

## PART A – PUBLIC SECTION

### Meeting of Brompton Town Council held on line on Tuesday 17th November 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.

There were 4 members of the public present on line.

#### 1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence were received.

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 20 , 21and 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, subject to the following, the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020, (Parts A and B) having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

“During public questions Mrs B Slater asked when the Council would consider the grant application that had been made by the BRG for redecoration. The Chairman had responded that Councillors were to shortly meet to discuss financial matters. It was also pointed out that the reference to fencing was an error as the application was in respect of decoration works”.

#### 4. CO-OPTED VACANCIES.

AGREED – That - (i) the Clerk ask both interested persons to supply brief details of their experience and reasons why they wish to join the Council and how they see themselves working with Council; and (ii) in due course before the next meeting the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk interview both candidates in due course.

#### 5. LOCAL CRIME REPORT

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	7	
Auto crime	1	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 2</i>	<i>Residential : 1</i>
Criminal Damage	3	
Theft (including from shops)	3	
Violence Against the Person	7	
Other crimes including Drugs	2	
<b>TOTAL THIS PERIOD</b>	<b>26</b>	

Part of this item was considered in Private Session

Since the last meeting there had been continuing incidents apparently related to the occupants of the apartments at the Three Horse Shoes which have seemingly involved quite regular Police attendance.

Being in such a central position in the village this is causing a degree of distress to residents of whom some had indicated that they feared for their safety.

It was not actually known why the Police had attended the premises so regularly although various suspicions had been put forward.

Both the local PCSO and the new Police Sergeant had been contacted concerning these matters and had been asked to report as fully as they were able to.

It was reported that the Police had recently leafleted the village about reporting of crimes.

With regard to vehicles being driven on nights around the BRG car park and the suspicion of other activities taking place there after dark it was AGREED - That the BRG be requested to arrange for the gate to the car park to be locked at night-time and opened in the mornings, possibly by providing the school with a key to enable them to do so before school starts each day.

There has been a suggestion that there may be a need to improve the BRGs CCTV at the pavilion but it would have to be ascertained as to whether the Courts would accept such video evidence of any improved CCTV to enable prosecutions to take place. Councillor Sanderson also asked if the Council could do anything about providing CCTV in the centre of the village.

Other crime issues seemed to have taken place in a 5 day period in the past week - these being all anti-social behaviour related in the breaking up of a picnic bench in the Recreation Ground, the deposit of broken glass around the BRG football pitches and drug paraphernalia being left in the alleyway alongside the Recreation Ground – these having been found by the Police to be packets of sweet wrappers.

## 6. COVID-19

The current lockdown rules provide for childrens play areas to remain open.

Prior to re-opening of the Recreation Ground on the 22nd October a full safety inspection was carried out as required after any period of closure, no matter how short, and therefore the swings both at the Recreation Ground and at Water end had been cordoned off as they were unsafe for use for a number of reasons. These would be replaced with new swing seats as previously agreed to do by the Council as soon as Streetscape could fit it into their schedule of works which was a little more difficult than usual for obvious reasons.

Covid-19 notices as agreed at the Councils last meeting had been erected for the information of the public who attended the play areas with their children.

As had been well publicised the usual Remembrance Sunday event could not go ahead this year due to current period of lockdown. The Councils wreath hds however been put up in the Lychgate and the Remembrance crosses had been placed on the graves of the fallen both in the Churchyard and in the Cemetery. The Chairman added that at 4.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November he had met the Vicar and two other residents and a short ceremony had been held at the Lychgate and the names of the fallen had been read out.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

(I) Annual Newsletters.

These had been hand-delivered to all village addresses by Mr Toman last month and all outlying properties were sent a copy of the Newsletter by post. For the first time the occupied houses on the new estates were also covered. It was evident that the Newsletter was being read by the number and variety of enquires that had been received since it had been distributed.

The newsletter always seemed to jog peoples memories about starting their family trees and this had proved more so this year as so any people were at home for much longer periods.

(2) Planters.

An application is to be made to NY Highways for a licence to erect planters in the highway verges in preparation for Yorkshire in Bloom 2021. The application will include all entrance points to the village and then the Council can decide where it wishes to locate the planters in due course so as to avoid the submission of several similar applications.

(3) Bulb Planting.

The Chairman and Councillor Langthorne had planted 1,500 daffodil bulbs at Water End Green recently to fill gaps in the where they have been planted in recent years. There were a quantity of 500 bulbs left over that could be planted on Church Green and around the bus shelter. AGREED – That the Chairman and Councillor Langthorne be thanked for the hard work that they undertook in planting the bulbs.

(4) Regeneration of Northallerton High Street – Town Square.

The Council had been consulted on this matter some weeks ago and the District Council had now been awarded funding to enable the project to go ahead which would invigorate the area outside the Town Hall with new paving and seating and the repositioning of the Market Cross in a larger communal area than exists at present for event and leisure activities. There would be a few car parking spaces lost in the proposals but these were more than compensated for by the extra parking that would shortly be available at the Treadmills development. 147 responses had been received to the consultation. Work on the £2.57m scheme would start in the New Year with £1.36m coming from the underspend on the towns Connections scheme and the remainder would come from Future High Streets Funding – a decision on the bid for cash for a larger scheme for the town is expected soon

(5) Christmas Tree.

The Churches Group had asked if there could be a larger Christmas tree this year as due to a mix up last year a smaller tree was donated by Sam Turners. The Clerk had asked Mr Turner if he would kindly donate a larger tree this year but if this was not possible the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had agreed that the Council should purchase a larger tree. The Chairman added that erection of the tree on the first Saturday in December by the scouts would need a risk assessment approved by the District Commissioner. AGREED - That the actions taken in this matter be endorsed.

(6) Works.

The workmans term of employment ended at the end of October as had already be agreed by the Council that it would. One of the last jobs undertaken was the filling of the all the grit bins in readiness for winter.

(7) AJ1 Police Road Safety Fund Project.

The Council had been successful in obtaining £3,500 from the Police Road Safety Project fund from the proceeds from the sale of the former Chief Constables car registration number. The Councils application had been approved in full for a VAS sign and advanced warning signs for Lead Lane. Consequently the Council would need to find £3,500 for this purpose as the application was approved on a 50 - 50 matched funded basis.

(8) Hedgehog Highways.

HDC Planning had confirmed that it would be quite possible to include a condition in any planning application granted that would be appropriate to include hedgehog highways in the developments in the same way as bat boxes etc were included in such conditions. It would however look to Brompton Council to put forward such suggestions at the time when it was consulted on planning applications in which this could be included.

(9) Finance Training.

Councillor Briggins Shaw had had an extensive finance training session with the Clerk. All Councillors have now had finance training in the past year.

(10) Industrial Estate.

The Environment Agency had confirmed that it did not own any land adjacent to the industrial estate site.

#### 8. CHAIRMAN/ VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

No actions reported.

#### 9. REPORTS.

No reports received.

#### 10. PLANNING MATTERS.

(l) Decisions.

20/01279/FUL - Change of use of storage building to MOT Station, former Baptist Church, Station Road - Refused.

(i) Applications.

20/01770/FUL - Retrospective application for construction of children's play area, including raised platform, two raised walkways, and two playhouses, as per amended plans at Mill Hill House, 33 Northallerton Road – No objections.

20/02265/FUL - Construction of a single storey rear extension at 34 Portland Road – No objections.

20/02375/FUL - Replacement workshop/ garage and storage building on land between 13 and 15 Lead Lane – No objections.

20/02422/OUT - Outline application with all matters reserved for proposed dwelling at Wayside, Stokesley Road – AGREED – That the Planning Authority be recommended to approve the application only subject to the observations of the Highway Authority due to the increased use of the existing access that this will lead to and that the height of any new structure should be in keeping with other buildings on the site - ie that it should be more of bungalow height.

#### 11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

##### Receipts –

The Co-op Funeral Services (Burial fee)	60.00
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Barthrams Funeral Services ( Outstanding Burial fees)	750.00
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##### Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
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P Atkin (Expenses)	39.60
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HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
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CE + CM Walker (October grasscutting)	729.60
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Sam Turner and Sons (STIHL line)	22.86
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NY Yorwaste Ltd (Advance charges)	22.56
J T Atkinsons (bulk bag of gravel)	38.84
Premier Design Survey Ltd (Pedestrian Bridge Survey)	480.00
Mr P Toman (58.5 hours labour)	702.00
Mr P Toman (Fuel Expenses)	25.00

#### Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £16,040.57

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

#### 12. BUDGET PROJECTIONS FOR END OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21 AND PRECEPT FOR 2021/22.

Councillors met on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the Councils financial position with a view to recommending to the November Council meeting the Precept level for the financial years 2021/22.

It was hoped to receive at least one instalment payment of approximately £25,000 from the District Council by the end of the year; these monies no longer being CIL monies but out of the HDC general pot. This would help in paying such as professional fees for the pedestrian bridge and the VAS sign, although it was still hoped that County Councillor Hugill would be able to locate some of his NYCC Community fund monies towards the Councils 50% share of the expenditure. Also included in these monies could be the hedgehog signs, the information boards etc at the wild flower area and the waymarker signs for the circular footpaths that Councillors Langthorne and Mrs Haynes were busy working on and the proposed BMX track.

It was hoped that one instalment of £25,000 would be received by the 31<sup>st</sup> December and a second similar instalment by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

It was reported that as Mr Douglas was very busy with other work the Notice Board for outside the Cemetery could be moved into the 2021/22 financial year.

Discussions took place about each budget head and the anticipated financial outturn at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

As regards the Cemetery extension the Clerk explained that in order to obtain the Secretary of States consent to applying for a loan from the PWLB the Council would need to consult all residents to ascertain that they were happy for the Council to borrow the necessary monies for this purpose for a period of 30 to 40 years.

A discussion took place about how to progress the bridge at the school using in-house contacts which would be very beneficial.

It was reported that the 200 occupied houses in the two new developments that were within Brompton Parish would provide over £8,000 in Council tax payments to the Town Council without having to increase the level of Council Tax to existing householders via the Precept.

As regards the VAS sign it was agreed that the NY Highway Engineer when he visits the site on Lead Lane to look at the most appropriate place for the sign he meets with Councillor Langthorne so that they could discuss issues about the existing School Sign (which would be better relocated due to

being obscured by overgrowth), the need for the hedge along Lead Lane to be cut and the possibility of placing yellow markings on the highway.

AGREED – That – (i) a Finance Committee be established consisting of Councillors Carveley and O’Sullivan and the Clerk to work forward financial matters including the establishment of a 3 year and a 5 year programme and other financial matters to report back as necessary to the Council with recommendations; (ii) the Clerk ask the NY Highways Engineer to meet with Councillor Langthorne as above; (iii) Mr Whiteheads tree report be circulated to all Councillors for information (in this respect the Vice-Chairman said that she would try to get hard copies printed off as the on line copy was difficult to read).

It was also AGREED – That the Precept for the financial year 2020/21 be set at £54,000.00

### 13. BROMPTON RECREATION GROUP.

The BRG Committee had erected signs indicating a ban of the walking of dogs around the field from the 1st December.

Received from HDC –

*You are correct that the Parish Council was given a Lease of land for recreational purposes in 1986. The Parish Council subsequently sub-let the land to Brompton Recreation Association in 1988. One of the terms of the lease was that “The Lessees will allow the general public unrestricted access to the land at all times” The Recreation Group or Parish Council may wish to take their own advice on the implications of that term in connection with their trying to ban dogs.*

*Until the implementation of the Anti-social behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, Parish Council’s could make certain orders restricting dogs on land etc but they no longer have powers to do so.*

*If the issue is one of dog fouling, this should be covered by the Hambleton Dog Fouling Order and be capable of being enforced by the dog wardens where they witness owners failing to pick up after their dogs.*

*Notices requesting certain behaviours may be used if reasonable but, as you say, they cannot be enforced.*

The Lease had stated that the land must be open to the public at all times. District Councillor Sanderson said that although she had spoken to HDC Legal Department they had pointed out that they were unable to give advice as regards Parish Council matters. The unfortunate conclusion was that it could be eventually for a Judge to decide. However the District Council had confirmed that the field was there as a playing field and its use was not restricted and was to be kept open for all who wanted to use it. Unfortunately nearly every public area in the Hambleton District had issues about dogs and playing field use.

A Councillor reported that he had seen other dog owners pick up dog waste from dogs that were not their own and expressed the view that it was unfortunate that matters had reached this stage without any consultation having taken place with residents of the village which had therefore missed the opportunity to come up with a strategy of that would have been acceptable to all.

The Chairman of the BRG explained that anyone could attend its meetings however it had not been possible to advertise the AGM due to Covid 19. Mr R Carter said that he used to always advertise the BRG meetings but no-one ever turned up. He added that he did not believe that sport and dogs mixed and the only way to prevent issues was to stop dog walking in the field, especially as part of the land belonged to the BRG anyway. He also pointed to the difficulties of carrying out consultations by an organisation when it had no money to do so. This had been done when he had served on the Village Hall Committee when a consultation had cost £450 just for the postage and they had been lucky to have obtained a grant for it.

A Councillor pointed to the fact that there were notice boards around the village and Mr Carter said even when the proposal for a Pavilion was being discussed only a handful of people turned up then. Dog fouling on the field had been brought up many times when he was involved with the BRG.

A Councillor said that no-one would disagree that it was unacceptable to have dog fouling on a sports field but asked the question as to whether the field was a sports field or a community facility as that distinction needed to be made.

The Chairman of the BRG commented that she had been asked by the School in the previous week if they could have a cross country run on the field, which was no problem, but someone was exercising two dogs on the field and was going to let the dogs off the leads but thought better of it. The children of course could have been wary of dogs. Mr Carter reiterated that the BRA had originally been set up as a sports facility but the Vice-Chairman pointed out that the planning application had stated that it was to be a community facility.

District Councillor Mrs Sanderson felt that the Council was not the forum for this discussion but the Chairman of the BRG commented that there had been questions from residents and therefore it would be appropriate to direct these to the BRG if the correspondents were willing to let the BRG have the names and contact details.

The Chairman of the BRG mentioned that Councillor O'Sullivan had not mentioned the dogs but he disputed this and said that he had mentioned them. However the Chairman of the BRG said that that had been some time ago.

Mr Carter suggested that the best way forward was to hold a public meeting.

The Clerk undertook to forward a copy of the Lease to Councillor O'Sullivan as requested.

AGREED – That Councillors forward any concerns that they have about the BRG to the Clerk with the intention of holding a special meeting on the matter in due course.

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

1. District Councillor Sanderson commented on the complaints received about the agricultural tractors and trailers driving through the village. A Councillor said that she had seen nine in twenty minutes and that this had been an issue now for a year and a half. It was pointed out that Mr Spence had another access from his land that would avoid the village. The Clerk undertook to visit Mr Spence to outline the complaints he had been receiving and to get his views to report back to the Council and to find out from NY Highways if there was a weight limit on the first road bridge at Water End.
2. Mrs B Slater mentioned that it had not been covered in the last Minutes about the grant application from the BRG. The Chairman clarified that the application had not been determined at the time as it was considered that a further grant should not be made when the previous work had not been completed. He added that no amount had been agreed to and in due course the Council would need to decide on the amount of any grant.

In continuing with the matter of the BRG it was reported that the BRG Committee had written to ask the Council to change its current membership on the Committee for a number of reasons - stated to be - conflict of interest; none acceptance of decisions made, conflict caused between several groups and reputation damage to Brompton Recreation Group. Councillor O'Sullivan said that he had been asked to leave a meeting of the BRG that was then held behind closed doors and had subsequently received a confidential letter from the BRG. The Chairman of the BRG said that Councillor O'Sullivan had been given every opportunity to contact the BRG and she was not willing to discuss the matter in public. She added that the BRG did not have to have a representative from the Council on its Committee. Mr Carter commented that everyone on the Committee had to be a Trustee or else they did not have voting rights. This appeared strange to the Council as there were currently only three Trustees but the voting on the matter of the banning of dogs had been carried by 5 votes to 1.

A Councillor commented that the BRGs fee structure should keep the organisation running and that it should have a five year plan. It was also pointed out that the BRG would be unable to enforce the dog ban when it came in.

Councillor O'Sullivan undertook to obtain information about Trustees and voting rights from the Charity Commission.

AGREED – That – (i) the Council does not at this time change its representation on the BRG Committee and, (ii) that notices be placed on the Notice Boards advising residents that if they have any matters of concern about the BRG then these need to be addressed to its Chairman.

#### 14. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND

Damage to the picnic table was the only matter to report.

#### 15. HIGHWAY MATTERS

The Children Playing signs had been put up and looked very good.

Road Closures –

Banks Road was to close for three days from 7th to 9th December (from 09.30 to 15.30 only) because of works on behalf of BT to allow safe access to overhead cables and tree cutting.

Long Lane was to close for two days on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December (08.30 – 16.30 only) to allow BT to excavate and erect five telecom poles.

Middle bridge at Water End

Councillor Langthorne and the Clerk had recently inspected the condition of the middle bridge at Water End Green and had found it to have several defects that had been reported to NY Highways in the hope that they would take responsibility for the necessary repairs.

Cleaning of Road at Cockpit Hill

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had asked the Clerk to take up with HDC in his capacity as a District Councillor a complaint by a resident as to why cleaning of the road to remove mud and gravel from vehicles that were connected with construction of the new housing site at the rear of Cockpit Hill had ceased.

AGREED – That the actions taken in the above matters be endorsed.

#### 16. GREENS INSPECTION.

No items to report.

#### 17. CORRESPONDENCE

(I) Property at Water End.

The owner of a property at Water End to whom the Council some years ago granted permission to for the construction of a dwarf wall on the land fronting the property which was part of the village green had notified the Clerk that he was in the process of moving and had confirmed that he would make available to all prospective purchasers the details of the conditions imposed when the Council granted consent for the flood wall.

AGREED – That the Clerk forward the suggested wording for the information board to go alongside the village pump situated on the same parcel of land to Councillors.

#### 18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of Next Meeting

AGREED - That the next meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 15th December at 7.00pm.



(ii) Local Government Reorganisation.

At its full Council meeting held on the 5th November Hambleton District Council had resolved not to support an East/West split for the County for a new Unitary Authority by a majority of 10 votes but to put forward a case for retaining Hambleton District Council for the future. It had been strongly argued that the present is not the right time to be changing the structure of local government in this area which had been in existence for 46 years as there were far more important issues to be resolved prior to this taking place.

Brompton Council had written to its MP urging that he support a deferral of this matter and had received a response which was rather non-committal although was also non-political. To date the District Council had had no response from the local MP.

(iii) Christmas Lights.

Northallerton Town Council had this last month renewed its Christmas lights in the High Street. The previous lights were in storage and Brompton Council had previously expressed an interest in acquiring some of these lights. Discussions would therefore probably take place between the two Councils in the New Year.

(iv) Key Decision CYP 40/20 New Primary School to serve Northallerton

Notice dated 10 November 2020 of decision made by County Councillor Patrick Mulligan, Executive Member for Education and Skills on 10 November 2020.

Decision:

To proceed with the Presumption Route process for the establishment of a new primary school to serve Northallerton to maintain school place sufficiency in response to expected housing growth.

AGREED – That the Clerk ask County Councillor Hugill what plans were being put in place for the school to be used after hours as a community facility as this would be an asset to the locality.

(v) Chairmanship of the Council.

Councillor Martin reported that in view of him moving out of the area possibly in the New Year it would be beneficial for the Council if a successor was appointed to take over the position of Chairman from him at the next Council meeting. He would however for the time being remain as a Councillor.

## 19. BURIAL MATTERS

It was reported that a visitor to the Cemetery had stumbled in a hole in the surface of Plot G hidden by the grass. The Clerk had filled the hole. Outstanding burial fees owed by an Undertaker had been paid. Burials still remained at their lowest for over 20 years.

Work was to start this week on the District Councils new Crematorium at Busby Stoop. The 22 acre site was to be named Maple Park. The development work would take several months to complete.

AGREED – That the Finance Committee review the level of burial fees to be implemented from 1st January 2021 and report its recommendations to the next Council meeting.

### **The following items of business were considered in Private Session**

20. LETTER FROM A RESIDENT REGARDING CRIME ISSUES.

21. CEMETERY EXTENSION - PROGRESS AS REGARDS EXTENSION

22. ALLOTMENTS - NEGOTIATIONS FOR FURTHER ALLOTMENTS SITE.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

