

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Town Hall, Northallerton on
Tuesday 27th July 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 Councillors Mrs Isobel Sanderson and David Hugill.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence were submitted and 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 item 23 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 29th June 2021, having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON FILLING OF VACANCY.

It was reported that three candidates had expressed an interest in the co-opted vacancy. One had however had to subsequently withdraw his application. The other two had both submitted biographical details and the Council intended to interview both candidates with the aim being that the successful candidate be appointed to serve on the Council from the September Council meeting. The Clerk would email Councillors to arrange a date for the interviews.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FLOOD GROUP – UPDATE.

Seven responses had received to the Councils leaflet about joining a new Flood Group. These were in addition to the one person from the old Flood Group who already indicated that they would be interested. It was therefore hoped to hold a meeting with all in the near future.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	5	
Theft (including from shops)	2	
Violence Against the Person	5	
Other crimes including Drugs	3	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	17	

7. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.

Unfortunately it had not been possible for the current meeting to be accommodated in The Methodist Church but it was anticipated that all would be back to normal for the September Council meeting onwards. Principal Councils had raised objection to the fact that they were now required to hold their Council meetings in person whereas MPs had a choice of attending meetings in the House of Commons in person or virtually.

The latest data had shown that in the seven days leading up to 19 July Hambleton had the highest rate of new cases across the County with 696 cases per 100,000.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) Local Government Re-organisation.

On the 21st July the Government announced that the District Councils in North Yorkshire (with the exception of York) and the County Council would be merged into one Unitary Authority from May 2023. Elections for the new Shadow Authority would take place next May.

Hambleton District Council had commented –

We are saddened and disappointed with this decision; however, we will now work hard to ensure the very best outcomes for residents, businesses, communities and staff. There is a great deal of hard work ahead of all of us to make sure that our excellent services continue for the people of Hambleton while we prepare for the new council to take shape by 2023. • We will ensure that we have a voice during the transition so that local places and the interests of staff are represented throughout. • Staff will continue to be employed by their current council until March 2023, after which the vast majority will be transferred to the new authority. • Elections to the new authority are to be held in May next.

The comment was made that the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation would put more weight on the shoulders of Parish Councillors. Although additional functions would be capable of being passed down to Local Councils it was unlikely that many Parish/Town Councils would be able to take these up.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson commented that on reorganisation the current representation of 28 District Councillors covering the Hambleton District would be halved on the new Unitary Authority.

County Councillor Hugill said that he was convinced that the right decision had been made and that the new arrangements would work especially as there would be more monies available for localities.

(i) Leaflets about Flood Group and Traffic Calming.

All leaflets were delivered around the village by the 12th July.

Responses had been as follows –

7 expressions of interest in joining the Flood Group

3 about speeding along Northallerton Road near the Rugby Club

1 about the pedestrian crossing point on the Link Road

1 saying we do a good job

2 + a telephone call (perhaps the same person) asking why we didn't leaflet the village about dog fouling.

1 asking why we haven't got a Post Office and why can't the shop stay open longer

(ii) Blocked Gullies on Fullicar Lane.

NY Highways had agreed to jet clean the gullies at the entrance to Fullicar Lane which had been blocked for a considerable time. They had also been asked to clean out the gullies along the east side of Water End. There were also concerns about the gullies along Stokesley Road.

(iii) Grass Cutting along Stokesley Road.

Several complaints had been received about the overgrowth of grass and weeds along Stokesley Road and coincidentally grass cutting took place at the beginning of the month. Numerous complaints had been received about grasscutting on Hilton Green. NYCC also had many similar complaints and all had been passed to Broadacres Housing.

(iv) 7.5 ton Weight Limit Sign – Entrance to Lead Lane.

The 7.5ton weight limit sign had been demolished in a traffic accident and had been laid in the hedge back. HY Highways had ordered a replacement.

(v) Potholes opposite the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk reported that he had met with a resident about pot holes opposite the Recreation Ground that could prove dangerous to cyclists and NY Highways had subsequently filled the holes in.

(vi) Traffic Warden.

Concerns had been expressed about the traffic warden giving out enforcement tickets in the village in the early hours of the morning. The parking was not on a highway line but on an advisory white line on Church View and the penalty tickets were subsequently withdrawn when this was pointed out. The Chairman had placed a letter of concern in this weeks edition of the Darlington and Stockton Times.

(vii) Industrial Land.

Following smoke from a fire at the former scrap yard premises the occupier had been visited by the Fire Brigade who had provided advice to him. The occupier had also received a letter from HDC warning about the consequences should there be any reoccurrence of issues from the burning of any materials on the premises.

(viii) Web Site.

The Clerk reported that the web site had been comprehensively updated during the last month including a gallery of photos of the Cemetery kindly taken by Councillor Langthorne.

(ix) National Annual Cemetery Competition.

It was reported that the Council had followed Romanby and Northallerton Joint Burial Committees lead and also for the first time entered the national Annual Cemetery Competition. The Council had subsequently been informed that it had scored 421 points but as yet there was no information on which to base this score. However in the next few weeks a comprehensive breakdown of the score in each category and the reasons why the Cemetery had been marked at each level would be received. This would assist the Council in submitting an entry to the competition in future years.

(x) Car Wash Business.

It was reported that HDC Enforcement had advised that a car wash business operating off Station Road had ceased this business.

(xi) Forward Plan.

The Forward Plan had been updated. Of the 31 items in the Plan the Neighbourhood Plan had been removed as there had been no progress on this in 10 years and any benefit to be gained would be heavily outweighed by the time and resources that would need to be involved in formulating a Neighbourhood Plan.

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

The Chairman and Councillor Langthorne had met with the Councils Agents as regards the bridge at Water End and were awaiting further details from the Environment Agency. It was becoming apparent that in order to meet with all requirements regarding the height of the bridge and ramps the bridge would cost far in excess of the original estimates. Consideration was therefore being given to the possible repair of the existing structure which would not require EA consent. If the bridge was not able to be repaired there was the possibility that it would be removed. In the meantime security fencing would be placed around the bridge.

10. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

No reports were made to the meeting under this agenda item.

11. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications.

21/01557/FUL - Construction of stomach processing room as part of abattoir operations - separate and adjacent to main abattoir building at Crawford Grange – AGREED – That Councillors advise the Clerk if they have any comments to make on this planning application.

21/01582/MRC - Modification/removal of condition 2 (approved drawings) to previously approved application 21/00609/FUL at 8 Hilton Close – No objections.

(ii) Decisions

21/01090/FUL - Single Storey Extension to Provide Lounge and Gym Area at Ebor House, 19 Cockpit Hill - Granted

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 at Moor House Farm, Deighton Lane - Granted

21/00954/FUL - Retrospective change of use of agricultural land to domestic, siting of greenhouse and boundary fence. Proposed rear extension to dwelling at The Windmill, 3A Water End - Granted

21/00832/FUL - Siting of timber double garage at The Workshop, Stokesley Road - Granted

21/00669/FUL - Construction of replacement agricultural free range poultry building at Moor House Farm, Deighton Lane - Granted

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	55.00
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Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
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P Atkin (Expenses)	To be incorporated with August claim
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Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	80.00
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
CE+CM Walker (April Grasscutting)	2,210.40
Northallerton Town Council (2 monthly room hires)	92.00
NYCC (Service Level Agreement)	432.00
HDC (Large Format Printing)	43.20
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	22.56*

* paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Account - £177.44.

Business Savings Account - £38,064.45

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

13. INTERNAL AUDIT.

It was reported that the accounts for the financial year 2020/21 were currently being audited by Mrs Watt the Finance Officer at Northallerton Town Council.

Councillors had recommended Mr J Robinson, the Clerk and RFO to Osmotherley Parish Council and a qualified Accountant be asked to assist in updating the Councils finances onto a computerised system at a payment of £100 a month for twelve months. AGREED – That this arrangement with Mr Robinson be accepted.

(Councillor Mrs Robinson declared a personal interest in the above matter in view of the fact that Mr J Robinson was her husband)

14. ADOPTION OF COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.

AGREED – That the Complaints Procedure as previously circulated be adopted and be placed on the Councils web site.

15. ALLOTMENTS SITE – Update.

In his capacity as a Northallerton Town Councillor the Clerk reported that endeavours to extend the current allotments site to an adjoining area providing up to 50 extra allotment plots occupied and funded jointly by Northallerton Town Council on a 50 – 50 basis, with the negotiations having been progressed by NTC, had unfortunately proved unsuccessful.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that HDC was working with the developer at NND as regards provision of allotments on that site, adding that there could be space on the site where the Sports Village was to go.

Allotments at NND intended for Brompton users that had been included in the Masterplan had unfortunately been taken out of the proposals.

In answer to a question about the Sports Village Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that matters were awaiting the developer and the site would also be used by the new college on the former Allertonshire school site. In addition to the Sports Village there was also to be a Skills Village where students could learn a trade.

In answer to a further question Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that there was not to be a childrens play area at the Sports Village.

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

It was reported that the Chairman and Councillor Langthorne had this last week met with the Councils Agents at the bridge at Water End. The Agents hands were tied at the moment with what they could proceed with as they were awaiting on EA's final report. The structural engineers also needed the report to finalise the levels of the bridge.

The structural engineers had recommended that security fencing be placed around both entrances to the bridge to protect any children etc playing on the bridge and the costs of providing this fencing were being investigated to either buy or hire.

The Clerk reported that they engineers had also asked the Council to contact its insurance company to get the correct wording on new signs that state that the Bridge was closed due to safety reasons. However the insurance company had confirmed that it was happy with signs that had already been put up.

17. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

A resident had given notice of a public question asking why do the Town Council think it appropriate that there should be a dog ban on the recreation ground that they manage and not the one managed by the BRG?

The Chairman reported that historically the Council had acted in the belief that there was a covenant banning dogs from the Recreation Ground but it had very recently been learnt that this was not the case. The resident concerned expressed a view as to how the dog ban signs had come into existence some 25 years or so ago. Furthermore it did not appear as though there had been any planning permission granted for the play area, nor for the one at Water End. A Councillor commented that at that time there had been few dogs in the village, only farm dogs and the Recreation Ground had been used for football and cricket and that at that time the Parish Council had levelled the land and installed play equipment.

The resident asked why there was a dog ban on one play area in the village and not the other and the Chairman suggested that it would be appropriate to ask the villagers what they wanted to be done in this respect. Another resident remarked that many years ago she was aware of dogs being walked in the Recreation Ground.

A Councillor pointed out that the Recreation Ground was the one place in the village that was safe for children away from dogs.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson remarked that if a dog ban had been in existence for more than ten years then it should remain. There was also the issue that unlike the BRG field the childrens play area at the Recreation Ground was not all fenced off separately. Councillor Mrs Sanderson also clarified that the HDC Dog Warden could not go onto private land.

The Chairman mentioned that the Council had not to date been made aware of the BRGs survey regarding the use of the field and dogs and was informed that this information was on the Notice Boards.

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

- (i) Mr R Carter reported the Yorkshire Water works near the Rugby Club were not finished and it was not known if the solution was for a repair to be made or for a new pipe to be put in. The Clerk undertook to try and get some clarification from Yorkshire Water on this matter.
- (ii) Mrs B Slater referred to a communication from the Clerk about a document from 2014. The Chairman reported that that time four possible options had been put to the former BRA about a way forward for the future but the Council was not aware as to which of the options had been decided upon. Mr Carter commented that the decision at that time had been to carry on until new people turned up which turned out to be Mr Hazelwood. He added that the matter was one for the Charity Commission and not the Council and that at the time the Parish Council representatives had not said anything about the matter.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson remarked that the Council always sent a representative to the BRA meetings and consequently it was not the fault of the BRA that there was no report back, adding that as a Parish Council it had no authority over the BRA in the similar way that the Kettlewell Trust was a Charity with the Council not asking that Trust how it was being run.

The Chairman said that the matter was not about the Charity Commission but about an Agreement that existed between the two bodies. The Chairman of the BRG commented that they are now the BRG and not the BRA at that time referred to.

Mr Carter said that when he had been the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee the Councils representatives had never reported back.

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

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-30526-Cockpit Hill, Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 5 days between 26th July 2021 and 30th July 2021 to allow for Northern Gas Networks works to lay a new gas supply. Unfortunately NGN are unable to lift this closure out of hours.

The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=122763555>

A19 Trunk Road.

Autolink who is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the A19 Trunk Road on behalf of Highways England are proposing to undertake essential resurfacing works of the southbound carriageway of the A19 between Knayton and Nether Silton.

The works would be carried out during night-time closures of the A19 between the hours of 8pm and 6am Sunday to Friday and traffic would be required to follow signed diversions. The works were programmed to start on the evening of Sunday 25th July for approximately 5 weeks (Sun to Fri).

During the works the southbound carriageway of the A19 would be closed to through traffic between the A684 Osmotherley Interchange and A61 South Kilvington Interchange.

Upcoming maintenance works to Brompton Station Bridge.

It was reported that NYCC would be replacing the badly eroded parapet stones, repointing the entire structure and doing arch barrel repairs at Bowe Bridge. The works would be starting on the 2nd August and would last for 4 weeks. For the first 2 weeks the bridge would be closed and a diversion put in place. For the second 2 weeks, the bridge would be open to traffic as normal. The planned works were to be done within the school holidays to minimise traffic disruption as there was the school adjacent.

Results of Speed Survey.

The results of the recent speed survey had suggested that the VAS would not be warranted on that section of Lead Lane as the majority of vehicles were sticking more or less to the limit. NYCC would usually base this on the 85th percentile speeds, which came to 31 mph. As the sign was generally set a few mph above the speed limit, the speed data would suggest that the sign would not be activated very often and, therefore, would not have much of an effect on driver behaviour.

As there was funding already received to spend on some safety improvements in Brompton, which the Council had indicated it would like to be focussed on Lead Lane and / or Station Road so, some other options would need to be explored.

The Clerk emphasised the need to find some acceptable projects to spend the grant monies on.

County Councillor Hugill agreed that the first option that the Council should ask NY Highways to look at should be a 20mph zone.

The Clerk added that one of the issues that he was regularly approached about as a HDC Councillor was speeding along Northallerton Road.

AGREED – That a date be arranged with County Councillor Hugill to look at traffic measures.

Application to remove cobbles adjacent to The Crown Inn.

It was reported that the landlord of The Crown Inn had asked if he could remove the cobbles at the far end of the pub next to the Safeholm building. The owners of that building are happy for him to go ahead. This will enable him to put a table and chairs on a flat surface.

It was pointed out that the landlord would need to apply for a Pavement Licence under Covid regulations and the Chairman undertook to check if planning consent was required. Councillor O'Sullivan undertook to take a photo so that the views of Councillors could be sent to the Clerk.

19. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA UPDATE.

It was reported the Vice-Chairman had arranged three weeks ago for the boulders along the side of Fullicar Lane at Water End to be taken up following complaints about the danger they posed to walkers, cyclists and motorists. These would be re-positioned around the Greens in due course.

Councillor Mrs Briggshaw reported that she had spoken to the Environment Agency about the cutting of the beck sides and a site meeting with them had been arranged for the 10th August at which it was hoped that Councillor Langthorne would also be able to attend.

It was suggested that placing boulders on the sides of the beck may in the short term be able to stop erosion.

20. CORRESPONDENCE.

No items of correspondence were raised under this agenda item.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

ARGEED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in The Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 21st September 2021.

(ii) Hambleton Heroes.

The Clerk reported that HDC was again inviting nominations for its successful 'Hambleton Heroes' scheme, aimed at recognising those who've gone above and beyond, so far in 2021. • Since the start of the Covid crisis, there had been many acts of kindness and generosity as well as examples of communities pulling together and going that extra mile to help and support those who needed it.

• The 'Hambleton Heroes' scheme gave people the opportunity to say thank you to a Hambleton Hero who had supported them. • More information and the nomination form was available at www.hambleton.gov.uk/heroes Nominations could be made for an individual or organisation and must be submitted by 31 October 2021.

(iii) Uncut Hedges.

Councillor Mrs Kelly undertook to send the Clerk photos of uncut hedges.

(iv) Councils Email Address.

It was reported that the Councils email address was now – theclerk@bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk

22. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that a burial was scheduled for the 17th August 2021.

The following item of business was dealt with in the Private Session of the meeting

23. CEMETERY EXTENSION – PROGRESS AS REGARDS EXTENSION.

No new matters were discussed under this agenda item.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm