

**Minutes of a Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 2 April 2009
at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Blakeman, Green, Holden, Ovenell, Hand, McConnell, Houghton, Rider and Royden. Dave Hawkey attended for item 5. The Assistant Clerk to the Council, Alison Southern was in attendance. One member of the public was present.

Apologies: Cllrs Humphries, Seymour and Cllr Laybourn.

- | | <u>Action</u> |
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| 1 <u>Apologies</u>
The apologies for absence were accepted. | |
| 2 <u>Declaration of Interests in matters on the agenda</u>
None. | |
| 3 <u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2009</u>
Resolved: to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting save for a minor amendment to the accounts for payment (Item 12). March salaries amount should read £1724.12. The minutes were then approved. | |
| 4 <u>Public Open Session</u>
One member of the public was present but there were no questions raised. | |
| 5 <u>Policing in Brickhill</u>
PC Hawkey circulated a report on crime figures within the Parish. Overall there has been a 9% reduction in crime from the previous year. The situation at Aelfric Court had improved, CCTV was now operational and the last complaint received was in January 09. The Police will be providing assistance at the Gathering on the Green event and will be offering free property marking. The next Community Safety Forum meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on the 23 April at William Harpur House all are welcome. | |
| 6 <u>Clerk's Report</u>
A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The contents were discussed, PC Hawkey confirmed it was hoped to distribute the SmartWater during the Easter school holidays. The Clerk had asked the PC to consider buying its own computer and it was agreed that costings should be brought to the next PC meeting for consideration. | Clerk |
| 8 <u>Response to Bedford Borough Council's request for information about carriageway and footway maintenance priorities in the parish of Brickhill</u>
Cllr Blakeman introduced this item and the Clerk had previously circulated via email a list of proposed carriage and footways priorities.
Resolved: to respond to the Borough with the Parish Council's top three roads and footways priorities namely:

Carriageways: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Torridge Rise2. Brickhill Drive (from Kestrel Road to Kimbolton Road)3. the remaining sections of Avon Drive (from the Waveney Avenue roundabout near the shops to Kimbolton Road and north of the Tyne Crescent roundabout to Kimbolton Road near The Pheasant). Footways: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mallard Hill (reduction of severe camber from nos 50 to >70) | |

2. Waveney Avenue (from the junction between Severn Way and Linnet Way)
3. Tyne Crescent (nos 50-100 on both sides).

Cllr Blakeman recommended the Parish Council also mention the very poor state of the Falcon Avenue/Windrush Avenue junction, the section of Windrush Avenue between Isis Road and Severn Way, and the cracking of Waveney Avenue from Tamar Road to the roundabout and Tamar Road from Waveney Avenue to Trent Road.

In answer to the Borough Council's second request Cllr Blakeman recommended the Parish Council should mention:

- 20mph zones nearby to local schools
- the installation of Pedestrian crossings on Waveney Avenue near to the junction with Falcon Avenue and at Avon Drive opposite the shops
- Consideration of the imposition of a freight weight restriction on Avon Drive and Waveney Avenue/Linnet Way from Kimbolton Road to Brickhill Drive
- dropped kerbs at the entrance and exit to Avon Drive shops.

Resolved: to include all these items proposed by Cllr Blakeman. There followed a long discussion and further suggestions included:

- Improvements to sequence of traffic lights at Kimbolton Road junction with Brickhill Drive
- Improvement to existing cycle routes within the parish
- To ensure work is carried out swiftly once areas have been marked up
- Street light – currently there is a long delay with street lights remaining unconnected which is dangerous and has caused long stretches of road to be unlit
- More publicity on Bus Services available in particular the “Cedar Coaches” scheme which is a subsidised Sunday service and consider a review of the public transport network in Bedford (buses) to ensure routes are available direct to destinations including the hospital and train station without the need to change buses via the town centre bus depot since this is what the residents of Brickhill want and need
- The new authority undertake a thorough review of all traffic routes to remove bottlenecks and not to rely only on modelling systems but for staff to visit the traffic hotspots to witness first hand the problems

Resolved: to submit these comments in addition to the priorities agreed and to seek clarification as to the impact this questionnaire would have on the existing 5 year Highways Plan for Brickhill.

Clerk

9. **Financial Matters**

9.1 **Resolved:** to move the Parish Council bank accounts from Natwest Bank to the Co-operative Bank

9.2 The following accounts were submitted for approval:

Clerk

Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount	
380	St John Ambulance	First aid provision for Gathering on the Green	£150.94	
381	Supplies Team	Toner Cartridges for Printer	£103.50	
382	Cambs CC	Mobile Climbing Tower	£315.00	31
383	St Mark’s Church	Office Rental, Hall Hire	£324.37	
384	Derek Draper	Allotment Maintenance	£437.78	

Resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

9.3 **Resolved:** to approve the application of the NALC/SLCC approved salary scales for Clerks for the year beginning 1 April 2008 and to make appropriate backdated payments to staff in April 2009.

9.4 **Resolved:** to make permanent the provisional revision made to the Clerk's contract with effect from 1 January 2009. The amended contract would now specify 23 working hours per week.

9.5 The annual accounts were circulated and the annual return with its completed statement of accounts and annual governance statement for the year ending 31 March 2009 was scrutinised.

Resolved: to approve the statement of accounts and annual governance statement and to authorise the Chairman and the Clerk to sign the documents on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that the internal auditor would complete page 4 of the annual return following a final mini-audit to be conducted in April. A full internal audit and review of effectiveness of the internal audit had already been completed and approved by the Parish Council earlier in the year.

10 **Potential involvement of Brickhill Parish Council with Brickhill Community Centre**

The Chairman put forward a proposal that Brickhill Parish Council apply to join the Brickhill Community Association (which is the charity responsible for the running of Brickhill Community Centre) and discussion followed. **Resolved:** that the Parish Council apply to join the Brickhill Community Association and appoint representatives from the Parish Council following the local elections in June 2009. In addition the Parish Council would request that a member of the PC be allowed to attend as an observer at future meetings of the Brickhill Community Centre Management Committee.

Clerk

11 **Weed killer damage to green areas in Brickhill**

Cllr Royden gave a verbal report on problems with excessive use of weed killer within the Parish. There was concern at the risk associated to children and animals and how much money was being spent. **Resolved:** to write to Bedford Borough Council to find out what type of service level agreement had been agreed for the Parish.

Clerk

12 **Report from the Brickhill 50th Anniversary Working Group**

A report from the last meeting on the working group was circulated at the meeting. A volunteer oral historian had come forward who is willing to conduct interviews with local residents and Cllr Fitzpatrick is in discussion with local schools to consider taking part in a Fun Run around the Parish. Cllr Green suggested the starting point could be Mallard Hill which is the site of the first houses in Brickhill.

(Cllr Royden left the meeting.)

13 **Report from Footpaths Working Group**

Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the Parish Council would be writing to all the respondents outlining the results of the survey. Cllr Fitzpatrick requested that the Parish Council write to the new unitary authority regarding the short-cut used to cross Kimbolton Road opposite Mowsbury Park. The Parish Council had previously written to the Borough Council and this item was included on the Highways Bulletin but the Parish Council had not received any further communication on this item.

Clerk

14 **Arrangements for the production and distribution of the July edition of Brickhill Parish Council News**

The Chairman put forward a proposal to alter the size of the newsletter to A5, to continue to use Bedford Link together with some paid deliverers and to remain with White Hart Press. A schedule of comparative costs produced by the Chairman was distributed (copy in minute book). A lengthy discussion followed.

Resolved: to alter the size of Brickhill Parish News to A5, continue distribution with a combination of Bedford Link and paid for deliverers and to remain with White Hart Press.

Clerk

15 **Late items:**
Meeting held at Beauchamp School Thursday 2 April

A meeting had been held at Beauchamp School to discuss the Borough's proposals for altering the current three tier education system to two tiers. A further meeting which will be attended by head teachers at local schools will be held on the 21st April at Beauchamp Middle School. The Borough was due to publish its proposal and it was anticipated there would be a 6-8 week consultation period. It was noted that if the Parish Council wished to respond to this consultation then it might need to meet in May. The next Parish Council meeting would be held on the 11th June although the Brickhill Annual Parish Meeting would be held on the 7th May at 7:30pm. It would be possible to consider any proposal from Bedford Borough Council and/or the proposals arising from the meeting on the 21 April at Beauchamp Middle School at a meeting on either 7th May or 11 June 2009 should the Parish Council wish to do so and if a meeting was properly convened.

Farewell Speech from Cllr McConnell

Cllr McConnell will not be standing for re-election in Brickhill but would be seeking election in the Castle Ward. He spoke warmly of his time on the Parish Council and the highlights of his term including the Post Office Campaign. He also thanked the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their work for the Parish Council.

The Chairman formally thanked all members of the current Parish Council for their hard work.

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Approved by Chairman
11 June 2009

Dates of Next Meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting: 7.30 Thursday 7 May 2009 **ie not a parish council meeting**

Annual meeting of the Parish Council 7.30 Thursday 11 June 2009