

PART A – PUBLIC SECTION

Meeting of Brompton Town Council held on line on Tuesday 20th October 2020

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

Councillor Mrs I Sanderson and Councillor D Hugill

There were 5 members of the public present on line.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

The Clerk was absent from the meeting due to a connection failure.

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.

AGREED – That the Public be excluded from the meeting for items 24 and 25 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.

Due to issue of dog ban at BRG this item was discussed first-

12. BROMPTON RECREATION GROUP.

(i) Proposed Dog Ban

Received from the Chairman of the BRG -

Just letting you know that we took the decision to ban dogs on the BRG from 1st December . The vote was 5 for the ban and 1 against.

It was agreed that we would put up signs as soon as possible saying that this would happen;

It was also suggested that we ask Brompton Parish Council to make the Recreation Field on Northallerton Road a dog walking area to alleviate the Brompton Recreation Field.

+ I would like to ask the Chairman or the Clerk to explain the lease to members of the Council.

“At the Brompton Recreation Meeting on Monday evening Councillor O’Sullivan declared an interest in Item 7 explaining that he was representing the Town Council and the Villagers so therefore declared an interest in ‘Dogs on Field.’ Whilst discussing a Dog Ban Councillor O’Sullivan informed us that we as a committee were only responsible for the piece of land which we had purchased, not the land belonging to Hambleton. I explained that we were responsible for the whole of the property; to which I was informed that Councillors had only recently informed him, that was not the case.

I know that I explained the situation of the lease to The Chairman and asked if I could speak on this when meetings continued in the Chapel. I am aware that the clerk is fully aware of the situation with regards to the lease; we discussed it many times”.

The Clerk had reported to Councillor that the 1986 Lease was very sparse and handed virtually all powers on the land to the BRA.

As was the case that the BRG could determine who used its car park similarly it also determined the use of the fields.

The only clauses imposed in the 99 year lease were with regard to any buildings - eg the Pavilion and the need for consents, the use of the land for recreational purposes, screening works, preventing any the future sale of the land and what would happen if the BRG folded with a requirement that it be returned to the Council.

It appeared from correspondence that the Parish Council at that time wished to devolve the whole operation and future of the BRA fields to the Recreation Group and did not wish to have any involvement.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson commented on the Lease but added that she did not have any particular legal expertise.

Email received from 4 dog owners –

Dear parish Council,

I'm emailing to oppose the decision to ban dogs from the weavers pavilion field, we are all responsible dog owners who clean up after our dogs we also clean up the few not responsible dog owners, we also pick up all the rubbish the footballers and supporters leave every single week, the sports field should be open to all dogs local to Brompton, your decision means every other green is now going to have all the extra dogs on them as your decision has a really bad effect on those with mental health problems as the field is nice to have calm and quiet with my dogs, + all dogs from new houses now coming to green.

Received from another resident –

In readiness of tomorrow night's Parish Council meeting, I would like to register my concern regarding the proposed banning of dog walking on Brompton's Football field.

I do understand that the recreation committee are fed up with dog mess which is not being picked up by the irresponsible few, however I do feel that on the whole, we do have responsible people who do care, & do pick up their dog mess, even to the point of picking up any dog mess that is left, by ignorant, irresponsible dog owners.

One other concern is that by banning dog walkers on the field, are they then going to start using the Green in the village, and leaving their dog mess there instead, you cannot move the problem from one area to another.

Maybe you could also bring up the issue of rubbish left on the football field, following training and matches, the amount of energy drink bottles, water bottles, and when the cafe is open, paper cups left is terrible. We dog walkers do pick their rubbish up, and believe me, there is plenty. It should be the responsibility of the trainers/organisers of matches, to get the players & their parents to clear their mess up too.

I honestly feel that in these worrying times with the Covid Epidemic, that consideration must be given to the mental health issues of your local people, let us enjoy what little exercise and fresh air we can get.

Councillors were concerned that such an action by the BRG Committee would place the Village Greens under undue pressure from dog walkers

There had been a suggestion from the BRG that the Councils Recreation Ground could be opened to dog walkers but this was considered to be inappropriate as the childrens play area was used virtually

every day of the week and other areas of the field, for example the football part was also well used. In addition in the future there was the intention to add to the play area and also include a BMX track and these would not be suitable for the field to be opened up to dog owners. In particular throughout its existence dogs had never at any time been permitted in the Recreation Ground.

The question was raised as to how any dog ban could be policed and whether it was an actual dog ban or a polite notice not to take dogs onto the field.

It was pointed out that when the BRA field had opened every resident had had access to the field with or without a dog. They had used the field for access to the footpath running past the Windmill via a stile and now a kissing gate. The field was also used by residents in mobility scooters as they could walk their dogs on a flat surface as well as a wheelchair user.

AGREED – That – (i) the District Councils Legal Department be asked if they could offer any advice, (ii) the concerns received from residents by the Council be forwarded to the BRG, (iii) Parish Council would write to BRG expressing our concerns regarding the ban

(ii) Grant Application for Decoration of Weavers Pavilion.

AGREED – That consideration of this item be deferred to a future meeting.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2020.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2020, having been previously circulated, be taken and read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

4. Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	5	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 1</i>
Criminal Damage	2	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	1	
Other crimes including Drugs	0	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	9	

North Yorkshire Police Updates

Urgent police warning to parents after ‘drug-laced sweets’ seized in Ripon

They look like innocent sugary sweets - but in reality they may be laced with potentially lethal drugs.

At about 4pm on Thursday 8 October 2020, officers from North Yorkshire Police’s Operation Expedite team arrested four teenagers in a vehicle in Ripon, on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class B drugs, money laundering and weapons offences.

Among the items seized during the arrests were carefully-disguised sweets – which officers strongly believe are laced with controlled drugs.

Police are extremely concerned that anyone consuming these items could be at risk of serious harm, and are asking parents to be particularly vigilant, and ensure their children understand the risks.

Three of the teenagers have been released under investigation, and the fourth has been bailed, while enquiries continue.

These so-called 'edibles' pose a risk to young people across York and North Yorkshire. Anyone who has any information about the supply of illegal drugs in any form is urged to contact North Yorkshire Police on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Your call could literally save someone's life.

AGREED - That as a District Councillor the Clerk check the crime records for his District Council statistics.

5. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – Closure of Recreation Ground.

Following the closure of the Primary School the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been consulted and it was considered appropriate to again cordon off the play equipment in the Recreation Ground and at Water End. The BRG ground play equipment had also been closed off.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) Co-opted Vacancy

Two expressions of interest have been made in the co-opted vacancy via the Annual Newsletter. However the Newsletters are still to go out to the rural properties this week therefore it would be appropriate to leave this matter until the November meeting so that everyone has had an opportunity to read the Newsletter.

AGREED – That the Co-opted vacancy be placed on the November Council agenda and notices placed in Noticeboards advertising vacancy.

(ii) Local Government Reorganisation – Unitary Authority Proposals.

Councillors were consulted and the following letter was sent to Rishi Sunak MP on 9th October -

I am writing to you as the local MP for Brompton Parish to urge that you use your Parliamentary influence to call for a delay in the process for the proposed establishment of a new Unitary Authority for North Yorkshire.

Regardless of whether there is support for a new Unitary Authority based on North Yorkshire as per the County Councils proposals, or the alternative suggestions being put forward by the District Councils this is certainly not the right time to be progressing these ideas.

Coronavirus has unfortunately not gone away as you are quite well aware and this continuation affects many local communities very severely at present.

The date for the implementation of the proposals has been identified as May 2022.

This is totally inappropriate no matter how the issue is to be taken forward in the future.

Not only has time slipped by as we are now well past the date of 7th September scheduled for the issue of the White Paper the Government Minister, Simon Clarke MP, who was overseeing the matter has recently for personal reasons resigned his post. No matter how well versed and efficient his successor may be there will quite obviously be a period of settling in time in the new post which will naturally further delay the process.

Rushing through this highly important matter (which will be with us once approved for very many years) is not an option in these strange times and is totally inappropriate – indeed how could adequate consultation be carried out in such a short time scale? The previous such changes were in 1933 and 1974 (with some more minor arrangements in between) so what does a delay in the process really matter?

Certainly the County Councils proposals to offer further responsibilities to Local Councils is not achievable when considered rationally. Many Parish and Town Councils at the May 2019 Elections failed to even obtain their full compliment of Councillors and are under pressure themselves to maintain their existing standards. The offer of the facility for small Councils to carry out such tasks as road repairs etc is simply unworkable. Many Clerks work six or far less hours a week and simply do not want to be involved in such as specifications, tender processes, risk assessments etc that additional powers delegated downwards from the County Council would entail. Clerks and local Councillors will quite simply just walk away. Small Parish Councils in the Hambleton District are not geared up to undertake functions delegated down to them from the first tier Councils.

Please therefore do what you are able to delay this process so that at the earliest it would come in if proceeded with in May 2023 and not May 2022.

I have enclosed a copy of the current Annual Newsletter issued this month to all households in Brompton Parish – this will provide you with an overview as to how busy local Councils are at the present time without any further pressures.

(iii) Annual Newsletter.

Mr Tolan has hand delivered the 1,400 Annual Newsletters. The farms and rural properties ones are going out this week by post. All of the village has been covered and most of Thurston Park estate but not the Persimmon Estate as were 1,400 were printed – an increase of 300 on the last Newsletter and this was over budget and would have been substantially over budget if had had to do a second print. The Newsletter is however on the web site and a supply as usual is in the Shop and the three public houses.

The Newsletter is obviously being read as notification of a 100th birthday has already been received and enquires about going on the list of skilled workers and the co-opted vacancy on the Council have been received. It seems as though it has also stirred people into researching family histories, which always seems to happen when the Newsletter reminds people that the Council holds the Cemetery burial records.

(iv) NYCC Area Committee

The North Northallerton Development is on the agenda for last weeks meeting at the request of County Councillor David Hugill.

The developers attended the meeting and Councillor Hugill questioned them on the latest issues that he had been copied into and also the flooding on the A684.

Reported that NYCC and developers are working on the cause of the flooding and hope to sort the matter out soon

Vice chairman reported the flooding on Northallerton Road also

Cllr Hugill to chase up matter of about the speed limit

Chairman asked about the crossing point and the matter will be looked at by the safe route to school Committee.

(v) Flooding at Northallerton Road/ Thurston Park

Received from NY Highways -

“As this section of road is not yet formally part of the public highway we have forwarded your email to the County Development Control Team for attention and response”.

(vi) Street Naming.

Received from HDC –

Goldfinch Way,

Nightingale Close,

Otter Garth, Badger Lane,

Wagtail Place,

Hedgehog Way,

Swallow Way, Sparrow Way,

North Moor Road

(vii) Pedestrian Bridge.

Geo F White the Councils Agent had advised that they now had the survey quotations for the Councils consideration. The costs being as follows:

Premier Design	=£400 + Vat
Spatial Geomatics	=£450 + Vat
Site Scan	=£950 + Vat

The Agents had used Premier Design Surveys on many occasions and would recommend them on basis of both cost and timescale.

AGREED – That Geo F White be informed that the Council would like them to proceed with Premier Design and instruct the survey.

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

None reported.

7. REPORTS + REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

Report of walk-round held on 1 October 2020.

Industrial Land

The site is much bigger now you see it on the ground.

It goes from a fence line currently being erected at the rear of the coal yard to the wall at the door of the scrap yard all the way back to the rear of Linen Way.

There is a strip of land along both sides of the beck to the rear of the site that is within Yorkshire Water that could probably be utilised for more screening. The Clerk would ask about the possibility of doing this.

The Clerk was to contact the Land Agents, Strutt Parker to see if they had any information about what is proposed.

There were piles of soil to the railway side boundary and the Clerk was writing to Network Rail to ask that they inspect their fencing along that side to ensure that the works to date had not damaged it.

There was a suspicion that there are old fridges and fridge freezers buried in the mounds of soil.

Action – Clerk to write to YW asking if some of the land along the river bank belongs to them.

Footpaths - bottom of Cockpit Hill.

Suggestion that if cars were parked on the actual cobbles adjacent to the end four houses then this would be much safer and would provide for a walking route to link through to the car park area.

The Clerk would write to householders to inform them of the intention and in case any of them suddenly came up with a Deed that stated that the cobbled area was theirs – the Council was currently working on the assumption that the land was the Councils by default.

Car Park

Councillor Langthorne considered that around £2,000 would re-surface the car park and move the surplus soil and sort out the fences - this could be achievable.

The outside (roadside) fence to be moved inside to line up with the first white fence post on the bridge providing a footpath area for people to walk along.

The inside fence to be moved out 2 metres as previously discussed.

All overgrowth to be removed.

This should provide car parking for an additional 4 cars.

Possibility of some form of demarcation for car parking spaces.

Safety issue of large drop into beck at side of car park where children play.

Other Matters.

Deep hole next to manhole cover on right hand side of first bridge – Council workman to cover with a paving slab

Mobility access to Green at Water End - consider removing a kerb stone at both south and north end of the green to permit access by scooter users – the Clerk speak to the person who has requested this first.

AGREED – That the actions suggested above be endorsed.

PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications

20/01770/FUL - Retrospective application for the Construction of children's play equipment, including a raised platform, 2no raised walkways and 2no play houses as per amended plans received by Hambleton District Council on 24 September 2020 (increasing the height of the fencing)

LOCATION: Mill Hill House 33 Northallerton Road Brompton North Yorkshire – AGREED
– No objections.

20/02116/ADV - PROPOSAL: Application for advertisement consent to display 4no. V Boards, 9no. Flags & 3no. Leader Boards

LOCATION: Taylor Wimpey North Northallerton Phase 2 TW Land At Darlington Road Northallerton - AGREED – No objections

(ii) Decisions.

19/02209/FUL - Construction of a new industrial manufacturing building and associated service yard .

LOCATION: Allerton Steel Limited Allerton House Northallerton Business Park - Granted

(iii) Government White Paper – Proposed Planning Changes

Comments below submitted by the Clerk -

Centralisation of policies and reduction of opportunities for local people and Councillors to engage is unhelpful.

The proposed housing numbers are too high overall and set unhelpful and confusing mandatory local targets.

The White Paper sets out to reduce planning control, despite vast numbers of dwelling permissions that are already given and land allocated.

The White Paper does nothing to tackle land-banking. Consequently Council Tax should be charged after five years, even if building has not started.

As in some Countries, the Council takes the uplift in land value due to its decision, and the developer makes money from developing. That removes the incentive for land-banking and enables Councils to provide services and facilities.

The White Paper risks undermining the democratic accountability Councils and the public provide. Centralisation and passing decisions based on technical computer codes takes decision-making still further from residents, contrary to what residents want.

Affordable housing needs to be further protected and incentivised - the Section 106 and CIL monies on which local councils rely would be removed and replaced by a central government levy, but there is no guarantee of how much will be spent locally where it is needed.

There is a need to protect ability to plan strategically and promote sustainable, zero carbon housing as well as green belt and flood areas.

Infrastructure (transport, schools, doctors, utilities) needs to be central to all of this, not an aside or after thought

The White Paper increases permitted development too far, alienating local people as the applications come to be developed.

'Beauty' and 'good design' is very subjective. Historic experience in design shows that it is that it is extremely difficult to refuse an application on these grounds when Councils are under the significant pressure to get dwellings built.

Any enforcement needs to target developers as well as Councils.

The White Paper reads very much like a developers charter.

AGREED – That the submitted comments be endorsed.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

HDC (half-yearly Precept payment)	27,500.00
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Funeral Service Ltd (Burial fee)	50.00
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Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (including 64 stamps for Newsletters)	63.21
HMRC	68.00
CE + CM Walker (September grasscutting)	1,459.20
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	33.84
Brompton Community Primary School LMS A/C' (Donation)	500.00
RGPS (Various Signs)	811.20
RTS (Tree Works)	336.00
A Whitehead Associates Ltd (Tree Survey)	1,692.00
Royal British Legion (Poppy Day donation)	100.00
Mrs A Trehitt (Annual allotment rent)	1,200.00
Darrell Langthorne (Works at Allotments)	240.00
YDS Ltd (Hire of JCB, 2 days + tractor fuel)	120.00
P Atkin (reimbursement of cash to J Walton + R Greaves for hire of tipping trailer+ hire of tractor and power harrow)	150.00
Mr P Toman (5 weeks - 146 hours labour)	1,752.00
Mr P Toman (Expenses – mower repair agreed by Vice-Chairman + petrol for mower)*	56.00
*invoice was received for £30 diesel expenses however two expense cheques were written out in error for Mr Tomans fuel expenses last month of which only one was given to him)	
Printroom (1,400 Annual Newsletters)	784.00
Mr R Douglas (3 invoices)	1,970.00
Darrell Langthorne (Works at wild flower area)	100.00
YDS Ltd (Hire of JCB + fuel – wild life area)	60.00
George F White Ltd (Valuation + start of negotiations)	1,207.20

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £27,048.28

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

8. ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/20 TO THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT.

The Internal Auditors report had been circulated separately. There were no issues of concern raised and only one recommendation – “I recommended last year that the Council adopts a Financial Risk Strategy during the current financial year for my review at the next Internal Audit period. Circumstances are that to date this has not been achieved but I would like to think that it will be approved for operation by 1 April 2021”

The figures for inclusion in the Annual Financial Return to the External Auditors for the Financial Year 2019/20 are as follows –

Balance brought forward - £20,775 – Previous year - £24,925	
Precept - £45,000	- £45,000
Other Receipts – £5,005	- £35,829
Staff Costs – £3,872	- £3,636
Loans – 0	0
Other Payments – £56,453	- £50,443
Balances c/f – £13,233	- £20,775
Total Cash – £13,233	- £20,775
Assets – £72,500	- £69,500
Borrowings – 0	0

AGREED – That – (i) the Chairman be authorised to sign the Annual Financial Return for 2019/20 on behalf of the Council for return to the External Auditors, and (ii) the Council adopts a Financial Risk Strategy during the current financial year review at the next Internal Audit period; and (iii) the Clerk to report to a future meeting on the possibility of changing Auditors.

Current Financial Position

Sent to all Councillors from the Responsible Finance Officer this month after receipt of the half yearly Precept -

“We have approximately £26,000 in the Bank with and the six months of expenditure to get through.

Between October and the end of March in 2018/19 we spent £9,393 - NOT INCLUDING ANY LABOUR OF MATERIALS FIGURES

In 2019/20 in the same period the amount spent was £20,719 - again not including any labour or materials.

I estimate that for the Council as day to day running it will need to spend at least £12,780 between now and the end of March - that is core expenditure, there is no alternative - we have decided that we will not be employing a workman from the end of this month until March (if we do then) and therefore again Labour and any materials are not included.

However to that amount must be added the following -

Whatever is owed to Mr Douglas for completing the Notice Board work

The signs that Sammantha is dealing with

Tree works

Geo Whites fees

Defibrillator maintenance

New swing seats

- That is most probably around - £13,000

£12,000 + £13,000 takes up what we have in the bank.

We are legally obliged to undertake the three in red above and the Geo Whites fees are already committed to in their engagement letter.

We have £3,000 in the budget for Tree Works therefore our insurers will expect us to use that amount of work this year at the very least having had the tree survey report - if we only did that it would save £4,500 - but we would have to spend that next year at the very least.

The car park was taken out of the budget, as was the CCTV.

The Council has added this year (ie not in the budget) - the signs that Sammantha is dealing with, the bollards and possibly more dog bins for Permission Estate - as on this months agenda.

Sarah is currently working out the costs for CCTV and Miles has costed up the car park

We really need another 400 Newsletters as Paul has run out half way round Thurston Park estate and hasn't delivered any to the Persimmon estate (I don't think they even realise that they are in Brompton anyway - we simply can't afford another £300 + it is on the web site anyway.

There was no money scheduled in the budget agreed when the last Precept level was decided for the following -

(i) Bollards and erecting them at the crossroads

(ii) Geo Whites fees

(iii) Car Park resurfacing

(iv) More dog bins (£400 + we are £300 above that already)

(v) CCTV

(vi) Traditional finger post signs and grasscrete for the footpath from The Green Tree Into Danes Crest

Everything in the list either not in the budget or that we have been adding to comes to at least £13,750

We will have less than £1,000 in the Bank account without this £13,750 - ie if we spend that £13,750 we would be overdrawn by -£12,750.

It is illegal for a Local Authority to be overdrawn - Brompton Council in 1995 and was severely censured for being so.

We cannot rely on deaths to keep our heads above water. The income in recent years for burials from October to the end of the following March has been -

2018/19 - £1,440

2019/20 - £1,986

2020/21 - Unknown - but it is a misconception that more deaths occur during the winter - that is simply not the case.

We are legally obliged to carry a contingency sum - the very minimum based on our Precept should be £12,000 - we are in danger of having nothing!

Earlier in the year when I suggested that we needed to ask the Bank for a loan to tide us over until the CIL monies were sorted out some Councillors asked why - this is the reason - we don't have any spare money at all. By the same token when asked HDC said that they could not give us a loan to tide us over either.

The Council therefore needs to look at the way forward at Tuesday nights meeting as it is our Budget meeting next month anyway and I really need some direction"

AGREED – That – (i) a meeting of Councillors be held in approximate two weeks time to give consideration to financial matters prior to the setting of the Annual Precept for the financial year 22012/22 at the November meeting of the Council and, (ii) the Council look at increasing the precept to include the 194 new houses in NNA that are occupied and are in Brompton.

Bank Statements and Finance Training

AGREED – That - (i) during Covid-19 Bank Statements be scanned and circulated to Councillors and when it is again operating normally the Bank Statements be placed on the Councils new laptop, (ii) the Clerk arrange a finance training session for Councillor Brigginsshaw by the Clerk prior to the Councils finance meeting.

Bank Mandate

AGREED - That new signatories to the Councils Bank Mandate in view of the Chairmans intended move out of the area be together with Councillor Mrs Sheil Dods as existing, be Councillor Mrs Kelly.

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

- (i) Mrs A Cornforth asked if it was known what the position was as regards the planning application for an MOT Station off Station Road. The Vice Chairman undertook to check with the Planning Authority what the current position was with the application and ask the Clerk to advise Mrs Cornforth accordingly.

9. ALLOTMENTS SITE – Update.

September 2020 - all issues resolved and Clerk asked Mrs Trehitt for confirmation that she was happy with all the issues. Mrs Trehitt inspected the plots with Val Coe, no member of the TC or the allotment executive committee was present.

Val Coe reported back that Mrs Trehitt who was happy but who wished to amend the new lease agreement before 1st October 2020, the new sections would include NO FIRES and STRUCTURES CAN BE 2M IN HEIGHT.

Allotments Group agrees to changes and new lease agreement signed to take effect 1st October 2020. Steve O'Sullivan and Val Coe present at signing

Allotments Group is sent copy of new agreement and notice the section on NO CHICKENS.

Allotments Group meets to discuss what has happened and why the chickens have now been removed. The Group believes that the position of Val Coe has influenced Mrs Trehitt to remove the chickens as they belong to Mr Douglas.

Mr Douglas writes to Mrs Trehitt asking for a reason why this section has been changed and Steve O Sullivan also tries to help.

AGREED – That the Clerk write to Mrs Trehitt on behalf of the Council thanking her for signing the new Lease and to make sure that all correspondence regarding the allotments goes direct to the Town Council with no plot holder going to Mrs Trehitt to represent the allotments.

10. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

It was considered that as the area was in Level 1 of the Covid-19 regulations subject to putting up Notices outlined below the play areas in the Recreation Ground be re-opened as soon as the Clerk has carried out a safety inspection which he would be able to do in the next few days.

COVID 19 REMAINS A RISK TO ALL COMMUNITIES AND WHILST YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE THE PLAY AREA FACILITIES, THE NATURE OF THIS SMALL RURAL FACILITY IS SUCH THAT THE PROVISION OF HYGIENE MATERIALS OR SANITISING OF THE EQUIPMENT IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT POSSIBLE. THE PLAY AREA IS THEREFORE USED AT YOUR OWN RISK.

DO NOT USE THE EQUIPMENT IF YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD (OR BUBBLE) HAS CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS OR ARE SELF ISOLATING.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE HAND SANITISER WITH YOU BEFORE ENTERING THE PLAY AREA, AND AS A MINIMUM USE IT BEFORE AND AFTER USING THE PLAY EQUIPMENT. ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO AVOID TOUCHING THEIR FACES.

YOU MUST MAINTAIN A MINIMUM 2 METRE SOCIAL DISTANCING FROM OTHERS UNLESS THEY ARE FROM THE SAME HOUSEHOLD OR BUBBLE. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WEARING A FACE MASK. SOME EQUIPMENT CAN ONLY BE USED BY ONE CHILD AT A TIME WHILST MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING. PLEASE ALSO ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILY WAITS AT A SAFE DISTANCE IF THE EQUIPMENT IS IN USE.

AGREED - That if the Covid-19 Level changes to a higher level then the play areas be closed off again.

10. RESURFACING OF CAR PARK.

As reported above these works may have to be deferred due to budgetary constraints as was the original intention in April 2020. AGREED – That this matter be considered when Councillors meet before the next Council meeting to consider financial matters.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

None reported.

16. TREE WORKS – Quotation for works.

Hillside Tree Surgeons had submitted a quotation of £5,700.00 for the tree works identified in Mr Whiteheads tree survey report. However there were a number of trees that they had indicated that they were unable to deal with and had suggested that these works be carried out by Rennisons Tree Surgeons. It was reported that Rennisons had indicated that they would be interested in carrying out these works. The figure of £5,750.00 had included lowering the height of the Leylandii trees in the Cemetery by 20 feet.

The Council was advised that there was a sum of £3,000.00 in the current budget for tree works and that the Council's Insurers would expect at least this amount to be spent on carry out the most urgent works in the current financial year.

AGREED - That the budget figure of £3,000 for tree works be spent on the most urgent works prior to the end of the current financial year.

17. CONSULTATION ON NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR NORTHALLERTON

It was reported that North Yorkshire County Council was consulting on a proposal to establish a new mainstream primary school, to primarily serve the North Northallerton Development Area.

The proposed new school would also support general school place sufficiency in Northallerton. It is intended that the new school will be a free school (a state-funded school, operating as an academy, independent of the local authority) in accordance with Department for Education guidance.

The age range of the school will be 4-11, providing places for 210 pupils (one form of entry) with the ability to expand to 420 places (two forms of entry) should that be required in the future. The school will provide places for boys and girls (mixed). The expected opening date was September 2022.

Because of current restrictions the County Council was unable to hold a local drop-in session. However, they welcomed feedback on the proposals by completing a response form online at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/proposed-new-primary-school-north-northallertondevelopment-area>

The consultation would close on the 23rd October.

18. DOG/ WASTE BINS – Persimmon Estate.

A request had been received from residents to have dog bins on the new estate.

The nearest dog/waste bin to the estate was opposite the BT depot and was in the Northallerton Parish boundary.

It was noted that Northallerton Town Council did not provide such bins at the new Castlegates estate and that this was left to the developer to do.

AGREED - That the developer be requested to provide dog/waste bins on the Persimmon housing estate.

19. HEDGEHOG SIGNS.

AGREED – That this matter be discussed at the next Council meeting.

20. GREENS INSPECTION.

Wildlife Area Update.

Councillor Haynes had reported as follows from Sunday 11th October - –

Amazing effort from Miles & myself yesterday to clear the turf off one area for wild flowers. Daryl's excellent digger work and our sweat hand removing turf and soil into the cemetery saw us shift 8 tons!

We decided to concentrate on one first and we completed the clearing at a little past one. Having quickly realised that we were not going to get to the other.

Mrs Stack kindly came to help for an hour planting and later Dot from the allotments. I planted 300 plants in the area and have another 300 to go in along with a light sprinkling of seed.

Further plugs have been sown and we will clear the other square now in the spring as its getting too late in the year.

I intend to have a further working party afternoon in a couple of weeks to tidy weed etc.

It was proposed to put hedgehog boxes in the area.

On the brick built notice board issue Councillor Brigginsshaw is going to contact JT Atkinsons HQ and ask for a sponsor for the reclaimed bricks for the nature boards and materials. It's proposed £200 for the 2 boards with a sponsor plaque printed and a press photo on completion.

AGREED – That the hedgehog boxes and the brick sponsorship be agreed to.

It was also reported that the following had been received from a resident –

*I live in ***** in water end. I wanted to discuss the part of the green on water end that is after the ford. During the summer it appears that a decision was made to leave the grass on this part of the green to grow and not cut it, and paths were cut into it. This was a shame as being right outside our house, we would normally take our children on there to run around and play around the trees. The long grass meant that this was no longer possible.*

Now the weather has just started to turn wetter, this area has already become unusable. The paths are extremely muddy due to everyone having to walk the same path, this meant that my toddler has been unable to walk on them.

As there are lots of known cases of Covid in Brompton, having a path were you can't pass someone leaving 2 metres between them is not good.

There are large rocks on the grass to stop people driving in the grass, these are now becoming hidden in the long grass, which is unsafe. My husband nearly tripped over one and a car drove into one a few days ago.

Water end was always well looked after and dog owners knew to pick up after their dogs, I fear that with such long grass this is likely to become harder for them to do and also for anyone to monitor.

This would make it no longer safe for children to play on.

It was once a lovely usable area, which I'm worried will quickly become unusable. I do like the idea of the fenced off wild flower area.

The Clerk had arranged for the boulders to be cut round again.

21. CORRESPONDENCE.

None received other than is reported above.

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Including –

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held on line at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17th November 2020.

(ii) Memorial Bench or Tree

It was reported that the stepson of a recently deceased resident had asked if he could fund a memorial seat or tree, or something similar in memory of his late father but not in the Cemetery as his father was not buried there.

AGREED – That permission be granted.

(iii) Remembrance Day

The Clerk had collected the Councils wreath and the wooden crosses to be placed on the war graves in the Cemetery and the Church yard. Residents who wished to attend the Church Service at 4.00pm on Sunday 8th November would have to book a seat beforehand.

AGREED – That signs be placed on noticeboards and on the Councils webpage advising residents of the National campaign to mark two-minute silence from their doorsteps.

23. BURIAL MATTERS.

None reported.

The following items of business were considered in Private Session.

24. CEMETERY EXTENSION – PROGRESS AS REGARDS EXTENSION.

25. ALLOTMENTS – NEGOTIATIONS FOR FURTHER ALLOTMENTS SITE.