

Little Brook Ward Meeting

Held on Monday, 23rd July at 7.30pm in Aynho Village Hall

Present

Evenley Parish Council

Cllr Cathy Ellis (Chair)

Cllr Jeff Peyton-Bruhl

Cllr Charles Reader

Cathy Knott (Clerk)

Brian Sinclair (Warden)

Cllr Jean Morgan

Croughton Parish Council

Cllr Virginia Griffiths

Cllr Penny Forbes (Chair)

Cllr Chris Fox

Cllr Pamela Gelder

Cllr Brian Tomlin

Mrs Ann Le Druillenec (Clerk)

Aynho Parish Council

Cllr Fi Burge

Cllr David Dean

Cllr Stephen Brook

Cllr Leslie Leighton (Chair)

Chris Wilson (Clerk)

Cllr Rebecca Breese, NCC

Cllr John Townsend, SNC

Cllr Gregor Hopkins, SNC

Cllr Ronnie Irving (Vice-Chair), Kings Sutton PC

Cllr Diana Sheasby, Newbottle PC

Cllr Andrea Gladden, Newbottle PC

John Umney, Our Bus Bartons

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Leslie Leighton, chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from:

Evenley Parish Council

Cllr Mike Baul

Cllr Spencer Burnham

Cllr Sue Ricketts

Croughton Parish Council

Cllr Rodger James

Cllr Trevor Davies

Aynho Parish Council

Cllr Andy Anderson

Cllr Jeremy James

Cllr Bob Mann

Cllr Chris Reynolds

Cllr Rachel Moroney

2. To Approve the Minutes of the Ward meeting hosted by Evenley Parish Council on 29th Jan 2018

It was proposed and agreed to approve the Minutes.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. To receive Reports:

To receive an update from County Councillor Rebecca Breese, NCC

County Cllr Breese reported that the consultation on the unitary submission had closed on 22nd July and the initial results out on 6th August. Roughly 1% of the population had responded. Proposals would be voted by the 8 authorities on 30th August. NCC has to make savings – huge cuts needed to cover £40-£60m per year. James Brokenshire MP (Communities Secretary) said there would be no extra funds. NCC had looked for voluntary redundancies however a low uptake. Local elections may be delayed till 2020 however government needs to issue orders and this may not happen till February 2019. Cherwell & SNC have agreed to separate and working to do this in next 6 months.

Questions/Answers

Concerns were raised about the level of debt, it was explained NCC have a statutory duty to balance the books. The structure of the new unitary was discussed and how highways, children services etc would fit.

Cllr Leighton thanked Cllr Breese.

To receive an update from District Councillor John Townsend, SNC

Cllr Townsend announced he was not looking to be re-elected at next elections. Latest unitary developments didn't seem to make sense with the areas, W Northants having no connection with Northampton. A meeting with Andrea Leadsom MP provided no answers, Cllr Townsend urged residents to write to MP and Secretary of State. NCC had a vast debt and this is technically shared at constituent level. NCC was once the best County Council, new team running unitaries need to be the best people.

Questions/Answers

None

Cllr Leighton thanked Cllr Townsend.

9. Closure of 499 Bus Service

Aynho had had a meeting earlier in July, not an overwhelming turn out, however the number was significant and needs discussed on grounds of health, shopping and social aspects. John Umney (Our Bus Bartons) explained Middle Barton was exactly in the same position few years ago, OCC had removed the subsidy to Stagecoach and therefore the services were withdrawn. A few local people (not PC) got together and looked into the options of a voluntary not-for-profit service. This developed to getting a small loan £6000 (from member of public) which was subsequently paid back after 3 months of the service starting. The services have expanded now visiting Deddington, Chipping Norton, Bicester and Kidlington. Shoppers are the main user. Now looking for a third bus.

Questions:

How many journeys a week? The service had run 2 yrs at end Aug, 10,000 passenger Journeys.

Fares? Single £3, Return £5, also able to purchase bus passes £10 or £20 with 50% discount.

Who volunteers? They have 9+ drivers and a rota is compiled.

Do you need a licence? A car licence is sufficient for driving bus 14-16 people.

How did you assess and get community involvement? They had a public meeting and small amount of people had a vested interest (disabled child that needed access to college/work).

How did you develop routes? Started locally then expanded as when community required, initially the bus catered for 20 regular users.

How funded? Under licence 22 a 100% rebate is possible from OCC on bus passes, other fund-raising events too. COOP and Deddington Farmers market have sponsored.

Insurance and maintenance? Specialist company for insurance and local garages deal with maintenance.

Outcome:

Consensus on 5 parish collective and need to get volunteers, KS reported their Thursday Shopper get ~8 users.

5. A43 Brackley Tesco roundabout

It was discussed that the new roundabout works very well, the sequencing of the lights gives more opportunity when Evenley residents try and leave their village. Grass cutting of verges for visibility was discussed.

6. Local Government boundary review

This would be after 2020 when the unitary authorities in place, Evenley PC reported they had a change to boundary losing Tesco/Petronas sites.

7. Update on developments at RAF Croughton

Croughton PC reported this was on-hold pending a review, also a new commander was in post, Col Bridget McNamara.

8. Community Health Initiative

Nothing to discuss.

10. Northamptonshire Highways – reduction in gritting and provision of grit bins

This was discussed however was at early stages, approximate cost to fill a bit is £50.

11. LGR – cancel parish and town council elections and hold them in May 2020

Nothing to discuss, see Cllr Breese report.

12. Parish News

Aynho Parish Council:

- Ongoing streetlighting project, some issues discussed getting quotes (3 required).

Croughton Parish Council:

- Dog bins.
- Funding to replace old style lights.
- Allotment wall structural review.

Evenley Parish Council:

- Applying to HS2 fund to get speed restrictions.
- Westbury/Mixbury sites assigned for HS2 development.
- A43 roundabout works.
- Streetlighting around Green – looking to HS2 community fund.

13. Date of next meeting to be held in Croughton Village Hall on Monday 28th January 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm and refreshments were served.