

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April  
2022 commencing at 7:00pm**

**Present**

M Smith (Chair), S Brown, S Sharp, E Searle, S Doolan, K Motion,  
S Wilks, J Lemmy, F Perkins,

**1 Apologies**

M Marsden

**2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising**

The previous minutes (28<sup>th</sup> April 2021) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

**3 Chairman's report**

At the end of the first year of my chairmanship, I would like to thank all members of the Council for their help and support. Thank you to the long serving members of the Council who have continued to offer their expertise and experience of working efficiently and sharing their knowledge of long standing projects and issues. Particular thanks are also due both to Sally Wilks, the previous chair, and to Nigel Searle, Clerk to the Council, who has answered my many questions with great patience.

Thanks are also due to the five newly appointed members who have settled quickly into their role. They have taken responsibility for a variety of initiatives and engendered new ideas. I am particularly pleased that alongside the Brigstock Parish Council website, we also have a higher profile on the village Facebook page with some pleasing results. For example, the spread of information about the proposed phone mast at the entrance to Mauntley Avenue quickly identified strong opposition in the village. A successful campaign subsequently resulted in the refusal of planning permission.

The Parish Council is the mouthpiece of the village in reflecting views of parishioners to the local authority. We have examined all planning applications and made recommendations with regard to the Brigstock Neighbourhood Plan, the Conservation area, the needs of individuals and the wider village community.

With the restructuring of the County Council, it has been challenging at times to ensure that all opinions are heard. We now sit within the auspices of North Northamptonshire Council but frequently decisions are centred on the needs of the Wellingborough area or personnel

have not yet been appointed to some roles where decisions are made. Hopefully in the coming year the cries of "It's because of Covid." or "They haven't been appointed to North Northamptonshire yet." will be less frequent and efficiency will improve.

A variety of lorry park issues has been a case in point where Brigstock Council is prohibited from making any comment on proposed licences. We have however worked tirelessly to bring the difficulties to the attention of North Northamptonshire Council, our District Councillors and our MP. We will continue to do so to obtain a fair result for all.

The aftermath of the flood in December 2020 has been at the forefront of our concerns this year. We have continued to contribute to the Partnership Approach to Catchment Area Management Group. This has been invaluable in informing the Environment Agency of local needs and concerns as they develop a five year plan to reduce the risk of further flooding incidents. We have also involved Tom Pursglove, our local MP, who, following a walk around the village with many householders affected by the flood, established a meeting in the village with the Environment Agency, North Northamptonshire Council and Longhurst's who own Harper's Court. Plans are now being formulated to mitigate against future flooding so protecting at risk properties together with the enhanced management of Harper's Brook. However, with the continued challenge of climate change, there will still be the likelihood of some future flooding.

There has also been a focus by the Council to create a five year spending plan for the village. Happily, the new LED street lights have reduced our expenditure on energy from approximately £9,000 to £2,000 per annum. As the loan, which was taken to effect the change to LED lighting, will be fully repaid by August, there will be money available to improve many village assets. Initially, some money has been spent on a tree survey to ensure such treasured aspects of our landscape remain in a safe condition. Going forward, the Cemetery whilst currently maintained in a very tidy condition, would benefit from a comprehensive plan of work to ensure the headstones, in particular, are not a threat to visitors due to their instability.

With the constraints of Covid restrictions being removed, it has been good to hold face to face meetings of the Council once again and to welcome members of the public to our meetings. It makes us appreciate the knowledge and expertise that all can bring to making Brigstock such a lovely village to live in and it has been a privilege to be the chair of the Parish Council for the last twelve months.

**4 Public Forum**

Concern expressed at the operation of CTS disturbing residents.  
Recently reported activity at 4:20 in the morning

**5 Any Other Business**

None

**6. Date of next meeting**

April 2023

Meeting closed at 7:20