

Meeting of Brompton Town Council held on line on Tuesday 18th August 2020

PRESENT – On line – Councillors Dr K Carveley, Mrs S Haynes, Mrs E Kelly, Mrs M Shiel Dods, Mr M Langthone and Mr B Martin (in the Chair).

There was one member of the public present on line together with County Councillor D Hugill.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs S Brigginsshaw (holiday commitment) and from Councillor S O'Sullivan (family commitment).

No declarations of interests were made on any items on the agenda.

- 2 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC – AGREED – That the Public be excluded from the meeting for items 21 and 22 on the agenda under the provisions of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as the disclosure of information would at the present time be prejudicial to public interest.

3. MINUTES.

AGREED – That Public and Private Sections the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st July 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

The Clerk reported that the Local Crime Report for the current monthly period had not yet been received and undertook to email it to Councillors in due course.

The landlord of the Three Horse Shoes had been sent a similar letter that had recently been sent to all letting agents in the town about the letting of properties to persons who became involved in drug related offences. To date no response has been received.

There had been a number of instances particularly damage to vehicles outside of the Three Horse Shoes and where it was also believed that one of the tenants may be the owner of a dog that may have been involved in an incident on the BRG field that had been reported to the Police.

The Clerk reported that the Councils web site had been updated with a page dedicated to reporting crime as agreed at the last meeting.

A "CCTV May Be Operating In This Area" sign had been put on the outside wall of the bus shelter where the old notice board used to be. AGREED – That the Clerk look for an appropriate place to put the second CCTV sign at the crossroads in the centre of the village.

Wilsden Parish Council is surveying all local Councils in Yorkshire about CCTV asking -

Have Councils found CCTV beneficial?
Have Councils encountered difficulties?
Would Councils recommend it as a course of action?

The results of this survey would be very interesting to Brompton Town Council.

A Councillor asked if in general there was a problem with dog walkers in the village and it was thought that there was not.

5. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.

The Clerk reported that the Council's insurers had recently sent information about the re-opening of play areas to the public. Much of the recommended information would simply not be workable at the recreation ground and at Water End - eg -

Periodic washing down of the play equipment during each day

Monitoring of the users to ensure that they were of the same family and that for each family only one adult was present

Someone to be on site to monitor the usage of the play area

Advising users that if the play area was busy they be told go back home and come back later

Providing hand sanitiser etc at the play area for use by users

It was noted that there did not appear to be any large volume of usage of the play equipment currently at either site.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) Boulders

The 30 large boulders kindly donated to the Council by Emily Kelly and her husband had been positioned on the west side of Water End where the Council agreed boulders needed to be sited when it had its annual walk round the village in 2019. The donation of these boulders had been an enormous saving to the Council and was very much appreciated. Councillors also expressed their appreciation for the work of Mr Paul Toman and his brother Robert in siting the boulders so quickly.

(ii) Tree Works

Further wind-blown branches had been removed from trees this month by Hillside Tree Surgeons before they fell onto passers by. The Chairman commented on the good work that was carried out by these tree contractors who always arrived in the village very quickly to deal with any issues that had been reported to them.

The Clerk reported that Mr Whitehead the arboriculturalist had confirmed that he would be in the village carrying out the continuation of the tree surveys that had been suspended due to the coronavirus situation. Mr Whitehead would also at the same time carry out the summer leaf condition survey and would also inspect the trees in the Recreation Ground as these had not been part of his schedule of works in the past as they were outside of the Conservation Area but their condition was a requirement of the Council's Insurers.

Councillor Briginshaw had suggested that the trees around the greens be labelled for educational purposes for school children with their Latin and common names. The Chairman considered that the labels could be produced in-house. The Clerk advised that from the tree schedule he could ascertain how many labels for each variety of tree would be required,

AGREED – That the suggestion of the labelling of the trees be proceeded with.

(iii) Bowe Bridge

The Clerk reported that the County Councils Bridges Inspector had looked at the condition of Bowe Bridge and had agreed, as noted by Councillors on their annual walk round the village that the north side of the bridge had deteriorated since it was last inspected two years ago. Repair works would be carried out in 2021/22 but a word of caution has been added in stating "budget permitting".

(iv) AJ1 Road Safety Projects Fund Application.

The Clerk reported that following the walk round the village an application had been made to the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding from the £190,000 monies obtained via the sale of the

former Chief Constables car registration plate AJ1. The Council had previously indicated that it would support an application from the school to the Road Safety Projects Fund however no project was forthcoming from the school and in view of the current school holidays and the deadline closing date of the 31st August it was agreed that the Council submit its own application for funding.

The application was for a Vehicle Activated Sign to position on Lead Lane due to the increase in traffic volume and speeds since the near completion of the North Northallerton housing development and the fact that there was no footpath along Lead Lane. Councillor Langthorne had agreed to periodically rotate the sign so that it captures traffic speeds in both directions as is done by a Northallerton Town Councillor for the VAS on Yafforth Road.

The application for funding towards the sign and related signage was a total project of £7,000 but was a matched funded application with 50% being from the Town Council and 50% from the AJ Fund as it was considered that this would have a greater degree of success than asking for the full £7,000.

AGREED – That the submission of the application be endorsed.

(v) Hedge Cutting

NYCC Highways had confirmed that the Highways Inspector would look at all of the locations that the Council had reported of hedges that were overgrown obstructing parts of footpaths and the cycle path. The County Council had agreed to write to the owners of properties who were responsible for maintaining these hedges asking that they be cut back.

AGEED – That as advised in an email from Mrs S Butler NY Highways be also asked to look at the cutting back of the hedge of Little Lane at its junction with Stokesley Road.

(iv) Former Councillor Mr David Winter

Mr David Winter who served on the Council for many years in the 2000's died earlier this month.

(vii) Dog Bins

The new proprietor of The Green Tree Inn contacted the Council recently to request that a dog/Litter bin be placed in that locality as there are currently none in that location. Councillors Mrs Shiel Dods and Mrs Brigginsshaw (who could not join the village walk round) have looked at the issue and recommend that there is a need for two Dog/Litter bins in that location. The cost of two bins through HDC would be in the region of £740.00.

A Councillor had looked at other dog bin options which would possibly be cheaper but HDC would not collect the waste from these bins and as long as the HDC bins were there HDC would be collect from them as they had been for the past 20+ years.

AGREED – That two dog bins be purchased from HDC to be sited at either end of the path from The Green Tree to Danes Crest.

(viii) Bollards

Councillors had looked at the parking situation at the crossroads and agreed that there was a necessity to acquire four bollards rather than the three that had previously been agreed to place in the cobbles outside the Three Horse Shoes and one on the opposite corner leading up to Lead Lane. Councillors Mrs Shiel Dods and Mrs Brigginsshaw in their walk round had also recommended that bollards needed to be placed on the cobbles outside the Crown Inn. However at approximately £175 each for bollards that met the required highway safety standards if bollards were to be agreed for outside the Crown Inn then these may need to wait until the 2021.2022 financial year.

However as the positioning of these bollards were deemed to be “works within the highway” an application had had to be made for a Licence to carry out these works. At the present time the result of the application was not known but there were several reasons as to why the Council may not be

granted such a Licence. The Clerk reported that if a licence was not granted then this issue would require a rethink.

The Chairman mentioned that one of the NY Highways Engineers had informed him that he had his own highways business and the Chairman said that he would pass the details to the Clerk so that he could ascertain if this firm could carry out the works for the bollards and that if so the Chairman and Councillor Langthorne meet with the Engineer.

(viii) Hedge Fronting the Councils Car Park

Councillor Briggins had suggested that when the Council gets round to resurfacing the car park the frontage be lined with a new willow hedge professionally layed so that it would grow properly. Councillors recalled that the site had been originally fronted by a Hawthorne hedge and a specialist company had been engaged from York to reinvigorate the hedge when the car park was originally constructed. However with 18 months the hedge was completely dead.

A resident had also asked that the car park site boundary along the beck side be fenced as children climb down the embankment and then to along the beck to play under the bridge.

It had been suggested that the same arrangement for resurfacing the car park be used as for the recent car park works at the allotments site. If this is agreed costings of the whole project can be brought to the September Council meeting. Councillor Langthorne considered that the works of replaying the car park and moving the white fence would take two days.

The Chairman suggested that in carrying out the works to the car park consideration be given to forming a footpath along the road side as at present pedestrians had to walk along the road. This could more easily be achieved if the new footpath was grass.

AGREED – That the costings for the works to the car park be brought to the September meeting.

(ix) Former Electricity Sub-Station Site

On four occasions in the past the Council had endeavoured to acquire the former electricity sub-station site adjacent to the Councils car park from NEDL. The last occasion had been in 2015 when NEDL indicated that it did not wish to sell the site then or at any time in the future as there was valuable equipment under the site which it may have to use in the future and the site would also be held in reserve. NEDL didn't have any objection to the Council removing overgrowth from the site but was not a position to do so itself.

The Councils workmen had cut down the vegetation on the site several times but at the present time the site was very overgrown.

If the site came into the ownership of the Council it would provide a further two car parking spaces and would enable any fencing of the beck side to be carried out as one project.

The Clerk had therefore again written to Northern Powergrid (the successors to NEDL) to request that they sell the site to the Council especially as when overgrown it restricted the visibility of traffic leaving the car park of vehicles approaching from Water End. A reply was awaited.

AGREED - That in the meantime the Councils workman cut back the overgrowth on the site.

(x) New Gas Connection

The Clerk reported that consent had been granted to Northern Gas Networks to connect a domestic gas line at 25 Water End to the main gas pipe that lay along the Village Green at Water End subject to any necessary reinstatement works being carried out.

AGREED – That the action taken be endorsed.

(xi) Flowering Cherry Trees in the Churchyard

It had been noticed on the village walk round that three of the trees in the churchyard that were planted three or four years ago were not the same variety of flowering cherry trees as the original trees. It was therefore agreed that subject to the agreement of the PCC these three trees be taken out and replanted elsewhere and that semi-mature flowering cherry trees to match the original trees be planted in their place.

(xii) Blue Bin Trade Refuse Collection Service

The Clerk reported that Yorwaste had confirmed that the blue bin collection from the cemetery would re-commence in the current week.

(xiii) Works Schedule

Boulders on the west side of the Green at Water end
Repair of trip hazard at the middle bridge at Water End with cold pour tarmac
Various strimming works and cutting of paths at the wild flower area
Repair of memorial plaque to Janet Kirk
Cleaning of notice board at Danes Crest
Further weeding of the Church Wall
Cutting back of secondary growth that was left whilst birds were nesting
New latts for seat dedicated to child on Church Green
Divots to be filled in Water End Green
Loose iron railings outside the Village Hall to be secured

(ix) Purchase of Laptop.

AGREED -That a Dell Inspiron Laptop and Bit Defender anti-virus with a monthly MS 365 Works package be purchased.

Councillor Haynes reported the advantages of purchasing the MS 356 Works by monthly subscription as updates would be automatic.

(x) Footpath from The Green Tree Inn to Danes Crest.

Councillor Haynes had looked into the cost of the footpath directions signs.

In due course the footpath could be advertised on the Councils web suite and on the Brompton Community Facebook page.

It was pointed out that the whole area along the footpath was overgrow and untidy and there was a need for some hedgecutting. AGREED – That – (i) the Clerk write to landowner outlining the Councils intentions and ascertain how the Council could work together with the landowner, and (ii) the Road Safety Working Group look into the whole issue further and also see if the new proprietor of The Green Tree Inn would like to be involved in the project..

7. CHAIRMAN'S/VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

No actions have been reported to date.

8. REPORTS + REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

(i) Walk Round the Village – Wednesday 29th July 2020.

Churchyard.

Agreed to replace the first cherry tree on the right hand side through the Lych Gate towards the Church and the two end ones towards the Church in the Autumn and to replace them with semi-mature flowering cherry trees to match the existing and to replant the ones removed elsewhere. The Clerk to inform the PCC.

Headstones to be inspected as soon as a Stonemason is able to do it but large backlog in this inspection work due to coronavirus.

That the missing side gate next to the Lych Gate be not replaced.

Recreation Ground

Although no visit was made to the Recreation Ground the Clerk reported that Matthew Day of Streetscape had said that he could remove all of the bolts on the swings at the Recreation Ground and at Water End to advise of their condition. There were also hidden nylon grommets that he would be able to inspect.

AGREED – That a letter of thanks be sent to the resident on Station Road who had permitted Miles and the Clerk to look at his BMX track.

CCTV

Councillor Haynes had had a meeting with a company who are going to come forward with some proposals. It was not possible to mount on the existing pole at the Recreation Ground as had originally been intended and would need a separate post.

Monitoring was a matter for discussion. The Chairman pointed to the need to adhere to Freedom of Information requirements.

The company had recommended that in connection CCTV monitoring in the area signage be put up as this had proved to be effective elsewhere.

Councillor Haynes was still awaiting a response with quotations for various options.

Station Road Crossroads.

Councillors stood at this location for quite a time and watched the traffic. Very little traffic crossed from Northallerton Road to Cockpit Hill but the traffic from Lead Lane to Station Road was relatively heavy in both directions.

It was agreed that the layout and widths of the roads were unsuitable for the priority of traffic to be changed so that Northallerton Road - Cockpit Hill took preference over Station Road – Lead Lane.

The Clerk explained the plans that had been drawn up by Highway Engineers engaged by the Council to put a case for a mini-roundabout as requested by residents. The major cost of the proposal would be all the advance signing and lining that would be needed in the four directions.

Councillor Haynes pointed out that motorists did not necessarily stop at mini-roundabouts and the Chairman commented that that was mainly due to the fact that people did not know who had the right of way.

AGREED - That the Council continue to maintain the mini-roundabout as the solution for the traffic in the centre of the village.

The position in of the bollards to assist with visibility - two on the corner outside the former Three Horse Shoes and one on the opposite corner of Lead Lane + an additional bollard to stop parking on the footpath leading to and from Lead Lane when the bollard restricting the current parking on the cobbles at this location is installed.

Also agreed that NY Highways be asked to reinstate “Stop” sign on the carriageway at the foot of Cockpit Hill and the associated white lines.

AJ1 Monies.

It was agreed that an application be put in for monies from the AJ1 fund for a vehicle activated sign on Lead Lane. Miles agreed to be the Councillor who would be responsible for turning the sign round so that periodically it captured vehicles in both directions.

Tree at Crossroads

It was seen how detrimental the tree on the Green at the foot of Cockpit Hill fronting the three terraced properties was to the light to those houses through their windows.

AGREED – That the Clerk make an application be made to HDC to cut this tree back.

Bowe Bridge

It was seen that on the north side of the bridge the sandstone in places had substantially deteriorated over the past 12 months. In fact in one or two positions it seemed as though it would not be very long before there was a hole right through the bridge.

BRG Field.

Councillor O'Sullivan pointed out where the fence would go and the positioning of the gates.

Reservations were expressed about the need for the further fence along the beck side that the Football Club were applying for a grant for as it was felt that this would not be in keeping with the rurality of the overall area.

It was noted that the majority of people who walked their dogs did so around the outsides of the football pitches. It was suggested that appropriate signing such as "When walking your dog please keep to the outside of the field" be considered.

Concerns were expressed that the condition of the trees along the beck side were unknown, these not having been inspected for over four years. Indeed it was not known if there were any tree branches in the beck along this length of water that could in heavy rainfall be washed further down and cause of flooding problems.

Boulders.

Agreed that Emily Kelly be thanked for her kind offer of the boulders from her garden.

It was suggested that as well as the large boulders which would be good to add to the Green at Water End the flat ones that she had shown in her recent photo would make nice features around the daffodils etc on the Greens.

In crossing over the style at the rear of the BRG field it was noticed that there were a pile of boulders very similar to those on the Greens. It was suggested that Councillor Brigginsshaw be asked if she knew if these were for sale.

Water End Green.

There were a number of divots in the Green that needed to be filled up by the workman – the soil from the front of the car park could be used for this.

AGREED - That when the new notice board is erected near the Water Splash it be positioned a couple of metres back from where the current notice board is sited.

It was pointed out that Councillor Brigginsshaw was looking into the information boards for the wildlife area.

Councillor Langthorne pointed out that the far end of the green past the Water Splash had never been cut historically.

Councillor Haynes would be asking the Allotments Group for help at their next meeting on the 8 August.

Councillor Langthorne said that as the ground had been untouched for so many years it would need a professional rotovating machine to break it up but he could arrange for this and for a tractor to pull it or alternatively the min-digger.

Mention was made of the field behind the Green that belonged to the late Dr Barraclough and it was noted that this was currently rented out. It would be useful if at some time in the future the Council could acquire this area as if any part of the Greens needed to be used for another purpose this land could be put forward as the alternative as use of Greens was only permitted if alternative area of the same size was used to replace it. The land could also be used as allotments.

On the east side of the Green the Clerk pointed out the concerns of the owner of the end bungalow (incidentally his former wife who lives next door has also been on phone today expressing her concerns). It was agreed for the workman to strim the north side of the bridge in line with white fence post. It was pointed out that the main concern was related to the height of the edges of the beck sides which was the responsibility of the flood group.

It was intended to plant up the west side opposite the end bungalow - the Clerk to inform the occupiers of the bungalow.

It was also noticed that there were branches in the beck but the Council could not remove these and would inform the Flood Group.

Secondary Growth

It was noted that there was a lot of secondary growth to be removed from trees at Water End – Agreed that the workman be asked to carry this out.

It was noted that all the trees had numbers on them and it was thought a good idea for them to have identifying signs naming the species of each tree especially for the education of schoolchildren.

Barry reported that a resident had offered a sycamore and it was decided that this could best be placed where a tree had been removed passed the Water Splash.

Mention was made that another resident had some Horse Chestnut trees ready to plant out but it was considered that these should not a variety of tree to be planted on the Greens due to current disease issues with horse chestnut trees which could cause problems for future generations if they were planted on the Greens.

Janet Kirk Plaque

To be fixed back on its plinth by the workman.

Car Park at bottom of Cockpit Hill.

Councillor Langthorne pointed out that there would be no need to relay the existing membrane and this would be a large saving. It was estimated that 60 tons of gravel would be needed to start with and the car park works could be done using the same arrangement as had been the case for the allotments car park.

It was also agreed to move the white fence line out about two metres which would still leave sufficient room for emergency vehicles to access the rear of the School.

Crossing Point at foot of Danes Crest

A crossing point over Cockpit Hill from Danes Crest was suggested by the Chairman. This would have to come further to the south than had been anticipated to line up with pavement from Danes Crest

that ran along the south side of the highway. It would be necessary to lay the path in tarmac and to create a new step so that mobility users etc would not have any difficulties with access.

New Development off Danes Crest.

Concerns about site traffic access and about the height of the soil mound behind the existing houses on Cockpit Hill. Councillor Shiel Dods subsequently reported that she would ask the Enforcement Officer to inspect the site.

Footpath to and from the Village to Stokesley Road.

It was seen that a number of finger post signs would be required for users of the footpath as the route was not straight forward. One would be required at Danes Crest/ Cockpit Hill entrance, another at the Dane Law Road junction, another at the flats at Danes Crest and one pointing to the path alongside the field stating – “To Stokesley Road” and there would be a need for signs in the opposite direction stating “To the Village”

There were two large piles of tree branches etc in two different locations at the Danes Crest estate alongside the footpath route having obviously been recently cut out of gardens and dumped – The Clerk to report this to Muir Housing.

Also agreed that the workman clean up the notice board on the entrance to the Danes Crest estate as it is covered in green slime.

Councillor Langthorne suggested that the footpath alongside the field towards the Green Tree would best be covered with pea gravel to provide a good surface for the winter.

Wall and iron railings outside the Village Hall.

Councillors looked at the deteriorating condition of the wall on both sides of Cockpit Hill. The Clerk had sent photos to HY Highway and was still awaiting a reply.

Some of the iron railings along the wall on the Village Hall side seem to have worked themselves loose – Clerk to ask the workman if he is able to tighten them up.

AGREED – That the actions listed above be endorsed.

9. PLANNING MATTERS.

Applications -

20/01640/CAT - Proposed work to trees within a conservation area to fell Ash tree, Sycamore tree to thin crown by 15% and to use this thinning to reduce radius and crown by up to 1m at 6 Cockpit Hill – No objections.

The Vice-Chairman reported that an outline planning application to build house on a site to the east of Stokesley Road opposite the new Thurston Road development had been submitted to HDC Planning. This was within Northallerton Parish therefore Brompton Council would not be consulted on the planning application but this would be the first of 650 houses to be built on the site and she had serious concerns about the traffic effects on Stokesley Road.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

The Co-op Funeral Services (Burial fee)	60.00
Dales of Thirsk (Inscription fees)	39.00

Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	55.00
Northern Electric PLC (Annual Wayleaves)	348.55
Mrs A Wetherall (Burial Plot fee)	500.00
<u>Payments –</u>	
P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	29.55
HMRC (PAYE – in credit £37.20)	30.80
CE + CM Walker (July grasscutting)	1,459.20
Sam Turner and Sons (Brushwood killer, Postfix+ stakes)	67.52
P Atkin (Reimbursement of cost of Laminator and pouches	28.83
+ Dell Inspiron Laptop £499.00 + MS Office recurring monthly subscription £9.40, + Bit Defender £30.55 <u>One cheque – total £567.78</u>	
Metcalfe Farms (Gravel for allotments car park)	315.90
J T Atkinsons (bulk bag of gravel etc)	126.82
Mr P Toman (114.5 hours labour)	1,365.00
Mr P Toman (Expenses – fuel +unleaded for lawnmower)	35.00
Mr R Toman (one days labour re boulders)	50.00
Mr R Douglas (Works at Recreation Ground)	262.00
Mr R Douglas (Works at Allotments)	455.00
Mr R Douglas (Further works at allotments)	110.00
<u>One cheque – total = £827.00</u>	
Mr B Martin (Reimbursement for daffodil bulbs)	149.64

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £14,875.39

High Interest Account - £13.20

AGREED – That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.

11. ALLOTMENTS SITE – Update.

The Clerk reported that negotiations continue with a landowner for the lease of a site adjacent to the current allotments on Fullicar Lane.

The Vice-Chairman reported that the owner of the current allotments site had raised a number of issues for the Allotments Group to address and it was hoped that an amicable solution could be reached, with works to resolve the issues having been undertaken in the past few days.

One of the matters had been the ploughing of an area where the land had been very wet. The Vice-Chairman reported that the landowner had expressed the view that pasture land should not be ploughed however the land use had been changed to horticultural when the allotments were formed and should the allotments use cease at any time an application would have to be made to the Planning Authority for that land to revert to agriculture. Consequently the ploughing was not in contravention of the lease as the landowner had claimed. The Secretary of the Allotments Group was to speak to the landowner during the current week.

Works to the car park were virtually complete.

12. BRG UPDATE.

Councillors had looked at the BRG site on their walk round and had been pleased to see where the new fencing was to be erected with gated access to the field. However they did express reservations about the need for fencing along the beckside for which the Football Club was applying for outside funding. Councillors expressed the view that they could not determine whether any of the trees along the beckside were in any way unsafe or whether along that length of the beck there were any branches that had come off the trees that were lying in the beck that in heavy rainfall could get washed further downstream and block Bowe Bridge.

It was agreed that Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked to walk along the beck side and inspect the condition of the trees and remove any branches that may be laid in the beck as it was some years since Mr Allison had carried out works to these trees.

There were no sightings of any dog fouling and the comment was made that most dog walkers seemed to walk their dogs around the edge of the field ie outside of the playing field areas. It was however suggested that there may be a need for signage advising dog walkers to walk around the edge of the field and it was agreed to consult the BRG Committee on this matter.

As regards the fencing along the beck side that was to prevent small children who came to the football training from going into the overgrowth to collect a ball and perhaps getting into the water and being washed downstream in times of heavy rainfall Councillors asked why such young children could not train at the other side of the field. There would also be an issue with the EA in getting into the beck if they need to if it was fenced off. A Councillor suggested that as an alternative collapsible fencing could be used to be put up before training and taken down afterwards.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mrs Slater who had informed him that the matter of whether signs asking dog walkers to keep to the edge of the field would be considered at the September meeting of the BRG.

It was reported that a quantity of rubbish had been dumped behind the metal container when the current fencing work was being carried out.

AGREED - That (i) Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked to walk the length of the beck and report on any tree works that needed to be carried out and, (ii) the BRG be asked if it had liaised with Environment Agency as regards the proposal to erect fencing along the beck side and (iii) the BRG be informed of the Council's concerns in respect of this fence (this respect the Chairman undertook to speak to Councillor O'Sullivan).

At 8.00pm the meeting was opened for the asking of questions from the public.

- (i) Mr P Walker reported a tree next to the bus stop on the west side of Church Green which had a dead branch that needed to be removed from the tree. AGREED – That the Clerk contact Hillside Tree Surgeons about this matter.

- (ii) Mr P Walker reported that his workshop on Station Road had recently had some windows broken and wondered if this had any connection to what had allegedly been happening at The Three Horse Shoes.
- (iii) Mr P Walker mentioned the high pile of soil at the new development off Danes Crest that was immediately behind the Cockpit Hill properties in respect of which residents had reported their concerns. The Vice-Chairman replied that she had already raised this matter with HDCs Enforcement Officer and would chase up his views the next day. The Chairman reported that he had received an email from the officer stating that he had been unable to come to inspect the site during the current coronavirus situation.

13. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

The Clerk reported that Mr Douglas, the joiner had repaired the seat to the Rocket and had rectified the fence near the single pedestrian gate by putting new posts in.

Matthew Day from Streetscape had kindly offered to remove the bolts from the tops of the swings at the Recreation Ground and at Water End and inspect the mechanism for wear as the Clerk and the Councils workman had been unable to detach the bolts.

14. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Children Playing Traffic Warning Signs

Councillors Mrs Shiel Dods and Mrs Brigginsshaw on their walk round the village noted the numbers of children playing around water end and the volume of traffic that goes along there. The approximate cost of 60cms x 37cms signs would be around £50 each however these need to have clips and rails on them so that they can be fixed to poles. Smaller sized signs were cheaper.

It was AGREED - That there was a need to look at signs around the village in general to see which were the most important, if there were too many signs and where any new ones should be placed.

Condition of Wall along Cockpit Hill.

County Councillor Hugill said that he had seen the emails sent by the Clerk to Area Highways on this matter and would chase up a response.

15. DEVOLUTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITARY AUTHORITY.

It was reported that Carl Les, the Leader of North Yorkshire County Council was to hold an on-line seminar on the 19th August putting his case on behalf of the County Council for a Unitary Authority to be established based on NYCC in May 2022. All Councillors had been sent details should they wish to take part in the seminar. Approximately 150 comments had been made to the NYCC Facebook page on the seminar – very few appeared to be supportive of a Unitary Authority based on NYCC and York.

Mark Robson the Leader of Hambleton District Council had written to all Local Councils setting out his initial thoughts on the matter and had asked for views of Town and Parish Councils as an indication as to their feelings before the end of August although the Government White Paper was not expected until the 7th September. A copy of this letter had been sent to all Councillors.

In addition Peter Cole of HDC had agreed that this be a matter for discussion at the next meeting of the Northallerton and Community Villages Forum.

County Councillor D Hugill urged the Councillors to try and go on line the next day to listen to the Seminar and how the proposals would be advantageous to Brompton, especially for such as the mini-roundabout as far more powers would be given to Councils such as Brompton which would then become a secondary Authority to the new Unitary Council. This would lead to local Area Partnership through which the Town Council would be able to do whatever it wanted. Discussions had been held with Cornwall and Durham where Unitary Authorities had already been formed.

The Chairman commented that it was ok for local Councils to have additional powers but would they be given the monies to be able to carry them through? In response County Councillor Hugill said that where there was an elected Mayor this would bring the monies in and gave examples of the funding that had been made available for Teesside Airport and the revitalised Redcar beach. This was particularly important as North Yorkshire County Council was bottom of the pile currently when it came to funding.

Councillor Hugill added that the County Council had taken a lead in endeavouring to form a seven District Super Authority. He also commented that this was vitally important to retain jobs but loosing 7 Leadership Teams and only having one and having less Councillors would be massive savings. There was a need to be better placed in the funding formula.

Finally Councillor Hugill informed the meeting that this was something that Councils had been instructed to do by the Government therefore it was a matter of how they now went about it.

The Chairman commented that it was not possible to give any indication of Brompton Councils views on the matter until the Seminar had been heard the following day and asked Councillors to feed their views back to the Clerk after that.

16. GREENS INSPECTION.

The Clerk reported that about ten days previously the grass verges had been cut on the approach to the private road up to Fullicar Lane on the west side of the Green at Water End. Regretfully a strip of the area earmarked for wild flower planting inside the boulders long the edge of Fullicar Lane had also cut. Enquires to date had not revealed who carried out this grass cutting; a local landowner did not know who had carried out this work

AGREED – That the Clerk write to landowners having land fronting onto Fulicar Lane requesting that if they arranged any grasscutting then it await until after the wild flowers had died off each season.

The Clerk had also received further telephone calls from the occupiers of the two end properties on west side of Water End opposite the Water Splash expressing concerns about the grass not being cut opposite their properties. Following the village walk round it was agreed to trim back part of the area in line with the end post of the bridge and this had now been done. However the residents were still not satisfied even though they had been informed that it was the Councils intention to plant the area with bulbs and wild flowers; they were still insistent that the grass verge opposite their houses be cut back as it had always been done since they moved into the property many years previously.

Mrs S Butler had raised concerns about the area being a Flood Plain.

Councillor Haynes mentioned the number of people who had expressed their support for the wild flower project adding that there would always be some people who would be against it.

With regard to the two cordoned off areas for wild flowers it was reported that Councillor Langthorne intended to use a tractor and digger to take the top soil off and then rotovate the two areas. Councillor Langthorne pointed to the high quality of the top soil that would be removed and it was AGREED – That this soil be taken to be stored in the Cemetery as this soil would be good for planting trees.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Email Concerning Bowe Bridge.

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Mr H Van Huet about flooding and Bowe Bridge. AGREED – That this email be considered at the September meeting of the Council

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

The Chairman reported that he was not aware yet as to when the Council could move its meetings back into the Methodist Church. If meetings were to be held there in September then there would be risk assessment, sanitising and cleaning responsibilities that would fall to the Council.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th September 2020.

(ii) Purchase of Laminator.

The Clerk reported that due to the current difficulties of getting printing done by NYCC the Chairman had agreed that a laminator and laminating sheets be purchased for printing such as notices etc and this had been done.

AGREED – That the actions taken in this matter be endorsed.

(iii) Cones on Northallerton Road

A resident had recently asked the Clerk why cones had been placed along huge length of the highway outside peoples houses opposite the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had checked and there was had been notifications of any highway works in that locality. The cones had since been removed and a Councillor suggested that this may have been in connection with some works that had been going on at that time behind the properties.

(iv) CAB Newsletter

The recent CAB Newsletter has been circulated to all Councillors. There has been an over 332% increase in the calls made to the Advice Line compared with the same period in 2019.

(v) Footpaths.

Councillor Haynes reported that together with Councillor Langthorne they had been looking at possible footpath routes in the village and had found three potential routes, and thought that the one off Fullicar Lane could be the first one to proceed with. There would be a need for signposting and the Chairman asked if Wayfareing Badges would be obtainable for the County Council.

During their footpath walks they had found the packhorse bridge off Long Lane but it was very overgrown. The Clerk reported that the overgrowth from this bridge had been cleared by the Town Council on a few occasions in recent years and it was therefore AGREED - That Councillors M Sheil Dods and Langthorne visit the bridge with Mr P Toman to show him what work needed to be carried out.

Attention made to the fact that there was a serious need to work safely when carrying out this work.

(iv) Hedgehog Signs.

AGREED – That this matter be left to the Working Group to look into.

(v) Overgrown Hedge on Station Road.

AGREED – That the Councils workman cut back the hedge on Station Road from the railway crossing towards Weavers Pavilion.

(vi) Boulders opposite the Village Inn.

It was reported that the boulders on the Green opposite the Village Inn had been moved and the Clerk undertook to investigate.

(vii) New Councillors.

Councillor Haynes recorded thanks to Councillors Emily Kelly and Samantha Briggshaw for joining the Council as she felt that new blood would bring some fresh ideas along.

(viii) Annual Newsletters.

It having previously been agreed for the Councils workman to hand deliver the Newsletters, particularly in the current coronavirus situation and the Clerk reported that from experience this would take two to two and a half days.

AGREED – That the Clerk finalise the draft of the Annual Newsletter and forward it to Councillors for their final comments over the forthcoming weekend.

(ix) Councils Workman.

AGREED – That this item be placed on the agenda for the September meeting.

19. BURIAL MATTERS.

1. Restoration of kerbed graves.

The Clerk reported on the good work being undertaken by the Councils workman in restoring the old kerbed graves which he was fitting in when he was able to having regard to his other tasks.

2. Date of Annual Cemetery Inspection.

AGREED – That the annual inspection of the Cemetery take place on either Tuesday 25th August or Wednesday 26th August at 6.00pm and that Councillors advise the Clerk of their preferred day.

The following items of business were considered in Private Session.

20. CEMETERY EXTENSION – PROGRESS AS REGARDS EXTENSION.

The Vice-Chairman reported that little progress had been made and Councillors would therefore need to review the matter at its next meeting as it was now a year since negotiations had been commenced.

21. ALLOTMENTS – NEGOTIATIONS FOR FURTHER ALLOTMENTS SITE.

The Vice-Chairman reported that she had met with owner of land next to the Allotments site and would report further to the September meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

