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Brafield on the Green Parish Council

Following the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 17th May, there are no changes to the Councillors representing Brafield for the coming year, with Gill Morgan being re-elected as Chair and Helen Barnell as Vice Chair. The Annual Report detailing the work of the P.C. over the last year, will be published on the Village Website shortly.

Information Booklet Amendments: Volunteer Car scheme : page 37 : Sadly Peter Loake died some months ago though Mo Loake, his wife, continues the scheme and has the same contact number. Do, please, continue to contact the Parish Council if you come across other changes that need amending.

Unpaid Workers

Following the successful visit of Unpaid Workers to Brafield last year when they cleared part of the Bridle Path, the Parish Council, through the Northants Probation Service, invited them to pay a return visit this year. On Sunday 25th April another group of six Unpaid Workers plus their supervisor, Caesar, came here as part of the Community Payback Scheme. They spent approximately six hours clearing the area by the Billing Road bus shelter and adjacent path which had become overgrown and congested. They pruned shrubs and self-set saplings to allow the grass creep on the verge to be cut back along that stretch. It is now possible for mobility scooters, buggies and pedestrians to pass along that footpath without feeling quite so close to the busy road. The Parish Council, on behalf of residents has written to Rob Paul at the Probation Service to ask him to thank them all for their time and effort. The Parish Council is also very grateful to Roy and Mark Arrowsmith for their generosity in again providing a trailer in which the workers could dump their spoils.

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

The Parish Council arranged for the BTCV to come to Brafield on Wednesday 28th April to carry out maintenance work on our beautiful village pond. Six volunteers with their supervisor, Emma Connolly, spent six hours working hard on clearing gullies (to allow water to drain into the pond from the road to prevent flooding), dredging the pond, cutting back dead or overgrown vegetation, and trimming trees. They spent a little extra time at the end of the afternoon cutting back shrubs in the Village Hall car park, and trimming some edges of the footpath through the Churchyard. We are grateful to them for all their efforts. The Parish Council is aware that the culvert at the lower end of the pond has collapsed, but this can only be repaired successfully when the water level in the pond drops sufficiently to enable access. When this occurs, the BTCV will return to carry out the necessary work on our behalf.

Open Day at Yardley Chase Training Area on 20th June 2010.

Yardley Chase Training Area is approximately 10 miles south of Northampton (post code NN7 2BQ) and extends to approximately 200 hectares. Many people are aware that the site was a former ordnance storage depot but may not be aware that it is now used as a training area by cadets and regular army units. The vast majority of the area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) comprising species rich pastures, wood-pasture, coppice, woodlands, and ancient trees and is particularly recognised for its butterflies and dragonflies which frequent the numerous bunker ponds. This is probably one of the most diverse wildlife sites in the County, and is made more special by the fact it is normally closed to the public. The tour starts at 10am at the main gate and will last until around 3pm; however there is the option to only do the morning or afternoon session rather than the full day. Parking and toilets are available on site. Unfortunately due to the presence of livestock and wildlife on site it is requested that dogs are not taken on the tour. If you are interested in attending the Open Day, please contact Paul Evans from the Ministry of Defence on 01842 855184 or paul.evans@de.mod.uk to pre-book a place.

Pre Planning Application Advice

In April this year South Northants Council introduced a new pre-planning application advice service for commercial agents and residents. As well as offering advice on planning matters they can also advise whether planning permission is required. A fee is generally charged for providing this service. For further information contact the Development Services Manager on 01327 322270 or visit the SNC website.

Police Matters

We would like to offer a warm welcome to P.C. Andrew Scott who joins our local Community Team as a replacement for P.C. Roger Smith who has moved to the Towcester area. The Parish Council has written to Roger Smith thanking him for his service to Brafield. Andrew Scott attended the last Parish Council meeting and hoped that he would be able to work as successfully with our community as did his predecessor.

There has been a marked increase in **car key burglary** recently and residents are warned to be on their guard against this type of crime. Such burglaries usually occur overnight with access to properties ranging from simply walking in through an insecure door to fishing door keys through a letterbox with a hook. Many vehicles, particularly high value cars, have been stolen as a result. Please keep house and car keys out of sight and reach of doors and windows at all times. Do not keep house keys in the lock, but do ensure you can find them easily in the case of an emergency.

Abnormal Load

On Sunday April 18th the enormous electrical transformer mentioned in the last Newsletter, passed along the Billing Road through Brafield, slightly earlier and more quickly than anticipated, to the Grendon Electricity Sub Station. The load which was 5.02 metres wide, 66 metres long and weighed 220 tons was escorted by police outriders! If you are interested but missed it, you may like to look at the village website where there are several photographs. Click on the 'Latest site changes' button on the Home Page.

Ian Ledingham, Senior Traffic Management Officer with Northamptonshire Police has asked the Parish Council to pass on the following message to all concerned: 'Just a brief note to say that the abnormal load movement went smoothly on Sunday and thanks to everyone who assisted in keeping the road clear.'

Cogenhoe Fun Day

Cogenhoe are planning to hold an inter-village competition of sports type events in their village on Sunday 18th. July 2010 and wondered if adjacent villages would be interested in entering teams for this. This could involve Pub teams, village groups etc.

Please contact Gary Deer on 07939 255641 for more information.

Elizabeth Packer Cogenhoe Parish Council

Village Spring Clean

A big thank you to all the volunteers who came to our annual village litter pick on April 10th. We couldn't have asked for a nicer day with clear blue skies and lovely spring sunshine. In total we gathered over 30 large bin bags of litter with the Bedford Road and Horton Road areas needing the most attention. We managed to clear the village and even had a team who walked to the village lay-by on the A428 to join volunteers from Little Houghton to clear the rubbish there, so an additional thank you for that.

As always we were amazed at what was found in our verges, hedges and ditches. The remnants of a pram, an old rusty wheelbarrow and road cones are just a few examples of this year's litter 'treasure trove'.

Sadly, we are aware that a considerable amount of roadside waste is thrown from passing cars – such as packaging from take away meals etc.

Lolly sticks and cigarette ends continue to be a problem, which may seem trivial but, together with a large number of cans and plastic bottles, they add up to a considerable amount of waste in the Parish. Please bin these items properly – if you are concerned that there are not enough bins for this type of rubbish around the village, please contact a member of the PC to discuss the matter, we may be able to arrange for more public bins.

As for strange behaviour, we can't understand why some people dutifully clean up after their dog but then throw the waste bags away during their walk? It is not a very pleasant job for the volunteers having to fish bags of dog litter out of bushes and trees. Please take this home and bin it properly.

Brafield on the Green is a lovely village so let's all be vigilant and take litter home with us to dispose of properly. PLEASE NOTE: Although we have some litter bins provided around the village SNC have asked us to remind residents that these should NOT be used for dog litter bags.

George Care

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council learned of the death of George Care in April this year. George served as a Parish Councillor for many, many years retiring in May 2002. We are sure the whole village will want to join us in paying tribute to his many years of service to our community.

St Laurence Church Flower Festival and Village Fete

Saturday June 12th and Sunday June 13th
1.30 – 4.30 each day.

Raffle - Tombola - Cakes - Books - Plants
Bric a Brac - Refreshments and much more!

Church Lane from the Green to the Church
will be closed to traffic at these times.

Next Parish Council Meeting:
Monday 5th July at 7.30 p.m. in the Sargeant Memorial Hall Brafield

**Members of the public are most welcome to attend any meeting
At the start of the Parish Council meeting, time is set aside for public enquiries**