

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 16th JULY 2008

Present: Councillor MacKinlay (in the Chair).
Councillors Chambers, Ramsey and Smith

In attendance: R.J. Gray – Clerk
City Councillor Lower
PC Jones – Northumbria Police

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Laverick and J.MacKinlay, City Councillor Graham, Steve Dargon and Sue Wannop - Newcastle City Council.

18. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th May 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR END 31st MARCH 2008

(a) Statement of Accounts 2007-08 (Section 1)

The Clerk submitted the statement of accounts and copies of the trial balance for the year ended 31st March 2008. He drew members' attention to the significant variations between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

RESOLVED – That the statement of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 as now submitted, based on the trial balance reported to the Parish Council in April 2008 be approved.

(b) Annual Governance Statement 2007-08 (Section 2)

RESOLVED – That the annual governance statement submitted to this meeting for the year ending 31st March 2008 be approved.

(c) Annual Internal Report 2007-08 (Section 4)

The Clerk presented the annual internal audit report for the year ending 2007-08 that had been produced jointly by him and Ian Humphries. He drew attention to specific risks. However, the opinion was that any risks were of low level and that where they did exist appropriate measures had been put in place to manage/minimise them.

RESOLVED – That the annual internal audit report for the year ending 31st March 2008 be approved.

20. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT & REVIEW OF ASSET REGISTER

The Clerk circulated copies of the Annual Risk Assessment Schedule and the current version of the Asset Register.

He explained the various entries and referred to the comments made in the Internal Audit Report that had been considered earlier in the meeting. Although the number and level of risks were low due to the limited activity/operation/assets held by the Parish Council it was important to keep them under review during the year. There were no comments in relation to the assets of the Parish Council. They had all recently been located, inspected and confirmed to be still available for the use they were acquired.

RESOLVED – That the Annual Risk Assessment Schedule, including the measures put in place to minimise the risks and the current Asset Register be approved.

21. PAVILION AND WELFARE GROUND

The Chairman reported that the police had made arrests in connection with the on going damage and vandalism on the Pavilion and in the Welfare Ground. The youths who had been arrested had confessed to a number of incidents including the damage to the flues and the recent spate of fires in the Welfare ground.

The Clerk reported that he had invited the secretaries of both of the football teams to the meeting so that the Parish Councillors would have the opportunity to discuss various concerns about lack of compliance with the agreed conditions of hire of the facilities and the occasional lack of respect shown to staff supervising activities over a weekend.

Unfortunately neither of the secretaries had turned up to the meeting. It was suggested that until they made contact with the Clerk and/or the Chairman so that the concerns of the Parish Council could be discussed and the actions that would be taken if the conditions were broken their applications for use of the facilities would be put on hold and no permit would be issued.

There was a general discussion regarding the summer play scheme provision in the villages. City Councillor Lower confirmed that discussions had taken place with representatives from the Play and Youth Team and the original proposals to provide transport for just 12 youngsters to play provision in another part of the City had been dropped. Alternatives were being looked at and there was to be a weekend event later in the year. It was confirmed that the youth club would be operating through out the summer.

RESOLVED – That

- i. The Clerk write to the secretaries of the football clubs stating that the Parish Council whilst accepting that they were volunteers with other commitments, was disappointed that they had not turned up to the meeting to discuss the use of the facilities for the 2008-

09 football season and until they made contact with the Clerk of the Chairman their applications for use of the facilities would be put on hold and no permit would be issued

- ii. The City Council be requested to provide a further set of keys for the Pavilion;
- iii. The City Council be requested to provide a further trestle picnic table in the play area to replace the one that had been subject to an arson attack
- iv. City Councillors be requested to continue discussions with the Play and Youth Service regarding the summer play provision in the villages, ensuring that whatever is agreed it is publicised effectively.

22. COMMUNITY SURVEY – UPDATE/GENERAL

The Clerk reported that there had been no further information received regarding the project. City Councillor Lower confirmed that Helen Bridges and Glen Pendleton were now leading on the project.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

23. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

(a) Parish Notice Board

RESOLVED – That City Councillor Lower's confirmation that the Ward Committee would meet the full cost of the supply and installation of the new Parish Notice Board Castle and the Parish Council place on record its appreciation and pass on its thanks to the members of the Ward Committee and the Ward Co-ordinator.

(b) Cleaning Equipment for the Pavilion

RESOLVED – That City Councillor Lower's confirmation that the Ward Committee would meet the full cost of the purchase price of the cleaning equipment and the Parish Council place on record its appreciation and pass on its thanks to the members of the Ward Committee and the Ward Co-ordinator.

(b) Airport Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the report from Councillor Ramsey on the discussions at the last meeting of the Committee making reference to the increasing problems and complaints regarding the dropping off/picking up of passengers, on going new developments and the impact increasing fuel prices were having on future passengers number projections be noted.

(c) Grass Cutting – Area to the Rear of Cottages Greenside Avenue

Following further complaints about the poor standard of grass cutting in the Village last week men had been out and cut the grass. However, they had left the grass around the edges.

RESOLVED – That the City Council (Alan Hawthorn) be advised of the concerns and problems caused by length of time between cuts and the consistently poor standard of grass cutting in the Village.

(d) Uneven/Dangerous Pavement Greenside Avenue (south side)

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to investigate the condition of the pavement in this area as a local resident had recently tripped injuring herself and breaking her glasses.

(e) Overhanging Trees/Bushes

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to prune the trees/bushes in the following locations – Grassed Area Top Drysdale Crescent/Dene Avenue and overhanging conifer Dene Avenue No 4. investigate the pavement in this area and carry out any necessary repairs

(f) 20 MPH Zone Westfield Avenue/Brookside Avenue

RESOLVED – That the progress/timing of the traffic survey in the Village be confirmed as soon as possible (perhaps September when the schools were back).

(g) Cherry Tree – Hawthorn Avenue

This tree was near to the entrance of the industrial estate and the low hanging branches were causing a hazard to pedestrians..

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to prune the tree..

(h) Food Van Entrance to Industrial Estate

It was reported that the customers using the van were parking their vehicles on the access roads to the industrial estate and this was causing a hazard to road users.

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to investigate the possibility of asking the owners of the van to move it to a safer location.

(h) Vehicles Parking Outside Mills Grey Street

It was reported that the customers and delivery vehicles at the shop were causing problems/congestion in Grey Street.

RESOLVED – That the City Council and the police be requested to keep the situation under review.

24. PLANNING MATTER

(a) Proposed Development at corner of Darrell Street and Brookside Avenue

City Councillor Lower reported that the consultation period for the proposals for the redevelopment of the site was now completed. The proposals would be considered at the Development Control Committee on 1st August 2008. The tree officer had been out to the site and there was significant interest in a number of mature trees on the site.

There were on going concerns that the proposed development as it now stood was an over development of the site and the building was out of proportion to the existing buildings adjoining the site.

RESOLVED – That the information be note and the outcome of the decision of the Development Control Committee be awaited.

(b) Proposed Development at Select Telecom, Telecommunications House, Brunswick Industrial Estate, Brunswick – Ref 2008/1093/01/DET

RESOLVED – That no objections be made to the proposal.

25. LIGHTING/GATES TO THE GRASSED AREA TO THE REAR OF COTTAGES – GREENSIDE AVENUE AND BRUNSWICK GROVE

There were still on going problems with the light at the rear of the cottages There had been no further problems about the locking of the gates so far as the Parish Council was aware.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Laverick contact YHN to arrange for a further meeting to discuss the issues raised by the residents regarding the temporary locking of the gate.

26. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF POST OFFICES

City Councillor Lower updated members on the on going campaign to challenge the closure of post offices in the area and to recent meetings that had been held with the Post Office. Reference was made to the evidence that had been submitted by the Post Office to justify the proposed closure of the Post office in Brunswick. If the one in Brunswick was saved another in the area would be closed. She had arranged a meeting with the area manager of Mills Group regarding its position in relation to the future of the post office counter in the store in Grey Street.

She would update members as soon as information was available.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Lower be thanked for the update and the efforts being made to campaign against the closures.

27. POLICE MATTERS

Crime Statistics

PC Jones submitted the crime statistics for the Village for the period since the meeting held on 14th May 2008 which were as follow: -

Theft other than Dwelling	3
Criminal Damage	2
Theft of Scrap	1

He made particular reference to the problems caused by thieves stealing street infrastructure and the increasing number of “sat navs“ being stolen.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

28. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cheques for Signature

Cheque No.	Amount
	£
000982	171.48
000983	25.00
000984	84.00
000985	1,082.67
000986	167.16
000987	25.00
000988	84.00
MONTH END BALANCE	4,270.85

RESOLVED –That the information be noted.

29. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on 10th September 2008

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.05 p.m.

Signed:
Chairman

Date:

Items Circulated at Meeting

Community Action News – Vol 29 No 3
DETR Road Works in the Region Summer Update
Report of the Airport Consultative Committee 28th May 2008
LCR Volume 60 No2 July 2008
Clerks and Councils Direct July 2008 Issue 58