

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Town Hall, Northallerton on Tuesday 29th June 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs S Brigginsshaw, Mrs S Haynes, Mrs E Kelly, Mrs M Shiel Dods (in the Chair), Mr M Langthorne, Mrs A Robinson and Mr S O’Sullivan.

There were 5 members of the public present including District Councillor David Hugill.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

An apology for absence was received from District Councillor Mrs Sanderson. No Declarations of Interests in any items on the agenda were received.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.

AGREED – That the Public be excluded from the meeting for items 23 and 24 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 the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2021, having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON FILLING OF VACANCY.

The Clerk reported that ten electors of the Parish not having come forward to call an election a Notice of Vacancy by way of co-option had been displayed which would expire on the 5th July 2021.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FLOOD GROUP – UPDATE.

The meeting was informed that a leaflet worded as follows would be circulated to households following the current meeting -

CAN YOU HELP PROTECT OUR VILLAGE?

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF BROMPTON FLOOD PREVENTION GROUP

AFTER MANY YEARS THE EXISTING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHO HAVE CARRIED OUT SUCH FANTASTIC VOLUNTARY WORK HAVE HAD TO STAND DOWN FOR A NUMBER OF PERSONAL REASONS

Brompton was saved by inches from flooding in January 2021 due to the dams. These dams are there thanks to the Flood Group. To prevent Brompton flooding in the future there must be a group of volunteers who will do the same.

If you can spare a few hours a month to form a new Committee please contact in the first instance bromptonpc@aol.com

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT - See Monthly Update.

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	4	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>

Criminal Damage	2	
Theft (including from shops)	1	
Violence Against the Person	9	
Other crimes including Drugs	1	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	17	

A Councillor reported that an assault had taken place on Northallerton Road on the day of the current meeting.

7. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Following the Government's announcement two weeks ago about the need to continue the current period of lockdown for a further month it had been confirmed that the Methodist Church would not be available to book for meetings until after end of the new lockdown period in mid July.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (i) Tree behind the Bus Shelter.

The tree behind the bus shelter from which a large branch had fallen off and damaged the bus shelter had been inspected and had been found to be in good condition and not a danger.

- (ii) Brompton Sign on Northallerton Road.

It was noted that the Brompton sign near the Rugby Club was broken.

- (iii) Signs on Lead Lane.

Councillor Langthorne had strimmed around the traffic and school signs on Lead Lane as they were obstructed by vegetation.

- (iv) Industrial Land off Station Road.

Residents had reported an increase in noise levels and black smoke coming from the industrial estate, having had to close windows to prevent smoke and other unpleasant odours coming into the houses.

Investigations had revealed that in mid-June there was a farm fire that resulted in smoke being blown across part of Brompton. Plumes of black smoke also affected parts of Brompton in the Station Road area during the last week and investigations were being carried out by NY Fire and Rescue and the District Council.

It was also reported that HDC Enforcement had also spoken to the land agents Strutt and Parker about the matter.

- (v) Walk Round the Village.

From the 23rd May onwards the Clerk and Councillors had walked around the village to look at issues of concern. A spread-sheet of actions had been worked up with suggestions as to how each should be dealt with.

- (vi) Christmas Lights.

At very short notice Northallerton Town Council had asked if BTC could take away their surplus Christmas Lights as a contractor needed to get into the part of the Town Hall where they were being stored. Councillor Langthorne managed to collect these with his tractor and trailer and they were stored at Councillor Langthornes until the Cemetery shed was cleared which was done by Councillors

the next week. Councillors had to also take a quantity of hedge cuttings etc which had been left in the shed to the tip so that they could get into the shed.

There are large 20 Christmas light units which in due course would need to have electrical checks.

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

None reported.

10. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

Some points from the NYCC Richmondshire Constituency Area Committee meeting held on the 9th June 2021 -

It is hoped that there will be a seamless transition of Highway functions from Ringway the previous contractor to NYCC. No change in services should be seen but the comment was made that people are actually looking for improved services.

Flooding, Ice and Road Closed signs appear all over the hedge backs etc and need removing. Many of these had been referred to Ringway to collect but they've just be left them. There are still ice warning signs on roads in June!

The new Highways service will be in effect be a one-to-one service rather than involving a third party, however it needs to be recognised that utility services are not part of North Yorkshire Highways which only delivers the highway services.

Questions were raised about grass cutting. The initial highway cut has taken place as this was carried out by Ringway and North Yorkshire Highways has subsequently awarded contracts to the various sub-contractors and it is hoped that the second highway cuts will take place as soon as possible. There are also specific locations such as visibility splays where an interim cut has been carried out for safety reasons.

The issue of weeds especially those growing along the roadside gutters was raised and the comment was made that the estate roads are this year looking particularly bad. The County Councils contractors are due to start this work this month, however there is a restriction on the use of chemicals that can be used in the highway.

Each year is different and there is a significant difference this year to last year which has made the situation much worse. This year there was a very dry period then the whole month of May was very wet followed by another warm period which has accelerated the growth and which has been very different to last year.

As regards the North Northallerton development it was reported that good progress was being made after a shaky start due to ground conditions and Covid restrictions on the work carried out by the contractors.

The embankments have been completed and work has now been carried out on the bridge proper with the bridge beams being fabricated offsite. This is a key point and the bridge beams will be on site in August and overnight slots have been agreed with Network Rail for the bridge to be put into position with extra slots being put in as the whole process is weather dependent, especially with regard to the wind.

The programme has slipped with completion now being expected in January 2022, however efforts are being made to try and bring this forward into the current year, although once the bridge and road have been finished there won't be an instant opening as there needs to be safety checks undertaken on the full route before it is open to traffic. There is also a need for a signing review to take place to optimise the use of the route to the traffic out of Northallerton especially from Friarage Street and particularly for HGVs.

Not much information is currently available as regards the progress of the flooding issues as there hasn't been a lot of information obtainable from landowners by the developers. There are two different solutions - one being the use of third-party land and one being the use of land in the control of developers, with an update expected at the next Area Committee meeting.

However it is still hoped that the issue will be resolved during the Summer.

Area Highways is still pursuing Taylor Wimpey for updates especially as they are struggling to communicate with the landowner. NY Highways is in a position to start work providing a road crossing from the existing highway pipe that Taylor Wimpey can connect into.

As regards Brompton it was clarified that that this involved the drain collecting land water on the east side of the carriageway at the field adjacent to Cudsworth Cottages to the north boundary side to the development and it is planned to interrupt that water and take it across the carriageway to the west side and to connect to a pipe across the carriageway where Taylor Wimpey will connect at the point of the northern most bungalow to a manhole and then take the water into the beck. Land water will be segregated from highway water and will continue down the existing highways drainage system to the roundabout where it will connect into the new Yorkshire Water drain.

County Councillor Hugill added that there would be a further report to the next meeting of the County Councils Richmondshire Constituency Area Committee with regard to the flooding on Stokesley Road.

Finance Working Group – 29th June 2021

The Finance Group had Recommended as follows -

1. To open a separate account with the Yorkshire Building Society to keep the contingency sum reserve in.
2. Ask HDC if we can have some of the CIL monies out of the £28,000 for the bridge now for fees paid to date.
3. Not to replace the damaged Brompton sign until the new Link Road opens as the Council may wish to reposition the plinth.
4. Councillors to refer any complainants about anything to the Clerk so that an official record be made.
5. Councillors to put all orders through the Clerk as per the Financial Regulations and that the Finance Group review all requests for expenditure.
5. That no grants be made in 2021/22 financial year - donations to stay as they are - which puts £3,600 back into the Councils funds.
6. The Clerk to check with NTC how the electricity charges for Christmas lights are paid when connected to the lamp post supply.

AGREED – That the above recommendations be approved.

11. PLANNING MATTERS.

(a) Decisions.

21/00818/FUL - Demolition of existing single garage and store and the construction of a replacement single garage, Robin Hill, 63 Water End – Granted.

21/00609/FUL - Ground Floor Alterations and extension to the rear of the property - 8 Hilton Close – Granted.

(b) Applications.

21/01166/FUL - Construction of a new single storey farm office/garden room with flat roof and roof lantern forming of new doorway from existing property – Moor House Farm, Deighton Lane – No objections.

21/01059/MRC - Modification of conditions to previously approved application 19/01499/FUL
Construction of 21 residential dwellings with associated landscaping and parking as amended by plans received by Hambleton District Council - Land off Lead Lane – No objections.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Nil

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	32.32
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	80.00
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
CE+CM Walker (April Grasscutting)	1,473.60
Hambleton District Council (Litter/Dog Bins for NND)	898.92
RGPS (Signs for wild life area plinths)	660.00
NYCC (2 year Domain renewal)	55.00
<i>Printroom (1,000 leaflets)</i>	<i>54.00</i>
<i>Mr R Douglas (new catches for notice boards)</i>	<i>135.00</i>
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	22.56*

* due to Covid 19 to be paid by Direct Debit

In italics - signed by Chairman and Vice-Chairman outside of meeting.

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £38,213.97

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

Transfer of Monies to the High Interest Account for a Contingency.

Following on from the Finance Working Groups recommendation to place a percentage of the Councils monies into the High Interest Account as a contingency so long as this was accessible the Clerk had investigated this and had reported to Members as follows -

The Council operates a fully automated Bank Account for security reasons - therefore it doesn't have PIN access to view the machines in the Branch or on the internet or telephone - and receives the monthly statements to work from as they are free.

This system was adopted for a number of reasons -

1. No one person can put a PIN number in and withdraw any monies - it's illegal anyway for Local Authorities.
2. Current accounts are not protected against fraud - therefore the Councils money is locked in the Business Account and transferred automatically into the Current Account as each payment is made with a cushion of no more than £200 in the current account at any one time.
3. Monies received by way of cheque or bank transfer go automatically into the Business Account - unlike personal banking where they would go into the current account until the account holder moved them.

The national level of protection to a maximum of £85,000 by all UK Banks protects all the Councils monies not in the current account.

When the Council transferred its account from HSBC to Barclays Bank in 1997 it took advantage of the free Community Banking that was being offered by Barclays and which at that time included local Councils.

Since 2000 local Councils must open Business Accounts and are not part of the Community Banking Scheme unless they joined before the arrangements were changed.

If any alterations no matter how small are made to any account of a local Council receiving free banking then that Council will no longer get free banking and would be charged each month accordingly.

13. ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT.

AGREED – That the financial risk assessment be approved as circulated.

14. ADOPTION OF REVISED STANDING ORDERS.

AGREED – That the revised Standing Orders be approved as circulated.

15. ALLOTMENTS SITE – Update.

The Chairman had shown two Northallerton Town Councillors around the allotment site on the 11th June as Northallerton Town Council was in the process of looking for new allotment sites and wished to see how the site at Brompton had progressed over the years.

It was reported that the polytunnel had now been erected at the allotment site.

16. MIDDLE BRIDGE OVER BECK AT WATER END – UPDATE.

The Chairman reported that together with Councillor Langthorne she would be meeting without structural Engineer the week after next.

17. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

For the future the Produlic representative was in the area recently and had confirmed that in due course the company would like to be included in any tender process for new play equipment.

The gate post at the entrance to the field was broken and Mr Douglass would be able to repair it on his return from holiday

18. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including - Notification of Road Closures.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - Brompton Road, Northallerton - 30193

The Closure will be in place overnight for a period of 18 days between 28th August 2021 and 14th September 2021

The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=122452502>

DEIGHTON LANE BROMPTON – CARRIAGEWAY PATCHING

Galliford Try on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council, would be undertaking highway maintenance at the above location, from the junction of Brompton lane to Moor House Farm. The works were currently programmed to commence on 29th June and last for 8 days. This work is part of an extensive programme and as a consequence it is possible that some adjustment to this start date or the duration of the works may be necessary should unforeseen circumstances (such as significant weather events or emergencies on the highway network arise. The works will be carried out between the hours of 07.30 - 17.00hrs under a full road closure.

Northallerton Road, Brompton Derstriction Order.

The length of road would cease to be subject to 40 miles per hour and shall default to 30 miles per hour: The length of the Unclassified County Road known as Northallerton Road, Brompton from a point 195 metres north of its junction with the Ellerbeck to Kendal Class I County Road A684 northwards for a distance of 75 metres. New 30mph signs along this stretch of road were awaited.

Proposed Meeting with County Councillor Hugill.

Following the Councillors walk round the village it was hoped that a site meeting could be held with County Councillor Hugill to look at the following matters -

Portland Rd- flooding at junction

Cockpit Hill- inspection/repair of brick work on wall, missing and loose coping stones

Cockpit Hill- site visit from David to look at parking on the cobbles, moving the line of pavement, white lines, clear space to allow children to safely cross from Danes Crest. Moving white fence to create a pavement.

The Crown- repaint keep clear sign

Water End-moving the kerb stones in to allow a wider passing space.

Gullies at Water End and Fullicar Lane.

Following a meeting with Mr G Spence and the Clerk and Councillor Langthorne the Highway Officer had advised that he had inspected the three culverts causing concern at Fullicar Lane and had added them to the list for jetting and clearing as the current blocked state was affecting the carriageway surface. NY Highways had also been asked to clean out the gullies along the east side of Water End.

Bridge across Fields at rear of Orchard Grove.

It was reported that in the last week vandalism had taken place at the bridge at the rear of Orchard Grove, Brompton on the Public Right of Way leading into the fields with a number of surface boards being taken off and thrown below consequently being extremely dangerous as there was a five foot gap in the boards.

The matter was reported to NYCC as soon as it was known and the footpaths section replaced the boards 36 hours later. In the meantime a resident believed to be Mr Paul Toman took immediate action and cordoned off the bridge with barrier tape.

Overgrown Hedges.

Various overgrown hedges had been reported to NY Highways.

Other Matters.

A resident also pointed out that after heavy rainfall the footpath along Stokesley Road became flooded from the gully and needed to be sorted out.

A Councillor asked if the surface of the Water Splash would be able to cope with all the large agricultural traffic.

There was also a need for new 30mph signs at the bottom of Fullicar Lane for traffic entering the village and it was AGREED - That the Clerk ask NY Highways to erect these signs.

It was also reported that other gullies needed to be cleaned out especially along Stokesley Road.

Concerns were also expressed about the need for strimming to take place along Stokesley Road especially as nettles were overgrowing the footpath and making it difficult for walkers and cyclists. The Clerk undertook to ask NY Highways when it was intended to carry out this strimming. County Councillor Hugill reported that the first strimming of Stokesley road this year had taken place earlier than usual so that it was done before the handover from Ringways.

19. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA UPDATE.

Notices would be delivered around the village in the next week and placed on the web site updating residents on the Brompton Wildlife area.

Also received from a resident -

My heartiest congratulations to the parish council. The wild green beyond the ford looks wonderful and it's such a pleasure to walk round it. I counted 41 different species of wildflowers whilst strolling this afternoon and there are more appearing in the mown square which as yet I cannot identify. There were insects and butterflies around too. It was just beautiful.

The Clerk reported that concerns about strimming around trees and posts had again been submitted to the grasscutting contractor who had also been asked to trim around the boulders towards Fullicar Lane and along the path alongside the Recreation Ground to The Methodist Church.

There had also been concerns about the roped off areas as the ropes could not be seen for the growth. Councillor Mrs Haynes reported that following these concerns the ropes from one of the wild life areas had been removed and although the boulders along the stretch of Green towards Fullicar Lane were to be trimmed around Councillor Langthorne said that he would remove them following complaints raised about safety issues adding that he had in mind an alternative location around Water End Green where they could be positioned.

A Councillor asked if it would be better to provide a fence along the Green approaching Fullicar Lane instead of boulders. It was suggested that this was something that the Working Group could look at.

Further complaints had been received from a resident who lived adjacent to the Water Splash and it was suggested that some planting along the area of concern be looked at.

In answer to a question it was pointed out that there was no money allocated in the budget for further boulders.

Councillor Brigginshaw reported that she was in liaison with the DT department at the College to set some Year 8 students onto a design project to design a background template that can be typed onto for Wildlife Area updates, which could perhaps be the way forward to produce a nature trail/tree tag identification hunt idea (or both eventually). It was also hoped to get Brompton CP School involved.

AGREED – That is due course the Council support the costs of any materials.

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

Councillor O'Sullivan made a statement to the meeting about an issue that had occurred in the virtual meeting in April which he regarded as being an attempt to close down a discussion with a Councillor. The Chairmen indicated that she agreed with Councillor O'Sullivan's statement adding that in future she would ask any person who acted likewise to leave the meeting as the Council meeting was not a public meeting but was a meeting that was open to the public. Councillor O'Sullivan added that all were entitled to their opinion and to share views but not to be closed down.

Mrs Slater commented that everyone knew it was her who was being referred to adding that she had had no intention of speaking to Councillor O'Sullivan and clarified that she had been speaking to the Chairman at that point in the April meeting and that there had been no need for another person to speak.

20. CORRESPONDENCE.

None received other than referred to elsewhere.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

AGREED – That this be arranged depending on relaxation of lockdown.

(ii) Church Wall.

The Clerk reported that Swaledale Stonemasons had carried out a full inspection of the Church Wall and Headstones. The formal report was awaited. However there was nothing of immediate concern as regards the Church wall. Nothing had moved along the wall since the last repairs were made some 6 years ago.

There were a number of loose cobbles in wall on the south side that needed stabilising and areas where pointing needed to be carried out.

The inside wall of the double skin structure was in very poor state in places but this did not affect the structure and it would be extremely expensive to work on it just to make it look nice - also if those works were undertaken a Diocese Archeologist would need to be on site which would be expensive.

There was no danger of any of the wall collapsing although in 20 years time or so works may need to be carried out to rebuild part of the wall immediately opposite The Shop as in time the large tree that was adjacent to the wall at that point was likely to have pushed the wall out.

AGREED - That Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked for a view as to whether reducing the height of the tree would improve matters for the future and that if so then planning consent and a Faculty be applied for.

As regards the headstones, two of the ones that the Clerk had cordoned off were apparently ok. There were a few headstones that needed to be stabilised but there was no need for any to be laid flat. A couple of sandstone ones that could crack and eventually fall could be cut across the middle and dowelled like many had been in the past to save the inscriptions.

None of the handful that had been laid flat for some years had inscriptions on them and therefore should stay where they were as there was no benefit in re-erecting them and that would be very expensive to do.

It is hoped to undertake all the work in the Autumn and when the formal report was received the Clerk would need to work with PCC so as to apply for a Faculty.

(iii) New Primary School.

It was reported that there had been a delay in the transfer of land from the developers to enable the project to enter the construction phase. There was a decision published recently to cancel the procurement exercise to appoint a builder. The target date for the opening of the school will now be September 2023. The Dales Academies Trust will operate the School and a new procurement for construction will begin in due course. The position for school places is obviously something NYCC will be mindful of in this interim period and will monitor carefully.

The delay was not seen as being critical to school place sufficiency for September 2022.

In answer to a question County Councillor Hugill confirmed that the new Primary School would be available for use as a community facility out of school hours.

(iv) Footpaths

Councillor Mrs Haynes reported that although there was a need to have another look at the footpaths the matter was well advanced.

The Council asked Councillor Robinson to pass on its thanks to her husband for the work he had done in putting up the way marking signs from Danes Crest to Stokesley Road.

(v) Unitary Authority

County Councillor Hugill reported that a decision was expected from the Government in early July.

(vi) Grasscutting at Junction of Lead Lane

It was reported that traffic had to go into the centre of the carriageway to be able to see around the junction at Lead Lane due to the height of the uncut grass which was a dangerous situation. AGREED - That the Clerk ask if this was a County Highway verge.

(vii) Parish Portal.

In answer to a question County Councilor Hugill said that he would get NYCC to inform the Clerk as to whether the Parish Portal could also be used by Councillors.

(viii) Laptop

Councillor Mrs Haynes said that she would arrange to meet the Clerk in order to return the laptop.

(ix) August Meetings of the Council

AGREED - That to fall in line with other Councils no meetings of the Council be held during the month of August in each year unless there are exceptional circumstances and that at such time the Council meet for that particular purpose only.

(x) Potholes on Northallerton Road.

The Clerk reported that he was meeting with a resident the following day about potholes on Northallerton Road.

(xi) On Demand Bus Service.

It was reported that an on-demand bus service that allows users to choose when and where they want to travel was to be piloted in rural areas of the County.

YorBus would be operating within the Ripon, Bedale and Masham areas from July 1. The service would be run by the County Council and would allow users to book via a dedicated app, which will be available to download from June 28.

Councillors pointed out that there needed to be more bus stopping points around the North Northallerton Development and that the two current bus stops opposite each other were inappropriate when the new link road was opened.

22. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that he had waived a memorial fee for relatives of a person who died in 1955 as he was under age of 16 at that time.

Once again no burials had taken place over the past month.

Matters taken in Private Session

23. CEMETERY EXTENSION – PROGRESS AS REGARDS EXTENSION.

No new information was reported to the meeting.

24. ALLOTMENTS.

As a Northallerton Town Councillor the Clerk reported on discussions that had taken place with a Brompton landowner about the lease of land for allotments in the Parish.