

# BRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office

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Minutes of the meeting of Briston Parish Council held on Monday 8 August 2022 at 7pm in the Copeman Centre, Briston

Present: Cllr Matthew Pickhaver - Chairman  
Cllr Graham Pickhaver – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mrs Becky Green  
Cllr Terry Girling  
Cllr Les Edwards  
Cllr Dave Chambers  
Cllr Pete Moulton  
Cllr Ian Chilton  
Cllr Ian Seward

Clerk: Mrs Jenny English

## **2022/157 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

Cllr Simon Twiddy was on holiday and sent his apologies

## **2022/158 To record declarations of interest from members on any items on the agenda**

None

## **2022/159 To approve the minutes of Briston Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11 July 2022**

Proposed Cllr Chambers. Seconded Cllr Moulton

**Approved**

## **2022/160 To invite public participation including reports from County Councillor, District Councillor and SNT**

MP Duncan Baker, County Cllr Steffan Aquarone and District Cllr Jolanda Stenton sent their apologies. SNT officer Graham Gower-Smith said that he had complaints about speeding on the Fakenham Road and would like to muster a Speedwatch team. The Police would provide training for any volunteers. He also offered to come out and stand on the road with a Speedwatch team to help. Cllr Matthew Pickhaver said that the council had been trying to recruit people for a Speedwatch team and Cllr Edwards reported that new batteries had been purchased for the SAM2 and it was now installed on the Fakenham Road. Graham Gower-Smith also reported that the Constabulary is putting more money into safety vans. Culprits who had spread graffiti in various locations in the village including on signage, electricity boxes and damaging the play area had been identified and were being dealt with. A member of the public said that speeding traffic down the Reepham Road was a problem. Graham Gower-Smith said that the main priority was the Fakenham Road. A member of the public asked if the police used cut outs. Graham Gower-Smith said no but in the past they had used pictures of children by the side of the road captioned with something like 'We live here'. He also said, in answer to a question about the 20mph sign by the Astley School that this is not enforceable as the enforceable speed on this stretch of the road is 30mph.

Cllr Matthew Pickhaver said that there had been a lot of positive feedback after the installation of the village gates.

A member of the public asked if the council could appoint a SNAP representative as there was a vacancy. Cllr Graham Pickhaver will attend these meetings.

A parishioner asked about the condition of the footpath from the Reepham Road. It is understood that the landowner is in discussions with County Cllr Aquarone with regard to this.  
Cllr Matthew Pickhaver said that candidates for the current vacancies on the parish council need to be made aware that this role also covers the Higginbottom Recreational Charity.

**2022/161 To discuss matters arising from the minutes of the Briston Parish Council meeting held on 11 July 2022**

Cllr Seward said that he is still trying to contact District Cllr Stenton with regard to defibrillator training. In September all defibrillators need to go on the circuit. He is also looking into provision of First Responders.  
2022/138 Nothing more has been heard from the resident with regard to dog fouling. Cllr Matthew Pickhaver will contact the resident concerned.

2022/140 Concealed gates on Plantation Hill Estate. Nothing further has been done

The clerk will send clarification of her wage rise to Cllr Girling

**Action: Clerk**

2022/136 To highlight the problem of parking outside the Astley School Cllr Graham Pickhaver will get a piece put in the next edition of the school newsletter.

**2022/162 To consider and make observations on any planning applications which may be received  
Erection of six poultry sheds and associated development, including a biomass plant, general purpose block, pump house, switch room, substation, welfare block, changing unit, water tank, feed silos, LPG tank, access road and surface water pond.**

**Land at Shrubs Farm, Edgefield Road, Edgefield, Melton Constable NR24 2AT**

No objection or comment

**2022/163 To receive a statement in respect of the Trustee of the Higginbottom Recreational Charity**

On 9 May this Council voted to relinquish trusteeship of the HRC to independent trustees (minute 2022/93).

Two weeks ago, Butcher Andrews, the Parish Council's solicitor since 1928, sent us some documents concerning a separate matter. These documents did not come from the other, specialist solicitor with whom we had inquired about legal advice in the relinquishing process. To date, we have neither pursued nor paid for any such advice.

Among the documents were minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 24 August 1927 which record clearly Mr Higginbottom's wishes that the Recreation Ground, which he had purchased for the benefit of the village, 'be held by the Parish Council as trustees for all time'.

When I read this, personally I now felt that it would be unethical to go against the benefactor's wishes, even if it is legally possible to do so. I was not influenced in my view by anybody else, not the Clerk or any other councillor. Previously I had been defending the 9 May vote. The minutes of 24 August 1927 were then shared with all Councillors.

Usually a resolution cannot be revisited until six months has elapsed. But under Standing Orders no.7, if five or more councillors request a special motion, it can be voted on again. Six councillors have requested a special motion in this case, hence item 8 and a proposal to rescind the original resolution.

**2022/164 In the light of new information received to reverse a decision with regard to the Trustee of the Higginbottom Recreational Charity made at a meeting of Briston Parish Council held on 9 May 2022 (minute 2022/93 refers)**

Cllr Chambers said that he had been advised that you cannot remove a trusteeship.

Cllr Moulton said that the Charity Commissioners had advised that it was possible to transfer the trusteeship. He also said that the situation was very different when Mr Higginbottom gave the land to Briston Parish Council and possibly he may approve of this decision.

Cllr Girling asked if those who were voting for the decision would then start running the Briston Pavilion.

Cllr Matthew Pickhaver said it is false that the council is not running the Higginbottom Recreational Charity. Projects have been discussed and the council will put in place a management committee to run the Briston Pavilion. He had no doubt that the majority of parishioners wanted the Trusteeship to continue with Briston Parish Council.

Cllr Seward said that the council will look for a management committee and it has a wealth of experience to carry this out.

Cllr Matthew Pickhaver read out an email of support for the parish council to continue its Trusteeship from an anonymous parishioner.

Cllr Graham Pickhaver said that the scheme makes it clear that it is a Corporate Trusteeship. It also makes it clear that various parts of the management can be carried out by groups who are not councillors.

A parishioner said that they were pleased that the council realise how important the Briston Pavilion is to the village and would like to know future plans.

Cllr Matthew Pickhaver replied that there are volunteers who will take over the finances and bookings. The circumstances of some councillors have changed so more people are able to help with the Higginbottom Recreational Charity. Everybody who wants to help, can and he will be asking for volunteers through advertising.

A member of the public who is contracted by the Higginbottom Recreational Charity said that he needed to know what would happen to him in the future and who he would be liaising with. His contract ends in April 2023 and he would hope to start negotiations about renewing it in September.

Cllr Chambers proposed that the decision made at the council meeting on 9 May 2022 be reversed and the Corporate Trusteeship remain with Briston Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Seward. **Approved**

The Chairman, Cllr Matthew Pickhaver then made the following statement: The Parish Council will continue as corporate trustee of the Higginbottom Recreational Charity, which will continue to maintain, develop and manage both the recreation ground and the Pavilion, in keeping with Mr. Higginbottom's wishes.

To all those who recently volunteered to help with the running of the Pavilion etc. in whatever capacity, you have not wasted your time. Once a new management structure has been decided by a meeting of the Higginbottom Recreational Charity, you will be invited, along with any new volunteers from the community, to work with us to that end, e.g. as part of a new management committee. We will work with anyone willing to work with us.

**2022/165 To decide whether to hold a 'Carols on the Village Green' event in December and a suitable date**

The clerk asked for a date as she wished to start organising street food stalls. Cllr Mrs Green asked that there be mince pies and mulled wine. The date will be Wednesday 21 December.

**2022/166 To decide on whether to hold a Firework and Bonfire Display on the recreation ground and to start the organisational process**

The date of Friday 4 November had already been booked for this event. The clerk expressed concerns as to whether the parish council could meet the requirements of the insurance company with regard to the bonfire. Cllr Seward said that he thought the requirements were not particularly onerous.

**2022/167 To approve the purchase of dog bin in the vicinity of Cuckoo Bridge, Stone Beck Lane**

Proposed by Cllr Mrs Green. Seconded by Cllr Edwards **Approved**

**2022/168 To approve the purchase of a side edge repair kit for the slide on the play area on the Plantation Hill Estate**

This is to replace one that has been removed by vandals and will be supplied by Sovereign Design Play Systems at a cost of £148.02. Proposed by Cllr Edwards. Seconded by Cllr Chilton **Approved**

**2022/169 To agree on a signatory for the Briston Parish Council bank account owing to the resignation of a councillor**

Cllrs Seward and Chambers volunteered. **Agreed**

**2022/170 To approve the bank statement for July and the payments for August and reconciliations**

Proposed by Cllr Chambers. Seconded by Cllr Edwards **Approved**

Cllr Seward abstained as he is unclear as to the way the finances are presented.

The clerk asked for her back pay cheque to be deferred until she has sent out the workings to councillors

**Action: Clerk**

Bank Statement 30 Jun – 29 Jul 2022

Date	Description	Money out £	Money in £	Balance £
30 June	Start balance			28,366.63
30 June	Cheque – Allotment Society subs	66.00		28,300.63
30 June	CGM Grass cutting	1,908.00		26,392.63
1 July	Cheque – repay All Saints	24.00		26,368.63
4 July	Cheque – Sure Computers	29.00		26,339.63
5 July	Cheque – Minns churchyard grass	992.50		25,347.13
5 July	Cheque – Edwards payroll May	20.00		25,327.13
8 July	DD Plusnet	32.14		25,294.99
12 July	Cheque – Out of the Box jubilee	398.00		24,896.99
12 July	Cheque – NPTP induction training	44.00		24,852.99
21 July	DD Southern Electric	572.20		24,280.79
21 July	Cheque – HMRC PAYE May	251.02		24,029.77
21 July	Cheque – HMRC PAYE June	250.82		23,778.95
21 July	Cheque – CGM grass June	954.00		22,824.95
22 July	Cheque – Anglian Water Stone Road	16.48		22,808.47
22 July	Cheque – Anglian Water Poors	3.66		22,804.81
22 July	Cheque – NNDC Dog & Litter bins empty	1,932.84		20,871.97
25 July	Cheque – Dory benches village green	660.00		20,211.97
25 July	Cheque – TT Jones street lights	127.20		20,084.77
25 July	Cheque – Blyth & Wright	34.86		20,049.91
25 July	Cheque – Minns churchyard grass June	496.25		19,553.66
26 July	DD Pozitive Energy villa green energy	21.85		19,531.81
27 July	Cheque – Gallagher insurance premium	3,270.09		16,261.72
28 July	DD 1&1 Internet	8.40		16,253.32
28 July	SO R Twiddy salary July	299.54		15,953.78
28 July	SO Mrs J English salary July	664.00		15,289.78
29 July	Balance carried forward			15,289.78
	Total Payments/Receipts	13,076.85	0.00	

**Payments August**

£

Viking – stationery	61.64
T T Jones – street lights electrical testing	170.93
Westcotec – 2 x batteries for SAM2	210.60
Rafters Clean – office cleaning	48.00
CGM - Grass cutting July	954.00
Higginbottom Recreational Charity – office rent July	100.00
R Twiddy – back pay April, May, June, July and holiday pay	740.88
J English – back pay April, May, June, July	807.88
HMRC – PAYE	735.13
Paul Minns – Grass cutting	496.25
Structure-flex signage	1,188.00
Total	5,513.31

**Direct Debit and Standing Orders**

Plusnet – telephone	32.14
Pozitive Energy – village green electricity	21.85
IONOS Web hosting	8.40
J English	664.00
R Twiddy	299.54

Southern Electric – street light energy	590.47	
Total	1,616.40	7129.71

#### The Public Sector Deposit Fund

Statement 31 July 2022

01/07/22 Brought forward		38,170.74
01/07/22 Dividend reinvested	30.01	38,200.75
31/07/22 Carried forward		38,200.75

#### **2020/171 To receive a report from the Higginbottom Recreational Charity including actions from the meeting held on 28 July 2022**

As Cllr Moulton had been unable to attend the meeting owing to contracting Covid Cllr Matthew Pickhaver gave the report. The clerk is getting three quotes for a replacement fence along the access pathway. Tree work will take place on the Archery ground later in the year. The conifers will be cut down to 13foot. The concrete blocks will be removed on the recreation ground and the cricket strip. Following a report on the play area the clerk is meeting with the supplier to look at remedial action needed.

#### **2020/172 To receive a report from the Copeman Centre Committee - Clerk**

There was no meeting recently but the clerk reported that the audio system was now working and the visual system was being investigated.

#### **2020/173 To invite public participation**

The village sign which was in Mill Road has been restored by Norfolk County Council Highways Department and they are asking if the parish council wish it to be reinstated in its original position or put somewhere more visible. It was suggested that somewhere on the border of the village near the Co-op in Melton Constable might be a suitable position. It was also suggested that as Mill Road is getting busier it may be better to put it back in its original position. It was agreed to put this item on the September agenda in order to be able to discuss it further and make a decision.

Cllr Girling asked for an allotment inspection to be held as he had had complaints about rats.

The clerk will write to the cleaning contractor of the Briston Pavilion to clarify his position and say how pleased the council is with his work.

Cllr Girling asked if the owner of the fence adjacent to the Church Street car park could be contacted in relation to the condition of their fence.

Item for the next agenda: purchase of another SAM2 through funding from the Parish Partnership scheme

The next meeting of the Trustee of the Higginbottom Recreational Charity will be held on Monday 15 August at 7.30pm in the Nursery Room of the Briston Pavilion. This will be to discuss the way forward.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed:

Dated:

