

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 16th November 2021

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

There were 12 members from the public present including County Councillor David Hugill and District Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence were received, all Councillors being present at the meeting. 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 19 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.

Councillor Haynes made reference to instances made in her statement to the previous Council meeting where she had asked for matters from her statement to be included in the Minutes. Although under Standing Orders statements were not included in the Minutes Councillor Haynes was asked to forward the matters that she wished to have included in the Minutes.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th October 2021 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

It was reported that due to a family illness the PCSO was unable to attend the meeting.

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-Social Behaviour	6	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary:	<i>Commercial: 1</i>	<i>Residential: 1</i>
Criminal Damage	1	
Theft (including from shops)	3	
Violence Against the Person	8	
Other crimes including Drugs	2	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	22	

5. CORONAVIRUS UPDATE.

The following figures were provided as regards Covid cases –

15th November – Hambleton District - 381 cases per 100,000 – National – 375 - high in Selby at 681

4th November – Hambleton District - 378 cases per 100,000 – National – 372 - high in Harrogate at 548

28th October – Hambleton 477 per 100,000

24th September – Hambleton – 325 per 100,000

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) Dog/Waste Bin – Fullicar Lane

It was reported that the person who raised the issue of the bin up Fullicar Lane had messaged back stating she did not want a bin and thought the other residents would not want a bin either along the lane. She just wanted people to stop putting rubbish in her bin and had asked for something to be put in the newsletter about picking up rubbish etc. It had been suggested that she place a polite notice on her bin saying that it was a residents bin and not for public use.

(ii) Footpath from new Roundabout adjacent to Stokesley Road.

The NYCC Development Management team who deal with the North Northallerton development had advised that the section of footway referred to at the last meeting was due to be returned to verge by the developer. Pedestrians would be directed through the new estate and then back to Stokesley Road (at the northern end of the estate).

(iii) Memorial Plaques.

It was reported that the cost of memorial plaques that it had been suggested could be affixed to the outer wall of the Village pump would cost £48, inclusive of VAT, dependent on agreed size and the number of words.

(iv) Hedge Cutting.

Hillside Tree Surgeons had cut back the hedges at the Recreation Ground and on Station Road.

(v) Wall along the west side of Cockpit Hill.

The Highway Officer had advised that he had identified all the damaged areas of the wall forwarded to him in photos from the Council and these were part of the works order to repair.

(vi) Web Site.

The following information had been included on the Home Page of the web site -

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

If as a resident you have an issue that you wish to take up with the Council please use the contact details on this web site. Please do not call on individual Councillors at their home address.

MAKE A SAVING ON THE BUYING OF GRAVE SPACES IN ADVANCE

Brompton Cemetery on Stokesley Road is one of the cheapest places in the whole Country for buying a grave space. Unfortunately the cost will increase quite substantially in January but will still be amongst the cheapest in North Yorkshire. A considerable saving can be made if you were to consider buying grave spaces in advance. This offer is open to Brompton residents only until the 31st March 2022 and will give you a saving of £100 per grave space if paid before that date. Individual grave spaces currently cost £250 and from January 2022 will rise to £350. This increased amount is still very favourable when compared to other Burial Authorities in the locality.

(vii) Grit bins.

The audit of grit bins had found as follows and the bins were being refilled as required -

Hilton Close - half full; Corber Hill/Northallerton Road Junction – Full; Corber Hill – Empty; Lodge Lane - Full - but monkey tree needs cutting back so lid can be lifted; Orchard Grove - near flats - half full; Orchard Grove near bungalows - only a quarter full; Crossroads – Full; Danes Crest entrance – Full; Danelaw Road – Full; Danes Crest top of estate near flats - nearly full, has had a couple of shovel fulls taken out.

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

The Vice-Chairman reported on the recent meeting that had been held at the Civic Centre between representatives of the Council and representatives of the BRG chaired by County Councillor Hugill.

The Council thanked Councillor Hugill for chairing the meeting. The BRG had been under the impression that the Council was wanting to take over the site but it only wanted to see the best for the village and for future generations. It had been agreed that a further meeting be held in early December.

The Chairman commented that there had been differences of understandings and hoped that matters could start off again mutually. County Councillor Hugill added that the meeting had gone very well.

The aim of the meeting was to bring both sides together to being a conversation regarding the site.

Once everyone had a chance to express their concerns it was agreed to continue the discussions and a meeting will be held in the next few weeks ideally before the next Council meeting,

Councillor Mrs Sanderson said that the Council had applied for an asset transfer and was informed that this was not the case; the BRG having applied for the asset transfer and the Council then having taken legal advice on the matter from the YLCA. Discussion took place as to why certain matters had not been mentioned in Council meetings. A Councillor remarked that a line needed to be drawn under the asset transfer issue and that the time was now to move forward and that further discussion on the issue was not helping.

AGREED – That further meeting he held with BRG.

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 15th November – main points discussed

Quotation from Mr B Douglas for the repair of the fence along the south side of the Recreation Ground + the Clerk to write to adjoining residents and Hillside Tree Surgeons about the removal of overgrown vegetation to enable the works to be carried out. (£770 + estimated £150 to clear vegetation).

Grasscutting for the 2022 grasscutting season -

Contractors to strim around boulders alongside Fullicar lane.

Gaps to be left around the trees at Water End.

Grass to be cut along the Green at Water End north of the Water Splash to Little lane.

Strimming to be included along the path at the side of the Recreation Ground to the Methodist Church.

The wild life area be cut at the end of the year.

Dog Bin to be included in the 2022/23 Budget for near The Green Tree Inn.

The Information Board for the Village Pump be also included in next years budget.

Review of security and Word package licences for laptop.

The Clerk to ask HDC if they intend to pass the Council Tax from the houses on the new developments to the Town Council as due to Covid this did not happen this year.

End of year outcome expected to be around £30,000 in order to build up monies as a contingency sum.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson clarified that HDC had until April to hand over the CIL monies which were tied up with the land for the bridge and the Sports Village. However from April 2022 all expenditure would have to go through the new Unitary Council not HDC.

(ii) Flood Prevention Group.

The new Flood Group had met on the 27th October and was also attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, the Clerk in his capacity as HDC Councillor and County Councillor David Hugill. The new group was meeting on its own on the evening of the current Council meeting. The beck sides are to be strimmed this week. NYCC has agreed to pay the £1,000 Locality Budget monies for flood works into the Councils bank account.

(iii) Allotments.

The Clerk had carried out his annual inspection of the allotments site on the 24th October and found all to be in order.

(iv) Meeting with BRG Representatives.

See above.

(v) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting.

The Clerk attended the Hambleton Branch meeting of the YLCA in the Town Hall on the 20th October.

Only 9 Parishes were represented which raised the discussion as to whether in the winter months the branch meeting should be held via Zoom.

Unitary Council

The main item of business was the report of the Leader of NYCC about the Unitary Authority; + confirming the date of the next Parish Council elections in May 2022 to coincide with the Unitary Council elections.

A formal Implementation Board will be established in January consisting of the Leaders of the 7 District Councils and the County Councils Executive (10 County Councillors).

The question was raised as to who would be representing the views of the Parish Councils?

They will be 90 new Councillors in 89 Wards for the first term of the new Authority.

After which the Boundary Commission will carry out a full review of all Wards and the future election cycle - the suggestion being - elections next May, then 5 year later then after that every 4 years.

It is proposed that no contributions will be sought from Parish Councils for election expenses.

A request has been made to devolve powers from Whitehall to the new Council who will then pass them to Parish Councils.

Apparently 50 Parish Councils have elected to have these powers but looking across the whole County it would appear that these are mainly Town Councils - eg Richmond, Malton, Boroughbridge, Scarborough, Whitby, Harrogate etc. - there are 731 Parishes in North Yorkshire.

Key decision making will be given to Area Constituency Committees comprising 15 or so Councillors from each area.

25 Neighbourhood Forums are proposed linking local Councils, public services and business groups.

However it has already been said that decision making will be Officer lead.

It was felt that timescales were lacking and the YLCA is to write to the Leader of NYCC with regard to his timetables and plans for implementation.

It was also pointed out that Parish Councils had had no opportunity to comment on the arrangements as regards Wards for the forthcoming elections.

Other Matters

A discussion took place around the fears that CIL monies not yet received by local Councils would simply disappear when the new Unitary Authority took over the District Councils Budgets next year,

Uncut hedges and the lack of action by NY Highways where footpaths were obstructed is a common theme across the District.

The issue of Councillors being unable to attend meetings due to isolation with Covid was discussed. Such councillors could attend virtually but they could not take part in the meeting nor can they vote on anything. It was felt that this was unfair but this is the Government's ruling.

Concerns were raised that NALC Conference fees at £30 to £50 were too high for small Councils. YLCA undertook to feed this back to NALC.

Next meeting 16th February 2022.

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

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 – Granted

21/02275/CAT - Works to trees in a conservation area – 5 Water End – Granted.

21/02212/CAT - Works to 2 No. trees in a conservation area T1-Prune Birch and T2 Prune Birch – 8 The Green – Granted.

(ii) Applications.

None received to date.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	50.00
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Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
P Atkin	45.36
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping – 9.5 hours)	95.00
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
CE+CM Walker (October Grasscutting)	880.80
Boston Seeds (bulbs and seeds)	94.99
Ripla (Councillors email addresses)	90.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	23.06*

* paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £45,327.20

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

The Bank Reconciliation appears on the last page.

External auditor report 2020/21

Report as follows -

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The smaller authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 1 July 2021, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, and did not disclose this by answering 'No' to Section 1, Box 1. The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2020/21 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as was reported last year, we are aware that it failed to do this and therefore should have answered 'No' to this assertion.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: We note that the smaller authority did not comply with Regulation 15 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as it failed to make proper provision during the year 2021/22 for the exercise of public rights, since the period for the exercise of public rights did not include the first 10 working days of July. As a result, the smaller authority must answer 'No' to Assertion 4 of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and ensure that it makes proper provision for the exercise of public rights during 2022/23.

10. NORTHALLERTON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.

The broken fence reported to the last meeting alongside the Recreation Ground adjacent to the adjoining bungalow has been inspected by the joiner. The fence is in good condition but a number of

posts are broken off at ground level as they also are further long the fence at the rear of Mil Hill Close. Much of this latter part of the fence is covered by overgrowth which would need to be cleared away before any repair works could be carried out. Mr Douglas the joiner has been asked to supply a quotation for the works and for the repair of the gate behind the Methodist Church leading into the Recreation Ground. The gate had subsequently been mended. AGREED – That the Clerk write to occupiers of the properties on the north side of Mill Hill Close to advise them of the future repair works to the fence.

13. MIDDLE BRIDGE UPDATE.

Following the meeting on site in October the Structural Engineer has now supplied his report.

The Structural Engineer has been informed that the Council wishes the bridge to be repaired rather than proceed with a new bridge, Councillor Langthorne is organising getting the paint tested for lead and quotes for the work are awaited. No company from Northallerton had come forward to provide quotations.

14. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

20's Plenty

20's Plenty for Us is asking Parish and Town Councils in North Yorkshire to pass a motion to support the campaign for 20mph where people live, work and play.

Each local council that does will help:

- 1) Achieve a 20mph speed limit on roads, with exceptions where 30mph is demonstrably safe, particularly for vulnerable road users.
- 2) Demonstrate to the Highways Authority the demand for 20mph county-wide, making it both cheaper and easier to implement across the county and achieving better driver compliance.

Speed limits are set by North Yorkshire, as the Highway Authority, which also makes Traffic Regulation Orders to erect signs or change other road features like paint roundels or remove centre lines.

Demonstrating widespread local community support is critical to securing the County's agreement to implement 20mph widely.

Other Counties, such as Lancashire and Sefton in England, have agreed 20mph for every settlement, as have Counties throughout Wales. Scotland has promised to offer 20mph widely and places like Warrington have 20mph in all their satellite villages.

Councillor Mrs Sanderson remarked that 30mph was the lowest speed limit that could be legally enforceable and the limit was set by people who were knowledgeable.

A Councillor pointed out that North Yorkshire was an anomaly in the Country,

County Councillor Hugill stated that NYCC had met earlier in the year to look at the matter and that according to its Deputy Leader this would be a matter for the new Unitary Authority to decide on in the setting of any new speed limits. In view of this he said he was worried that Brompton Council appeared to be going for a lower 20mph speed limit before the Unitary Authority had come into being and that it should therefore wait. Councillor Sanderson added that a 20mph speed limit would not be enforced and that she would not support any such motion as it was not relevant to her. A Councillor asked why County Councillors didn't tell the Highways Officers what they wanted to do?

A Councillor stressed the need to get support for the 20 limit and pointed to other places in the Country where this is commonplace.

Motion

It was unanimously AGREED – That Brompton Town Council • Supports the 20's Plenty for its North Yorkshire campaign; • Calls on North Yorkshire County Council to implement 20mph in Brompton; and • Will write to North Yorkshire County Council to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout North Yorkshire where people live, work, shop, play or learn, with 30mph as the exception on those roads, where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

VAS Signs

The Clerk had recently met with Mark Sykes the NYCC Highways Engineer; being the follow up meeting from some months ago.

Standing outside the Rugby Club watching traffic movements traffic seemed to be going at higher speeds towards Northallerton as opposed to coming into the village from the Northallerton direction. The VAS signs are however interchangeable for both directions for travel. The situation may change when the new road opens with speeds increasing towards the Rugby Club

The existing electric point on the verge at De Bruce Road needs inspecting to make sure it still works. As before that is a good location point as it is clear from trees. Mark suggests one sign there that can be at times be moved back to a new location point near the Rugby Club.

The other location was as previously agreed - from the railway crossing towards the school (where the VAS sign was previously) - again the connection point will need to be checked over.

NY Highways will work up a scheme + any suggested alternatives and will also include what Brompton Council's future responsibilities as regards the VAS signs will be + all the different costs. The signs must be capable of being recalibrated in the future for 20mph so these are the signs that will be suggested by NY Highways. Details are expected for consideration at the December Council meeting.

Blocked Gullies

In times of recent heavy rainfall it was seen that rain water was not accessing a number of gullies in the village as although the gullies were not full the grids were blocked with sediment which did not allow water to pass into the drain. This has been referred to NY Highways.

Pedestrian Crossing Point – North Moor Road.

For a long time Brompton Council and the Clerk as one of the HDC Ward members have been very concerned about how people - residents, school students, cyclists etc will get across the road once it is opened to traffic. There are presently two pedestrian refuges - the small one near the turn off to Brompton and the larger one near the new roundabout.

NY Highways has recently confirmed that they have no intention of installing a pedestrian controlled lighted crossing for anyone wanting to get across what will be once in months to come a very busy carriageway as there was no provision for this in the NND Masterplan. The road is also not currently adopted.

When the issue as to how small the island near the Brompton turning is was raised NYCC informed that people would be expected to cross at the larger island near the new roundabout. This again however will be an extremely busy location especially at school times. HDC has responded simply that they are not the highway authority.

At 7.55pm the meeting was opened to the public for the asking of questions.

- (i) Mr P Smith reported concerns about weeds in the beck which would contribute to flooding at Water End. It was reported that the EA had recently inspected the beck and had said that they no longer carried out de-silting. It was reported that the new Flood Group was holding its third meeting on the current evening. The Chairman reported that the whole village had been leafleted about the Flood Group but only five persons had expressed any interest in it. County Councillor David Hugill added that the beck needed engineering works so as to obtain a flow to get the silt away. It was accepted that the new Flood Group need to be given a chance to get up and running. Mr Smith said that he was frustrated by the mess and another resident agreed with him pointing out that the heron had not been seen for some time. A Councillor responded that there was insufficient water in the beck for fish.
- (ii) District Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that the piles of tyres had all been removed from the industrial land
- (iii) Concerns were expressed about the overgrown hedge on Stokesley Road on the approach to Hellikeld Corner.
- (iv) Mr P Smith expressed concerns that the boulders at the wild-life area were still overgrown and where water was backing up from a drain near where the bulb planting was taking place. He undertook to show Councillor Briginshaw the issue.

15. GRASSCUTTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022 GRASSCUTTING SEASON.

All Councillors had been asked to submit their views as regards the grasscutting schedule for the 2022 grasscutting season. ARGEED – That this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

16. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA UPDATE.

A massive thank you was expressed to the nearly 30 people who turned up last week despite the awful weather to wildflower sow and plant 1500+bulbs and wildflowers.

2021 saw the area provide a peaceful place for residents to wander, observe, sit and take time out during what has been a very stressful two year period in unprecedented times. The Working Group volunteers received many positive comments about the area. However we do recognise that the Council received a few repeated complaints and in order to address these a New Management Plan for the area has been put together.

As a Council we wish to develop the diversity of land use within our village- providing something for everyone and everything. Brompton has in the past lacked any area designated specifically to allow wildlife to flourish. The top green area provided the perfect space adjoining countryside to begin re-wilding & so works began in 2020.

Nature Boards

The recent addition of 2 stunning nature information boards provide a focal point of interest and information. Designed & specifically tailored by talented local nature artist Lorna Hazelwood and built by John Briginshaw (the reclaimed bricks donated by JT Atkinsons) these are the first of further planned information boards across the village.

Wildflower Bulbs

Daffodils & snowdrops & bluebells will be introduced around the trees and along the roadside to produce a spring impact of colour.

Both bulb planting & seed sowing will be extended each year in Autumn & spring.

Future Collaborations

Northallerton College students are working on a series of Tree Identification Tags with interactive QR codes that will link to the Woodland Trust website. They are also working on flora & fauna labels from sustainable materials as the site develops,

Brompton School children & David Sims from Sylvan Lore are going to be using the site in the future for outdoor education visits & working on Habitat Creation projects such as bug hotels, hedgehog houses, log pile houses.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

None other than referred to elsewhere.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

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

(ii) Notice Boards for the new NND housing estates.

Northallerton Town Council considered this item on the 15th November and agreed to providing Notice Boards on the basis of sharing the costs with Brompton Council 50 - 50.

The Notice Board for the Darlington Road estate would sit best on the south side of the development - ie near to where the new Aldi store is proposed as anyone walking from the estate towards Northallerton would pass that notice board.

On Thurston Park the optimum site would be south of new North Moor Road as that would cover the biggest majority of the houses.

Therefore one in each Parish.

AGREED – That the costs be shared on a 50 -50 basis with Northallerton Town Council.

(iii) Christmas Tree.

Sam Turners had once again kindly agreed to donate a 12' Christmas tree which will be erected by the Scouts at Church Green on Saturday 27th November.

Brompton Churches have thanked the Council for making this arrangement.

AGREED – That Sam Turners be thanked for this kind donation.

(v) Boulders opposite Hodgsons Terrace.

ARGEED – That due to continual parking of vehicles on the Green at Water End opposite Hodgsons Terrace a line of boulders be put down at this location and that Councillor Langthorne be paid for his time from the Caretaking Budget to carry out this work.

(vi) Hedge at the future Sports Village.

It was reported that that the hedge on Northallerton Road towards Northallerton alongside what would become the Sports Village belonged to HDC and the Clerk undertook to enquire what arrangements were to be made to have this hedge cut.

(vii) Spreadsheets.

The Chairman reported on the spreadsheets that had been prepared and which would be used as monthly updates for matters that came under each Working Group and which were to be updated each month by the respective Working Group

(viii) Communication on behalf of Dales Academies Trust.

“Dear Stakeholder

Earlier this year we wrote to you to advise of our intention to submit an application to North Yorkshire County Council for the running of the proposed North Northallerton Primary Free School and many of you kindly responded to our invitation to contribute to our consultation and planning surrounding the proposals.

As you will be aware in the Spring of 2021 Dales Academies Trust was confirmed as the proposed partner / academy sponsor for the new school for which we are very grateful; we are excited to be working together on delivering this new facility.

We wanted to share with you the latest information on the progress towards delivery of the school and attach a press release issued by the County Council (in conjunction with the Trust) for your information. The release unfortunately highlights a further delay in delivery of the school to September 2024 however, we wish to assure everyone that our commitment to this school remains unchanged and we will continue to work behind the scenes with the Department for Education and the County Council to ensure we are ready to achieve the new opening date.

We will be back in touch in due course when there is more detail to share however, in the meantime if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email us and we will respond to your queries”.

(ix) Green Homes Grants - Home Energy Efficiency Improvements.

As part of Hambleton Districts Councils aim to improve home insulation, tackle fuel poverty, and reduce carbon emissions, it has been awarded Government Green Homes funding to help homeowners pay for energy saving improvements to their homes.

The aim of the scheme is to assist those in receipt of benefits or vulnerable people on low income, living in an inefficient property or having a cold related health condition.

The Council also has other energy efficiency funded schemes available for example, Air Source Heat Pumps, First time gas central heating, defective gas boiler replacement and loft / cavity wall insulation. These can be all be viewed on the Council website <https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/housing/warm-homes>

18. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk had enrolled for two online YLCA courses to be held in December and January—Administering Exclusive Rights of Burial and Managing Burial Ground Memorials.

No burials have taken place in the past month. Two enquiries had been received about the offer of buying burial plots before any fee increase for 2022/23 coming into effect.

The following mater was considered in Private Session

19. CEMETERY EXTENSION.

As instructed the Clerk had recalculated the life of the current Cemetery and had sent all details to Councillors in advance of the meeting. In view of the purchase price of the required land for the Cemetery extension being over £30,000, plus considerable development costs it was AGREED – That the Clerk inform the Councils Agents, George F White that the Council no longer wishes to

proceed with acquisition of land for the Cemetery extension and that George F White be instructed to contact the vendors Agent accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm