was now unofficially open.
- d) Cleaning of Wirksworth Dale  
Cllr Horrocks had spoken to Mr Robert Shields, and established that a Vital Earth skip would cost £42 for 36 hours. She was also intending to contact Severn Trent. The general consensus was that implementation of this matter should be deferred until the end of the grass-cutting season.
- e) Village Pond  
Cllr Grant-Nicholas alerted the Council to potential problems with Health and Safety, Insurance and Risk Assessment, which had come to light during the recent Clerk and Councillor training session. It was agreed to keep these matters in mind with regard to the repair of the pond.
- f) Additional Handyman  
Cllr Horrocks left the meeting, and Cllr Grant-Nicholas temporarily took the Chair. The Clerk read a letter of application from Jade Torr. Having considered this, it was resolved (proposed Cllr Brown, seconded Cllr Massey, all in favour) that the Clerk confirm to Miss Torr her appointment as an additional part-time handyman.
- g) Traffic Calming junction of Greenway/Town Street  
Cllr Horrocks had had an impromptu site meeting with Cllr Ratcliffe and the Clerk to consider, once again, the possibility of the Highways Department taking steps to reduce the risk of accidents at this location. Cllr Ratcliffe had contacted Mr Simon Tranter of DCC, but his response had been very negative. A lengthy discussion ensued, with many alternative suggestions put forward. It was agreed, without formal resolution, that Mr Tranter be invited to attend a site meeting with representatives of the Council in the hope that he could be persuaded to adopt a more positive approach.
- h) Flooding of culverts  
This is apparently not a new phenomenon, but has been exacerbated by the recent extreme weather. Responsibility for unblocking the culverts lies with the DCC, and the person to contact is Jane Barwick in the Highways Department – any member of the public is free to report failure of the culverts to her.
- i) Village Website  
The Council, without formal resolution, enthusiastically approved the publishing of relevant Council documents on the Brassington village website.

## **7.08/07 Planning**

- a) Application 07/00561/TEMP – Erection of 50 metre anemometry mast for a temporary period of up to 3 years at Carsington Pastures for Carsington Wind

Energy Limited. The consensus was that this application had little purpose unless and until the refusal of the application for Wind Turbines was successfully appealed. All were opposed.

- b) Notification of intention to fell trees – land adjacent to Shellboards Farm. Cllrs Horrocks and Grant-Nicholas declared interests, and took no part in the discussion other than to provide background information. Councillors were dismayed to lose such a fine tree, but understood that it was not possible for the development (in respect of which planning consent had already been granted) to go ahead with the tree in place. There were no objections, but a desire was expressed for a suitable replacement tree as near as possible to the site of the felled tree.

### **8.08/07 Finance**

The Council approved payment of items a) - e) on the agenda.

Cllr Horrocks informed the meeting that a new Husqvarna blower would ideally meet the needs of the handymen. Cllr Ratcliffe's "Leader" scheme had contributed £100 towards the cost, and the price, net of VAT, would therefore be approximately £220. The Council approved the purchase.

The Clerk reported that he felt unable to perform his role adequately without access to a photocopier, and that he had identified a machine (laser printer/photocopier/colour scanner) which would effectively cost approximately £140 net of VAT. The Council authorised the Clerk to go ahead with the purchase.

Members of the Public were requested to leave to enable the Council to discuss exempt items.

Signed:

(Chairman) Date: