

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 21st December 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Mr R Carter, Mrs M Shiel Dods (in the Chair) and Mrs A Robinson.

There was 1 member of the public present at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Kelly, Mr Langthorne and Mrs Brigginsshaw and from County Councillor Hugill. Other Councillors and members of the public were online but were not part of the meeting due to Covid rules about virtual meetings.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 2021 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. CORONAVIRUS.

As at 13 December 2021 the Covid figures were as follows –

Hambleton District – 357 cases per 100,000 – North Yorkshire 370 – England - 590

As at 6 December 2021 the Covid figures had been as follows –

Hambleton District – 342 cases per 100,000 – North Yorkshire – 391 – England - 503

4. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

| Crime Type | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 3 Reports |
| Total | 3 reports |
| Arson | 0 Reports |
| Burglary Dwelling | 0 Reports |
| Burglary Commercial/Other | 0 Reports |
| Criminal Damage | 5 Reports |
| Theft (inc Theft from Shop) | 3 Reports |
| Violence against the person | 5 Reports |
| Other crimes inc Drugs | 1 Reports |
| Hate Crime | 0 Reports |
| Robbery | 0 Reports |
| Fraud | 0 Reports |
| Total | 14 reports |

37 year-old Sean Michael Derbyshire of Water End, Northallerton was on the 2 December 2021 sentenced to 30 months in prison at Teesside Crown Court after he was found guilty of a number of offences including dangerous driving, failing to stop and driving whilst disqualified.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

- (i) HAR/2019/06/DMMO Scot Pit Lane, Brompton and Northallerton

The Council had received confirmation that the stance report was on the agenda for the forthcoming 'Corporate Director, Business and Environmental Services and Executive Members Meeting' which

was due to be held on 17 December 2021. At this meeting the Members had decided the stance to be taken by the County Council when submitting the opposed Order to the Secretary of State for determination and had agreed that the County Council take a neutral stance in relation to the Order. Brompton Council and the BHS had supported this stance.

(ii) Parking at The Close.

Incidents of indiscriminate parking outside The Close had been reported to the Police.

(iii) Willow Tree.

Hillside Tree Surgeons had removed a giant willow limb blocking the beck and had left a pile of logs either side of the beck for nature habitats and to keep costs down

The Queens Jubilee Green Canopy initiative oak tree was to be planted near the Wildlife area in the Spring.

(iv) Road Gullies.

HDC had cleared quantities of leaves away from road drains on Northallerton Road near the Rugby Club.

(v) CIL Monies.

The Interim Director of Finance at HDC had informed the Clerk that Brompton Council should receive its CIL monies in March as they were not related to the valuation of the land.

(vi) Unitary Council.

The Clerk had forwarded to all Councillors the details of the two presentations held by NYCC in December about the new Unitary Council.

(vii) Trees.

The full tree survey (running to 79 pages) had been received from Mr Whitehead and was with Hillside Tree Surgeons to obtain an estimate of the costs of the works. 44 trees had been identified in the survey for works over the next 12 months. Mr Whitehead was to retire this month and the Council was liaising with Northallerton Town Council and the Northallerton and Romanby JBC to see how this matter could move forward in the future. Attention was drawn to the large number of trees in Brompton that overhung roads.

(viii) Letter of Thanks.

A letter of thanks was received from Hambleton Foodshare in respect of the recent donation made by the Council.

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

The Vice-Chairman was pursuing actions with regard to the middle bridge including the testing of the paint on the bridge for lead.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 13th December 2021 and had Recommended as follows –

That Mr A Whitehead be asked if he would be willing to sell the Brompton part of his tree inspection database to the Council.

The Working Group also considered the level of the Councils Precept for 2022/23 – see item below.

Also - agreed to schedule a list of regular jobs around the village such as gritting.

That costs be obtained for works to the Councils car park in 2022/23.

The Finance Group had also Recommended – That the Budget for the financial year 2022/23 be considered at the January 2022 Council meeting and that a review of the budget be held at the September 2022 Council meeting.

AGREED – That the Recommendations of the Finance Group as set out above be approved.

(ii) Flood Prevention Group.

The Flood Group had met on the 16th November and again on the 7th December. Several issues raised by the Group had been answered by the Clerk who had also sent the Group the recent EA Winter Preparedness Seminar slides from the event that that he had recently attended. The Clerk had also resolved several concerns raised by the Group about Emergency Plans

(iv) Meeting with BRG representatives.

A meeting with representatives of the BRG had been held at the Civic Centre on the 7th December. A further meeting was planned for February. County Councillor Hugill had undertaken to give a resume of the meeting held with the BRG but was unable to be present at the Council meeting.

(v) NYCC Richmondshire Area Committee – 24th November 2021.

North Northallerton Bridge

An update on the North Northallerton Bridge was on the agenda.

The bridge is still on schedule to open in February 2022.

The Committee was reassured that work was continuing in what has been a difficult situation as the County Council is not responsible for the contract for the bridge but only to see that it is delivered.

Confirmation was given that the speed limit throughout the length of the link road would be 30mph.

There will be a footpath along both sides of the bridge with the road being 7.3m wide so as to accommodate large HGVs which would no longer have to go to Friarage Street in order to get to the industrial estate. Consequently there is no direct access to the link road from houses along the route.

It is expected that the traffic going across Low Gates level crossing will be slightly lower than at present especially by removing HGVs and through traffic.

County Councillor David Hugill asked questions about the crossing of the link road by pedestrians and was informed that when the drawings were approved it was not expected that there would be sufficient traffic to require a pedestrian controlled crossing.

The meeting was informed that there was no difference of this location to Thirsk Road where again there are no pedestrian controlled crossings and only pedestrian islands.

The situation would be monitored when the bridge was opened.

The officer added that there was a fear that if there was a pedestrian controlled crossing this would raise the risk of a motorist driving straight on when the lights were at red with serious consequences.

A question was raised about the flooding issue on the A164 but the officer stated that she had not asked Area Highways about this therefore as regards the timescale she was unable to answer. It was therefore agreed that the timescale for the flood works be circulated after the meeting.

It was mentioned that the new NYCC Flood Review meeting would be held on the 25th November.

North Northallerton Primary School

The two year delay has been confirmed.

The officer confirmed that NYCC could manage without the new school for that time but the situation was tight.

The September 2020 intake had been considerably higher than the intake in 2021 and information from the NHS was showing a plateau in the numbers of pre-school aged children and this situation was manageable. However some year groups would be higher than others though the Northallerton Schools all had available capacity to operate in the interim.

LGR

The informal Implementation Board has had three meetings. This consists of the NYCC Executive and the Leaders of the seven District Councils. The formal Board will come into existence in January 2022. The aim of the Board is to achieve a smooth transition and officers have reported that at officer level the transition was working well and that there was a spirit of optimism.

The Structural Changes Order had been approved by the Minister and this provided for a new Council of 90 Councillors in 89 Wards with only one Ward having two Councillors,

With there being one Councillor for one Ward it was hoped that this would improve local contact as there would be only one person for the public to go to which emphasised locality.

It was hoped that the new Council would encourage residents to get involved but with the next meeting of the Area Committee not being until March 2022 much of the preparatory work would have been done ahead of the May 2022 elections.

Although it would be for the Shadow Council to decide the way forward it was hoped that residents would be able to put matters on the Area Committee agendas. However while it was hoped that the Area Committees would continue it would be for the Shadow Authority to agree on this.

Policy decisions would remain to be dealt with centrally.

It was hoped that beneath the Area Committees there would be local hubs.

7. PLANNING MATTERS.

No new planning applications had been received since the last Council meeting.

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| CJ and V Scurfield (Ashes fee) | 40.00 |
|--------------------------------|-------|

Payments –

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| P Atkin (Salary) | 344.00 |
|------------------|--------|

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| P Atkin (Including Zoom) | 54.54 |
|--------------------------|-------|

| | |
|---|--------|
| Mrs C Huang (Sweeping – 6 hours) | 60.00 |
| HMRC (PAYE) | 68.00 |
| Yorkshire Local Councils Association (Councillors books + course) | 72.36 |
| A Whitehead Associates (Tree survey) | 960.00 |
| Hillside Tree Surgeons(Hedge cutting etc) | 580.00 |
| Sammantha Briginshaw (Reimbursement wildflowers seeds, auger etc) | 40.47 |
| NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) | 23.06* |

* paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £46,681.20

High Interest Account - £13.20

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

The Bank Reconciliation appears on the last page.

9. SETTING OF THE COUNCILS PRECEPT FOR 2022/23.

The Finance Committee had had regard to the fact that the Council had in December 2021 wished to increase its Precept for the financial year 2021/22 to £62,000. However it was discovered at the eleventh hour that for one year only due to having to cover Covid costs the newly occupied properties at the NND would not be taken into account in the calculation of Council Tax to be passed to BTC and NTC and would be retained by HDC. The budget was then therefore set at £54,000.

These properties would be included for 2022/23 therefore the Finance Committee had Recommended - That for 2022/23 the Precept be set at £62,000 as had originally been the intention for the current financial year - AGREED.

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

(i) PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-32417-Long Lane, Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 9 hours between 12th February 2022 and 13th February 2022 to allow for rail inspections works on behalf of Network Rail (23:00-08:00 only)

The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=124340137>

(ii) VAS Signs.

AGREED - That the two VAS signs be placed on the approach to the Rugby Club and on the approach to the Primary School from the Darlington direction as discussed by Councillor Langthorne and the Clerk with Highway Engineer.

The cost for each VAS would be £3,227 + VAT, which would include a 5 year warranty and if the VAS signs were to be interchangeable between different speed limits, as discussed on site, this would need to be specified with the manufacturer when the order was placed (believed to be approximately £200 but awaiting confirmation).

Once the Agreement was signed off, NYCC would make the arrangements for the posts to be installed. This was usually £500 + VAT however, the cost should be lower for site 1 due to the use of the existing socket.

The Council would need to make its own arrangements to ensure that the signs were rotated towards the different directions of traffic several times a year. This would ensure that the VAS would still meet the temporary protocol. Training in the function and mounting of the VAS would be provided by the manufacturer on the day they come to install the VAS.

(ii) 20's Plenty.

Another online meeting of the North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty was held on the 16th November.

There were now 53 parishes who had passed the Motion that Brompton Council passed last month.

Whilst the former Police and Crime Commissioner was not supportive the new Commissioner had asked for information in order that she could form a view.

Building up for the May Elections the Leader of the Green Party said that this would be part of the Partys Manifesto.

Cornwall County Council (Conservative controlled) had recently agreed to take this on board across the County. Other Tory controlled Councils such as Oxfordshire already did as did Wandsworth, Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea.

It was up to the local Council to decide where they wanted the limits to start rather than for highways staff to decide on this.

Pollution is reduced by 25% at 20 than 30.

Poster boards like For Sale signs do make people slow down.

Good publicity if could have press photos of local dignitaries stood around a board sign - County/District Councillor, headteacher, doctors etc. It helps for people see local pillars of the community giving their support.

The Green Party had linked this to their Climate Change agenda through a Transport Group.

It was suggested that Parish Councils should add the 20's Plenty posters to their web sites.

Stickers on wheelie bins seemed to be slowing drivers down.

Any Councils considering VAS signs needed to ensure that these were adjustable downwards to 20mph for the future.

The NYCC Leader for Transport had claimed that it would cost the County Council millions in engineering works to install 20mph speed limits. However this was not true, added to the considerable savings in KSI costs, especially as hospital admissions would be for much less serious injuries.

NYCC Conservatives opposed this on the grounds of the costs of installing traffic calming measures.

All Parish Councils are encouraged to draw up maps of where they would like their 20mph limit to start and finish + buffers to allow for slowing down as too often people don't slow down until they reach the sign, and speed up again before they reach the sign on exit.

Such plans provide practical help to the Highway Engineers and demonstrates commitment to default 20mph and that Councils are taking an active part beyond just passing the motion.

The Transport Leader at NYCC had produced an article in the Harrogate Advertiser as to why 20mph cannot be implemented. 20's Plenty had agreed to respond to this article.

It was also intended to get the Local Government Association on board.

Joining 20's Plenty was not restricted to Councils - any community groups (or individuals) could join.

Next meeting - Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7.30pm

11. GRASSCUTTING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2022 GRASSCUTTING SEASON.

AGREED – That -

1. A metre to be left around all trees at Water End.
2. Exit/ Entrance to The Ford to be strimmed around 3 times a year.
4. Boulders to be strimmed around adjacent to the Wild life area as necessary.
- 5, Path alongside the Recreation Ground to be strimmed round as necessary.
6. Periodic Cutting of the Wild life area but not too short.
7. Strip of grass opposite the last bungalow on east side of Water End to be strimmed when necessary

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA UPDATE – To establish a Wildlife Area Working Group.

AGREED – That a Working Group be established for Water End Beck diversity consisting of interested Councillors, members of the public, and representatives from the school that works with a contact from the EA Ecology division and a representative from the Flood Group.

Received from a resident -

Having just witnessed the strimming taking place on the beck at Water End, I am baffled as to why this is happening on our green.

Our birds, mammals and insects all rely on that habitat for shelter and food sources- now it's all been cut down, how will the grey wagtails and moorhens be able to hide and feed safely? Thinking about the flood risk that we residents face on Water End, how does strimming away wildflowers and other vegetation help? Surely the more root systems in place on the sides of the beck the better to hold the soil in place? I think up to date ideas on flood prevention are more about slowing the flow of the water rather than clearing out...

I can only conclude that the decision to strim the edge of the beck has been made on a purely cosmetic basis? That a certain group of people think it 'looks nicer'? This is, of course, highly subjective as some people will think it looks nice and neat whereas other people will think it looks bare and barren. I do not think it is appropriate to base decisions on the upkeep of our village green on purely aesthetic reasons because as previously stated this is totally subjective- the place for people to make decisions about their local environment based on what 'looks nice' is in their own garden- you can have that totally to your own preference!

Because it is impossible to please all of the people all of the time based on what 'looks nice', surely it would make more sense for our decisions on the upkeep of our village greens to be based on more important issues i.e. protecting habitats, lessening our risks of flooding, encouraging wildlife, conserving our trees and providing communal green spaces for our residents.

It is so wonderful that the Parish Council are really starting to get behind the need to protect and encourage wildlife and to conserve our precious trees and wildflowers and the hard work done on the

'bottom' green near Fullicar Lane is testament to this. It is brilliant that the base of our trees are not strimmed anymore, protecting them from infection due to strimming damage and that our fantastic lime trees are now left to their natural habit of producing basal shoots without the need to give them (a completely unnecessary and potentially damaging) haircut. This is all great work so far and I am very grateful to the hard work of our councillors with this.

With this in mind, I think we need to keep making progress towards protecting wildlife and conservation of our green spaces by continuing along this path of making decisions based on what is best for the environment and our residents and educate people along the way. A resident who complains about an area looking 'scruffy' needs gently educating rather than appeasing, especially if the appeasing involves damaging our environment.

The added bonus of this- is it would also save money. Doing away with strimming and cutting the grass less often would save money which I'm sure could be put to much better use.

15. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire and the City of York Precept Consultation.

AGREED – That Councillors respond to the consultation as individuals.

(ii) Hambleton District Council Budget Consultation 2022/23.

AGREED – That Councillors respond to the consultation as individuals.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in The Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th January 2022.

(iii) HDC Housing Enabling Officer.

The Housing Enabling Officer had asked if she could address a meeting of the Council in the New Year about Affordable and Community Led Housing. AGREED – That if not urgent then this could wait until Covid had been resolved or for the new Council.

The meeting was opened to the public at 7.30pm for the asking of public questions. No questions were raised.

17. BURIAL MATTERS.

It was reported that as per the usual practice Notices had been put up in the Cemetery advising that any Christmas wreaths remaining on graves after 20th February would be removed and disposed of.

Following the recent high winds the Cemetery paths had been swept and all fallen branches have been removed.

The Clerk had attended the YLCA Exclusive Rights of Burials course this month.

AGREED – That the following increases in burial fees be applied from 1 January 2022 as had been agreed in December 2020 –

Interment fees to increase from £100 to £150, and

Plot fees to increase to £250 to £350.

Bank Reconciliation to 3rd December 2021

Income

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Income reported at last meeting | | £72,402.16 | |
| a) Receipts in the period: | | | |
| Memorial Fees | £50.00 | | |
| VAT Refund | £3,700.21 | | |
| Total income for the period | | <u>£3,750.21</u> | |
| Revised 2021/22 income to 03 Dec 2021 | | | £76,152.37 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|------------------|------------|
| Expenditure reported to last meeting | | £32,203.75 | |
| b) Payments in the period: | | | |
| P Atkin - Salary | £344.00 | | |
| P Atkin - Expenses | £45.36 | | |
| HMRC | £68.00 | | |
| Mrs Huang - sweeping | £40.00 | | |
| CE & CM Walker - Grasscutting - September | £880.80 | | |
| RBL - Poppy Appeal | £100.00 | | |
| Mrs Trewitt - Allotment Rent | £1,200.00 | | |
| Age UK - Donation | £50.00 | | |
| Hambleton Food Share - Donation | £50.00 | | |
| Boston Seeds | £94.99 | | |
| Hambleton CAB - Donation | £100.00 | | |
| NYCC - Commercial Waste | £23.06 | | |
| Total payments in the period | | <u>£2,996.21</u> | |
| Revised 2021/22 Expenditure to 03 Dec 2021 | | | £35,199.96 |

c) Funds:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Surplus/(Deficit) for Period (Income less Exp) | £754.00 |
| Funds B/Fwd From last meeting | <u>£46,140.40</u> |
| Funds C/Fwd to next meeting | £46,894.40 |

Represented by:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Balance of Barclays Community Account a/c | £200.00 |
| Balance of Barclays Business Premium a/c | £46,681.20 |
| Balance of Barclays Premium Savings a/c | <u>£13.20</u> |
| Total Funds as at 3rd Dec 2021 | £46,894.40 |