

**BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of BRYMPTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the Jubilee Hall, Thorne Coffin (7.30 p.m.-9.35 p.m.)**

**PRESENT:**

Mrs E Glaisher (Chairman)  
Mr A Graham (7.50 p.m. – 9.35 p.m.)  
Mr C Legg  
Mr G Pritchard (7.3 5p.m.-9.35 p.m.)  
Mrs M Thomas

Mr P Dutton  
Mr C Lawrence  
Mr A Powell  
Mr P Seib

Mrs E M James (Clerk)

**Public Session**

Concerns were raised over pot holes in Church Hill and road through Thorne Coffin, together with concerns over the lack of hedge cutting, leading to reduced visibility on joining Thorne Lane.

**32/07. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE REASONS**

An apology for absence by reason of attendance at another meeting was received from Mr Meecham; this apology was accepted & approved. It was noted that Mr Graham would be late.

**33/07. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mrs Thomas declared a personal interest in items concerning the District Council, in particular agenda item no. 6, as an employee of South Somerset District Council. Mr Seib declared that as a District Councillor, he may be asked to consider matters at the District tier, which have already been considered by Brympton Parish Council. When this happens he will have to reconsider the matter at the District Council level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations made at that time. Similarly, as a District Councillor, he declared a Personal Interest in any agenda items affecting the relationship between Brympton Parish and South Somerset District Council. Mr Seib declared a specific personal interest in item 6 on the basis of being a District Councillor.

**34/07. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> May 2007**

After deletion of Mr A Graham from the list of members present the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

*Mr Pritchard at 7.35 p.m.*

**35/07. LOCALITY WORKING IN SOUTH SOMERSET**

At its meeting held on 28th March, the Parish Council was asked to identify up to three projects which realistically might be implemented in 2007/8 and up to 3 projects which are considered more aspirational and long-term in nature. It was agreed (minute no. 253(a)) that the three short term projects should be the Larkhill Open Space Project, a pedestrian crossing in Western Avenue and the refurbishment of the Abbey Community Centre. It was agreed to review this decision in view of further information received. Members had been given details of the criteria to be used by the County Council when considering each application.

*Mr Graham arrived at 7.50 p.m.*

Following discussion it was agreed that the three projects which realistically might be implemented in 2007/2008 would be:

- (a) A new bridge and tarmac path to join Acer Drive/West Book path to Abbot's Way. This will allow residents of Centurion Park to reach the Abbey Manor shops and facilities and will provide a safe, all season route to the site.
- (b) Youth facilities at Alvington – currently there are no facilities such as a youth shelter, goal posts etc. It was agreed that public consultation would be required.
- (c) To complete the footpath at the Audi garage and provision of a road crossing.

It was agreed that a working party comprising Mrs Glaisher, Mr Seib, Mr Legg and Mrs Thomas, will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> June to review the application.

Following discussion it was agreed that the three projects which were aspirational and long-term in nature would be:

- (d) Refurbishment/upgrade of Abbey Manor Community Centre
- (e) Completion of footpath along Stourton Way
- (f) Mead Avenue to Lufton 2000 Link

**36/07. YEOVIL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB – HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Mr Seib advised that as District Councillor he had requested Nigel Collins, South Somerset District Council Transport Officer, to reconvene the YTFC Football Liaison Committee. It was agreed to hold a Working Party on 15<sup>th</sup> June to discuss highway matters regarding Yeovil Town Football Club which will report back to the Parish Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Working Party will comprise Mrs Glaisher, Mr Meecham, Mr Dutton, Mr Legg, Mr Lawrence and District Councillor Richardson.

### **38/07. UNITARY COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

The Somerset Association of Local Councils, being specifically listed as a stakeholder in this proposal by the Secretary of State, had requested the views of the Parish Council to the proposal for a new "Unitary Council" for the Somerset County Council. SALC had requested that the Council give reasons for its views, together with any minority view expressed (with reasons) on a form provided, to be signed by both Chairman & Clerk. Each Councillor was given an opportunity to speak without interruption and following discussion on the issues raised a vote was taken. It was AGREED to support the proposals for a new "Unitary Council" for the Somerset County area.

#### **Reasons for the above view:**

- (a) Value for money – should give savings by economies of scale in number of councillors, officers and offices.
- (b) Improved services – should lead to a similar standard of service throughout the authority, services can be streamlined and use best practice. Services will become unified instead of competing with each other.
- (c) Parish Councils will have the opportunity to take on services if they wish.
- (d) A stronger voice – one large Council will carry much more weight with the government, grant funders, etc.
- (e) Reduction in confusion - currently parishioners are often confused as to which roles each authority undertakes – a unitary council will be easier to use.

#### **Minority Views**

##### (a) Democratic deficiency

Workload may be impossible for unitary ward members. It may mean the start of "career Councillors" as the workload and travel time will prevent working members getting involved. Must ensure that parish councils are consulted and listened to.

##### (b) Local area panels

Lack of steer for area panels currently in existence. Will this be another South Somerset District Council – bureaucracy must be kept at a minimum. Will local people be able to access Area Committees to ensure local knowledge is not lost.

##### (c) Savings

Question financial ability to deliver 5 yrs of 2% Council tax increase. Do not believe the figures are achievable. Believe there will be more than 65 redundancies and will lead to job losses in the area.

##### (d) Granularity

Too few Councillors to staff quorate neighbourhood Committees. Only 80% of population is parished

### **39/07. QUESTIONS AND ITEMS ARISING AFTER THE PREPARATION OF THIS AGENDA, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN AGREES TO TAKE AS URGENT. SUCH MATTERS FOR NOTING OR DEFERRAL TO A FUTURE MEETING ONLY**

None