

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 14th September 2021

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

There were 3 members from the public present including District Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Councillors Mrs S Haynes and Mrs E Kelly, and County Councillor David Hugill submitted apologies for absence. 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 27th July 2021 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 7th September 2021 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON FILLING OF VACANCY AND RESIGNATION OF A COUNCILLOR.

It was reported that interviews of two candidates for a co-opted Councillor place on the Council took place on the 7th September; following which Mr Barry Martin also resigned from the Council.

Mr Jason Hazelwood had been invited to join the Council and Mr Hazelwood had signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. AGREED – That Mr Hazelwoods appointment to the Council to serve until the next elections be confirmed.

The Council recorded its thanks to Mr Barry Martin for the work he had carried out as a Councillor and as the Councils Chairman.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW FLOOD GROUP – UPDATE + DATE OF MEETING.

It was reported that the new Flood Group was to hold its initial meeting in The Village Inn at 6.30pm on Wednesday 22nd September 2021.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	10	
Auto crime	2	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 1</i>
Criminal Damage	5	
Theft (including from shops)	3	
Violence Against the Person	5	
Other crimes including Drugs	0	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	26	

The Clerk reported that the above figures referred to August and due to the current meeting having been moved forward the September crime figures had not yet been received but when received he would forward them to all by email

7. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.

Weekly figures for the Hambleton District – 7 day rate per 100,000 –

w/e 2 August – 233 (North Yorkshire 252 – England – 284)

w/e 23 August – 247 (North Yorkshire 314 – England - 330)

w/e 6 September – 308 (North Yorkshire 378 – England – 351)

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) 100th Birthday Celebrations.

It was reported that arrangements had been made for a card and flowers to be delivered to Mrs Ina Lewis of Northallerton Road on the occasion of her 100th birthday on the 13th August.

(ii) Trees in The Churchyard.

Mr Whitehead had been asked to inspect two trees that were overhanging the Church in the Churchyard. The Vicar had confirmed that a Faculty would not be required for any works to the trees.

(iii) The Workshop, Stokesley Road.

The Clerk had received several approaches from a resident about outstanding enforcement issues at The Workshop, Stokesley Road and had been informed by HDC Planning that there were no outstanding enforcement issues affecting the site. The Clerk had informed the resident accordingly.

(iv) Repair of Edging Machine.

The Clerk reported that Mr Alex Mitchinson has repaired the edging machine but it could be the case that a new carburettor would be needed at some stage as it was not possible to purchase separate carburettor parts for this model of engine.

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

It was reported that the Chairman had a meeting regarding the allotments on the following day and that the Vice-Chairman would be attending a meeting regarding the Middle Bridge on the following Wednesday.

10. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

The Finance Group had met on Monday 13th September.

It was reported that in the four meetings of the Group to date it had managed to reduce the number of budget heads from the previous 34 to 19. Spread sheets were also being prepared identifying an overview of spending patterns. The major three projects that would require funding would be the Middle Bridge, the pedestrian bridge and the Cemetery extension.

The Clerk was to ask the External Auditors if a full Internal Audit report was required in the future once the accounts had been moved onto the new computerised system.

Grants and donations for the financial year 2022/23 would be reviewed at the Councils Budget meeting in December.

Councillors were to undertake an annual in house training session provided by the Clerk.

The Clerk was to purchase from YLCA 12 copies of The Good Councillor book – one for each Councillor to be returned when no longer serving as a Councillor.

11. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

21/01557/FUL - Construction of stomach processing room as part of abattoir operations - separate and adjacent to main abattoir building, at Crawford Grange – Granted.

21/01582/MRC – Modification/removal of condition (approved drawings) to previously approved application 12/00609/FUL – 8 Hilton Close – Granted.

(ii) Applications.

21/01972/FUL - Internal alterations and extension to the dwellinghouse, Standard Hill Farm, Darlington Road – No objections.

21/01899/FUL – Change of use of land to allow the siting of five shepherd's huts and the associated amenity area and parking area, Standard Hill Farm, Darlington Road – No objections subject to any highways comments.

21/02065/TPO - Work to trees covered by Tree Preservation Order 1999/09, 60 Northallerton Road – No objections.

12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	55.00
NEDL (Wayleaves)	348.55
Brompton Allotments Group (Allotment rents)	1,200.00
Mrs J Walton (Ashes fee)	40.00
Funeral Services Ltd (Memorial fee)	50.00

Payments –

P Atkin (August Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (September Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (2 months Expenses – including reimbursement for machine repair and key cutting)	122.40
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping – 11.5 hours)	115.00
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
Mr R Douglass (Gate post repair + padlock)	294.71

CE+CM Walker (August Grasscutting)	1,473.60
CE+CM Walker (August Grasscutting)	1,617.46
Brompton Methodist Church (Room Hire)	36.00
Sam Turner and Sons (Sweeping brushes)	20.92
Mrs P Watt (Internal Audit)	150.00
Ms M Shiel Dods (Reimbursement for bulbs)	12.60
Hambleton CAB (Donation)	100.00
Great North Air Ambulance (Donation)	100.00
Soupa Trouper (Donation)	50.00
AGE UK Yorkshire (Donation)	50.00
Hambleton Food Share (Donation)	50.00
Restarting Hearts (Donation for all 4 defibrillators)	400.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	22.56*

* paid by Direct Debit

Cheques signed out of Meeting

P Atkin (Reimbursement of Court fees + 100 th Birthday flowers)	150.00
Mrs M Sheil Dods (Bulbs)	268.50
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
George F White (Fees)	4,828.40
Walter Thompson Ltd (Security fencing)	355.20
S M Forster Associates Ltd (Hydrological survey)	2,220.00

Bank Balances

Monthly Bank Statement had not been received by the day of the meeting.

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

13. INTERNAL AUDIT.

This item was referred to the EO meeting of the Council held on the 7th September 2021. No matters of concern were reported and the Internal Auditor had signed off the Internal Audit report to the External Auditors for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

15. ALLOTMENTS SITE – Update.

A meeting was to be held on the 15th September with the landowner and representatives of the Allotments Group about the wild life area.

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

For safety reasons fence panels have now been erected around the bridge. Councillor Langthorne was thanked for his assistance in this matter.

17. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

The Clerk and Councillor Kelly had met with a representative of Produlic at the Recreation Ground on the 24th August to discuss plans that had been worked up for the development of the childrens play area for the future. Produlic had undertaken a brief to design a facility for children that would be modern and be what children of todays era would like to see rather than more traditional play equipment that has been around for many generations. The whole project was in cost terms beyond the Councils budget at present but getting new ideas on paper was the first step forward.

The next step would be to forward the ideas to local children through the school and to hold an event in The Methodist Church at which the plans can be displayed and when residents can leave their own comments.

It was AGREED – That two other play equipment companies be asked to provide similar proposals for public consultation in due course.

Councillor Hazelwood undertook to provide the Clerk with contact details of companies who were able to carry out the annual safety inspections.

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

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-31235-Long Lane,

The Closure would be in place for a period of 8 hours between 9th October 2021 and 10th October 2021 to allow or Annual Level Crossing Testing on behalf of Network Rail (23:30-07:00

Wall Outside The Village Hall, Cockpit Hill

NY Highways had advised that an order has been raised to repair the wall.

Surface of Lead Lane.

A resident had raised concerns about the state of road surfacing on Lead Lane and had requested that the Council ask NY Highways to relay the surface.

20mph Speed Limit.

Appleton Wiske Parish Council had approached the YLCA for advice about the process of getting a 20mph speed limit in the village. It was AGREED - That Brompton Council await the information in due course to see if it could also follow the procedure that was agreed.

Highway Safety Grants

The Clerk and Councillor Langthorne were to meet with Highways Engineer again to consider what projects the grants monies received from NYCC and NY Police could be spent on as the speed survey results meant that a VAS sign on Lead Lane was no longer appropriate.

The suggested projects were – a VAS sign on the rail crossing approach to the school, a VAS sign on Northallerton Road near the Rugby Club and development of a pedestrian crossing point on Cockpit Hill opposite the Danes Crest Junction. AGREED – That these be confirmed as the Councils projects with regard to the Highway Safety grants.

It was noted that an area of cobbles fronting the houses on the west side at the bottom of Cockpit Hill had been dug out by contractors; half of the previous amount of cobbles having apparently been removed. AGREED – That the reinstatement of this area be kept under surveillance.

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from a resident of Church View about parking near the bus shelter and the surrounding area and undertook to respond to the resident accordingly.

19. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA UPDATE – including Queens Jubilee Green Canopy Initiative.

The grass beyond the Water Splash had been recently cut back and would be cut back again on the last cut of the year.

Councillor Langthorne had cut back overgrowth that was restricting motorists views at the Water Splash and subsequently this had been cut back by the grasscutting contractor who would in the future cut these areas back twice a year or more if need be.

Representatives of the Environment Agency had met a number of Councillors on 18th August and advised that the beck side growth all along water end was beneficial to the eco system and should be left.

AGREED – That a representative of the Environment Agency be invited to attend a future meeting of the Council to talk about the cutting of the beck sides.

The meeting was informed that a resident had supplied suggestions for the Green Canopy initiative and had suggested a number of places in the village where additional trees could be planted.

As regards the suggestion of a tree on the new Stokesley Road roundabout the Licence conditions required by the Highway Authority could not be accomplished by Brompton Council. The resident had pointed to the tree on the roundabout on Boroughbridge Road but this was a much larger roundabout and had actually existed prior to the new road which had been constructed around it. The resident also wished that trees be planted on the green at Hilton Green and has been advised to approach Broadacres Housing in this respect.

Suggestions about trees in the Recreation Ground were not deemed appropriate as in years to come they would restrict the views from the upper floor rooms of adjoining properties and would restrict the area that could be utilised for a BMX track. They would also affect the growth of the hedge at the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground.

It was pointed out that Brompton village already had over 170 mature trees that were replaced when necessary and which accounted for a high percentage of the Councils budget in maintenance.

AGREED – That (i) no further trees be planted in connection with the Green Canopy initiative; (ii) the only new tree to be planted be the oak tree on the Village Green at Water End as previously agreed,

It was also noted that a line of young trees planted along highway on the NND Taylor Wimpey development had died off as they had not been maintained. AGREED – That the Clerk take this matter up with Taylor Wimpeys.

It was suggested that the Information Board at the Wildlife Area be also utilised as a dedication in memory of those who had died due to Covid.

It was mentioned that there were two dead trees at the wildlife area.

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

- (i) District Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson reported that the NY Area Committees were to follow Parliamentary Constituency boundaries and that the new Unitary Authority would be officer lead.

20. CORRESPONDENCE.

- (i) Letter received from Rishi Sunak MP.

The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the MP concerning the enquiries he had made into the consultation for the LNER rail timetable changes.

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 19th October 2021.

- (ii) Brompton Heritage Group.

It was reported that the Heritage Group had recently been wound up.

- (iii) Making a Difference Fund.

The Clerk reported that the HDC Making a Difference Fund would open this Autumn and not in February as in previous years. This would be the last one before the new Unitary Authority comes into being. The earlier date was to gauge demand as £250,000 had been set aside for consideration in March 2022.

- (iv) Annual Cemetery Inspection.

AGREED – That the Clerk circulate Councillors to obtain a date for the annual inspection of the Cemetery.

- (v) Rail Timetable Consultations.

The Clerk had responded to the proposed timetable changes as follows –

The new timetable will have serious implications on the town at the same time as LNER has indicated a substantial reduction in its connection services from Northallerton.

Loss of any services at a time when LNER is also drastically reducing its services through Northallerton is very wrong at the very time when the Northern Powerhouse is moving into this area and we may soon expect Devolution.

Northallerton is a main line station serving a very large hinterland eg Bedale, Leyburn etc and has a large passenger take up.

The loss of the Redcar - Manchester Service that will no longer stop at Northallerton will have a serious detrimental effect on the town as will the loss of direct services to Manchester Airport which is by far the most well used airport for travellers from this area and is vital for both business and holiday travel.

This is a retrograde step at a time when the Government is putting substantial capital into the town, and is certainly not joined up thinking!

It is crucial that any proposed changes do not adversely impact on the town and its surrounding area. It is the Councils view that rail companies must liaise with each other so that two trains per hour are provided on all key routes from Northallerton.

The Government has this last week decided that the new Unitary Authority is to operate from Northallerton from 2023 therefore improved rail links are vital to the town.

Brompton Town Council therefore objects most strongly to these proposed changes”.

In addition many students travel by train to Darlington and Middlesbrough Colleges - there are incentives from Middlesbrough College to do so ie refunded travel. The service is unreliable enough as it is without further reductions in service.

Another issue is that Grand Central have a limited amount of rail stock and often cancels trains due to breakdown etc. The service from Northallerton to Hartlepool/Sunderland is popular but if a returning Grand Central train is cancelled the proposed changes to the other rail timetables would mean that the current option of returning via Middlesbrough or Newcastle to Northallerton will be severely affected.

A similar response was sent to LNER about their proposed timetable changes highlighting the many losses of connection services that will affect Northallerton if this goes through - estimated to affect 25 current LNER train services using Northallerton.

It had been suggested in the consultation that travellers could use the alternative Cross Country services but these were heavily over-subscribed at times and it was often not possible to obtain a ticket for the required service unless booked well in advance.

LNER had subsequently advised that the proposed Timetable changes due to be implemented in May 2022 had been deferred to May 2023 whilst a number of issues were considered including the high volume of responses (over 5,000) received to the consultation on the proposed changes.

However this did not affect the intention by Trans Pennine to amend its timetables in May next year.

(v) Land adjoining Water End Green

Concerns had been raised in August about materials on land at the foot of Water End Green which appeared to be both waste and chemical materials. Inspections had been made by Environmental Health and in consultation with the landowner the materials had been cleared away and the site made safe. Surplus bricks and timber remain on the land but were not of concern.

(vi) Domain and email addresses.

AGREED – That the Clerk and Councillor Hazelwood obtain quotes for the provision of individual Councillors email addresses for all Councillors.

(viii) Footpath along Stokesley Road.

Concerns were expressed about the state of the footpath alongside Stokesley Road.

(ix) Grasscutting.

AGREED – That grasscutting requirements for the 2022 grasscutting season be reviewed after the end of the current grasscutting season.

22. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk had been analysing the results of the National Cemetery Competition to see how to improve next year.

Brompton wasn't far behind Northallerton but they scored the maximum 10 points for the following questions and Brompton scored zero -

Cemetery staff on site - Gates locked at night - Doing their own gravedigging- Cutting their own grass - Digging graves on weekends/ Bank Holidays

Brompton could not improve on those but could on the following -

1. What was a slightly confusing question - answered that the Council operates the Cemetery - would have scored 5 more points if had put the Council acting as the Burial Board - which we do - 5 points
2. Is there water on site? - answered no thinking it meant a mains water but it just says is there water? - so 10 points
3. Can the public view plot numbers on the web site - at the time the answer was no but it is now yes - 10 points
4. Are burial forms on the web site - at the time the answer was no but it is now yes - 10 points

Therefore hopefully another 35 points next year.

Others where Brompton scored zero were as follows but it was not possible to do anything about improving on them - Is a map displayed outside the Cemetery? - Do we have a dedicated childrens section? - Do we permit burials of people from anywhere?- Do we provide rain protection for mourners at burials? - Do we provide matting for burials? - Do we allow kerbs on cremation plots? - Do we supervise stonemasons when erecting memorials?

The following item of business was considered in Private Session

23. REQUEST FOR REOPENING OF GRAVE.

The Clerk explained the circumstances as to why a request to reopen a grave had been refused as the person concerned could not prove that the deceased who they wished to be also buried in that grave was any relative.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm