

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 15th February 2022

PRESENT – Councillors, 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 6 members of the public present at the meeting and three people on Zoom.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Brigginsaw due to self- isolating.

Councillor M Langthorne declared an interest in the payment to be made to Mr D Langthorne under Accounts.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th January 2022 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record..

3. CORONAVIRUS.

The number of Covid cases the Friday before Christmas per 100,000 for the Hambleton District were 385 per 100,000

10 January - Hambleton District – 1,439 per 100,000 – North Yorkshire 1,475 – England – 1,475

31 January - Hambleton - 1,074 per 100,000- North Yorkshire – 999 - England - 1,012

3 February – Hambleton – 937 per 100,000 – North Yorkshire – 893 – England – 908

7 February – Hambleton – 762 per 100,000 – North Yorkshire – 735 – England - 750

4. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

As at 9th February 2022 –

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	7 Reports
Total	7 reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	2 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	1 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	3 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	0 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	1 Reports
Total	14 reports

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

(i) Gully Emptying.

Gully emptying had taken place around Brompton during the week commencing 1st February.

(ii) Dead Fish in Brompton Beck.

Dead fish were reported by a member of the public in Brompton beck at Bowe Bridge on the evening of the 3rd February, these being a number of dace. Councillors Brigginsshaw, Hazelwood and Langthorne inspected the beck the following morning and Councillor Carter retrieved two of the fish in case they were required for analysis. Further up Fulliar Lane the beck was littered with about thousand small dead fish and a couple of large ones. The Environment Agency had been on site and were carrying out investigations. The Senior Scientific Officer at HDC had reported as follows -

The EA believed the incident happened on the 3rd February but it seems to be very localised. There were no other incidents either upstream or down, they believe the cause passed through quickly and was then diluted. So it would appear that the cause may have been in close proximity to where the fish were discovered.

Staff from the EA have been on site and did a full sweep both up and down stream to see if there was any evidence of what may have caused the event. This search did not reveal anything obvious, but they did note that a number of the local farms had been spreading and this may have been the cause. Given that we had heavy rainfall on Thursday afternoon (the first for a couple of days) it is feasible that this run of brought high levels of something into the water.

One of the team was due to visit Brompton yesterday (9th February) and was going to visit the nearby farms and the industrial site next to the railway line to assess potential causes and check on farming activities.

It was reported that Councillor Brigginsshaw had submitted an article on the situation for the current edition of the Darlington and Stockton Times.

(iii) Thurston Park Estate – Missing Litter Bin

The Clerk was still chasing up HDC about the litter bin at Thurston Park that still had not been replaced following the previous bin being damaged in an accident.

(iv) Repair of Bench on Church Green.

Repairs had been carried out to a bench dedicated to a child on Church Green.

(v) Works at Cockpit Hill.

NY Highways had confirmed that its contractor had now reset the loose coping stones along Cockpit Hill. The general condition of the walls have been inspected and whilst they are unsightly, they were not considered to present an immediate risk. As NYCC had no funding for such works allocated in its maintenance budget, funding would be sought to carry out improvements to them – but this was unlikely to be available before the 2023/24 financial year.

(vi) Request to move Church Noticeboard with Church Yard.

Councillors had agreed to a proposal by the PCC to erect a new notice board in the Church Yard near the post box. This had previously been agreed by the Council five years ago. AGREED - That the Councillors decision be endorsed.

(vii) Cockpit Hill Street Sign.

It was pointed out by a resident that there wasn't a street sign for Cockpit Hill to guide courier drivers etc. The Clerk as a HDC Councillor had arranged for one to be manufactured and installed which would take 6 to 8 weeks.

- (viii) NND – Proposed Skills Construction Village.

The proposed Skills (Construction) Village had been removed from HDCs Capital Programme and had been placed as a pipeline project for the new Unitary Council to consider.

- (ix) Trees along the beck side adjacent to the BRG field.

Hillside Tree Surgeons were to carry out an inspection of the trees along the length of the beck from the Councils car park to Bowe Bridge as this had not been done for some time.

- (x) Work to fence in the Recreation Ground.

Letters had been sent to the occupiers of nos 1, 5,7 and 9 Mill Hill Close about the repair works to the Councils fence which would be carried out in the week commencing 14th February. Prior to that Daryl and Miles Langthorne would be on site to remove all the hedges, trees etc along the fence line.

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

No actions were reported to the meeting other than mentioned elsewhere on the agenda.

7. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Working Group had met on the 14th February 2022 and -

RECOMMENDED - That the Clerk claim the professional fees from HDC spent on the middle bridge from the CIL monies owed to the Council.

That Working Groups be reminded to adhere to their allocated budgets when considering projects, the Wildlife Area Working Group being £134.98 overspent in the current financial year.

RECOMMENDED - That the tender submitted by CE and CM Walker for this seasons grasscutting be accepted, especially as it contains the revisions made by the Council at its December 2021 meeting.

For the return of the tear off questionnaire to be included in the Annual Newsletter central locations such as The Shop and the School be asked if they would be willing to participate as return locations.

It was expected that there would be a VAT reclaim to make of approximately £1,000 at the end of the current financial year.

A member of the Working Group referred to the savings that some Councils were making by reducing their grasscutting and making previously cut areas such as grass verges into wild life areas. This was not something for the forthcoming season as the Council had only just agreed its grasscutting policy review at the December 2021 Council meeting but was something for consideration for future years.

Councillor O'Sullivan reported that The Shop had agreed to have a box so that completed questionnaire returns could be placed in it.

AGREED – That the recommendations of the Finance Working Group be accepted.

(ii) Middle Bridge.

The following Notice has been put up around the village and on the Councils web site.

Once alerted to the decline of the bridge the Town Council closed it in December 2020 pending an inspection by a structural engineer who reported that 70% of the bridge was rotten and it was hoped a new bridge could be put in its place.

Working with the Environment Agency and structural engineers it became obvious that any new bridge would need to be widened and raised to comply with 1:100 years flood prevention policies and accessibility law.

The costs of a new bridge would be around £60,000 and the new design to meet regulations would not fit in with the village scene due to its extended size.

As a new bridge was not possible, the structural engineer was asked to look again at the old bridge to see if a repair could be made. The presence of high levels of lead in the paint work was then revealed.

The specialised paint removal company and the engineer then agreed that once the paint was shot blasted or acid dipped there would not be enough good steel left to use as a fixing point for the new steel.

Sadly, the only option left is to remove the bridge and carry out remedial work on the paths and bankside to make it safe for the public in the future.

Please address any comments to – bromptonpc@aol.com

+ if necessary a separate Zoom meeting will be held with villagers on a date to be arranged.

The Chairman read the following statement –

As Chairman and as a resident of Brompton Village myself, I am saddened to see the demise of the middle bridge at water end.

If it had been placed on the Councils assets register and a maintenance programme put in place the bridge would have lasted a lot longer than it has. Clarification should have been obtained earlier to find out which Council was responsible for its maintenance.

As a village we cannot go back in time to rectify this over site but can only go forward and look at the issues we are faced with today

The bridge was closed due to safety concerns and a structural survey confirmed that over 70 % of the bridge is corroded and painting the bridge again and again over the years has enhanced this decay.

Despite all efforts by the vice chairman to find ways to save the bridge over the last 18 months this has proved impossible

Extensive work has also been carried out at a replacement bridge, but any new bridge would have to comply with new legislation that includes

Full Planning Permission

EA approval

DDA compliance-including wider paths and turning circle for wheelchairs etc

EA 1:100 flood risk- increasing the height of the bridge

Drainage works – new embankments for the bridge would enhance flooding

Repair and strengthening the sandstone.

Quotes were sought in December 2020 for a replacement bridge and an initial quote of 28k as increased to 60k due to the increased costs for steel and the additional drainage works the EA insist on

As a Council we do not have the finances to pay for such a bridge with only having the precept as its source of income.

We had hoped that the HDC offer to help release some of the CIL monies in advance would be meet the cost of a new bridge.

CIL monies can only be spend on projects the villagers agree on. On receipt of any CIL monies the Council would have to ask the village (which includes the 500 houses in NNA that are part of Brompton Parish) what it would like the monies to be spent on.

If though a community group was set up and wished to take over the project and as a charity access funds the Council cannot and finance a bridge and its future maintenance, then I am sure the Council would be happy to discuss the matter further with any community group

The Chairman added that no residents had contacted the Council about the bridge in the past 12 months. The decision had been made at the January meeting and now that the Minutes of that meeting had been ratified the bridge would be removed. In answer to a question the Chairman explained how the figure of £60,000 had been arrived at.

Drawings of how a new bridge could look were displayed at the meeting.

The Chairman referred to all the hard work that Councillor Langthorne had put into the middle bridge project - sometimes on a daily basis.

A resident stated that there was no way in which flood water would reach the top of the existing bridge, however this had been the case is 1978 and the Council had to abide by the regulations stipulated by the Environment Agency.

Whether CIL monies would be spent on a new bridge was a separate matter as when that money was released by HDC the whole community would need to be consulted for their view as to how such monies should be spent. An open meeting could also be held for this purpose.

It was clarified that the bridge could not be replaced like with like and that it would have to be a new bridge.

The Chairman undertook to respond to all the questions that the attendees had sent in.

Mr Pollitt a local resident present at the meeting offered to provide any assistance that he was able to to the Council regarding this matter.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

The Highways/ Road Safety Working Group had met virtually on the 9th February.

At the last Council meeting it was agreed to set up a 20's Plenty Working Group which consists of the same Councillors plus Robert Carter.

The Working Group had RECOMMENDED - That the 20's Plenty issues be included in the Highways/ Road Safety Working Group to which Councillor Carter be added.

Also agreed that now that the Group is established the Clerk and Chairman can withdraw and the Group will itself make reports to the monthly Council meetings.

VAS Signs.

The Group agreed that once the signs were installed it would monitor them to see if they were in the optimum locations and to ascertain whether in due course a third sign should be purchased.

Pedestrian bridge at the School.

The Working Group to have sight of the feasibility study.

How access to the site for works to be carried out was a matter for further consideration.

There is also a need to investigate funding streams and this will be taken through the Finance Group.

Brompton Sign.

The Group is to decide on the style of the new sign.

Cockpit Hill.

There is £8,000 in the 2022/23 budget for works to the car park and Cockpit Hill

The Chairman is investigating with the Land Registry the ownership of the cobbled area.

The Working Group is to look at the whole area, in particular landscaping at the car park and possible bollards on the cobbled area to create a crossing point and to liaise with residents in this respect.

Also RECOMMENDED – That, in addition to the Clerk Councillor Brigginslaw be authorised to report information onto the NYCC Parish Portal.

Other issues for the Group to look into were the traffic priority at Bowe Bridge and the pedestrian crossing points on North Moor Road.

The Clerk is to update members of the Group with historic information that may assist them.

The Working Group is to undertake a village walk round in the Spring as this has not been done for some time due to Covid.

AGREED – That the Recommendations of the Working Group be accepted.

(iv) Meeting with representatives of the BRG.

County Councillor David Hugill reported that the meetings, held twice at the Civic Centre, had started by regrouping where the current situation was at. The BRG had wanted to know what the Council wanted to do as the Council's main issue appeared to be the dog ban situation and the BRG had come to the conclusion that the Council wanted to take over the BRG.

There were still issues to be resolved, mainly the issues of dogs on the field and how the BRG was able to put funding in place.

Councillor Hugill commented that his own view was that there needed to be more Trustees and that the two sides needed to work together and have more meetings.

The Chairman of the BRG pointed to the grant being held back by the Council and before matters could move forward the BRG needed a letter from the Council regarding the lease.

The Chairman said that the Minutes of the two meetings had not yet been revealed to the Council therefore most Councillors were not aware of what had been discussed. Therefore when Councillors had seen the Minutes they would need to discuss the issues.

Mrs Slater added that the matter of the grant had gone on since 2020 and a Councillor suggested that as a matter of good will the grant should be paid, especially as the BRG was a village charity and that County Councillor Hugill was happy with the way that matters had progressed. The Chairman said that this was something for the Finance Group to look at and it would be on the agenda for the Groups next meeting. Mrs Slater asked that if the grant was not forthcoming could the BRG be told the reasons as to why.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Hugill for the time he had spent on this matter.

(v) Northallerton and Communities Villages Forum.

A meeting of the Northallerton and Communities Villages Forum was held on the 18th January 2022.

Discussion points are outlined below.

Transforming Mental Health Services.

Presentation by Hambleton Community Action.

Hambleton Community Action is based in Northallerton enabling those with mental health issues to participate in the community.

It works to a national programme to support people with severe mental health issues bringing together statutory services and health care providers to develop support with the voluntary and community sector.

The aim is to find outcomes that will support people and to identify the support that individuals need.

Funding has allowed Community Health Practitioners to work in GP practices.

Funding will also be available shortly for Charities to apply for to carry out local and community based pilots.

HAC now needs details of Charities who will benefit and details of those who suffer from mental illness.

It was mentioned that there would be much benefit in liaising with the Living Rooms in Northallerton.

Northallerton Historic England Heritage Zone Programme Update.

A report was received on the update for the Heritage Action Zone.

In the next two weeks there will be the launch of the grant scheme for shop fronts. The grants would provide 75% of the costs. Shops would be visited in the next week so that shop owners were aware of the scheme.

The scheme was aimed to reinstate heritage shop fronts on Listed Building although there was some degree of flexibility in the scheme as the Zetland Street shops were not Listed but may nevertheless still be appropriate. Many Listed Buildings have good shop fronts already so it is a matter of filling in the gaps.

There would also be technical support available for the design of shop fronts.

At some point there would be a need for the Heritage Trust, Northallerton Town Council and BID to meet to discuss the matter further.

There was also a project to set up a pop-up Exhibition Space in the town with a multi-media exhibition.

However it was important to manage the expectations of Northallerton as residents had expressed disappointment that there wasn't going to be a museum.

There was also the need to approve the artist who would work on the Heritage Trail and especially the Treadmills.

It was pointed out that the real purpose of the whole exercise was to improve the footfall in the town and increase the amount of time that visitors stayed in the town.

Climate Action Northallerton

There are now a number of local organisations following up climate change initiatives.

Awareness initiatives were to be held in February and the One Northallerton One Planet group set up by Churches Together had set up a Facebook page and an email address.

There was a need to link initiatives together as the climate crisis was not gripping people as it should be doing and the message still needed to be stressed to local communities.

There were 30 trees to be planted in town and the Willow Beck path would link the houses on the north east side of the town by the Green Corridor.

An apple orchard was also envisaged on the Applegarth as had originally existed there.

There was also the need to progress the intention that the former Grammar School playing field become available for public use, although it was accepted that it still needed to be available for educational use for a period of 8 years after which it would be for the Department of Education to decide what would happen to the land. However the legal situation didn't stop talks going ahead.

On the 26th February young people would be holding an event in the Town Hall about Climate Action.

The main concern was the lack of knowledge about the matter and the need to co-ordinate activities in Northallerton.

It was reported that Climate Action Northallerton was looking at bringing everyone concerned with Climate Action initiatives together.

Romanby Parish Council was focusing on Climate Action throughout 2022.

The comment was made that no-one had yet approached the Rotary to ask for assistance.

Hambleton Foodshare.

Foodshare was now operating from the former Registrars Office off Racecourse lane next to County Hall.

The use of Foodshare had become higher during the pandemic but the generosity of organisations and individuals had been wonderful and Foodshare had not to date run out of stock.

Syrian/ Afghan Refugees.

There are now 16 Syrian/ Afghan refugee families in Northallerton (12 + 4)

All are well assimilated in the community and have good support groups.

Most adult males are in employment - perhaps not to the standard that they were previously used to.

Their knowledge of English is good except for the Afghan wives who had no previous knowledge of the English language.

8. FLOOD GROUP – To report the current position.

It was reported that both the Chair and Treasurer of the new Flood Group had resigned saying that -

Given that we have not made any real progress as a group despite our best efforts.

Following on from the recent email from David Hugill regards the EA reducing their efforts to assist low priority cases and confirmation that the EA also stated that it is unlikely that further spraying of the beck edge weeds will occur in future.

Additionally, a permit for any works to the beck is necessary, with detailed scope of work and at a cost of up to £1,440.

We do not believe that there is any point in the group trying to achieve support and funding moving forward.

The only thing worth further investigation, we believe, would be the village flood plan for which we have also been advised the parish council has in hand.

So in summary, the previous flood group did a very good job at achieving the preventive measures thus far, but we cannot see any further benefits to the new groups efforts.

One of the three remaining members of the group has been approached and has commented as follows -

My first thought is that the flood group would have on 3 members left and this too small a group to continue and if an independent group is required you would have to see if anyone else would be willing to join with the remaining members and then a Flood Group could continue in some form.

Beyond this I would be willing to go round the existing 'leaky' ponds with Craig and ascertain if any remedial work is required before next autumn/winter, there was a report that some repair work was required on one pond on Geoff Spence's land.

In the longer term the Town Council should get Rishi Sunaks support for the Environment Agency to adopt the leaky ponds as theirs. This would leave any future flood group to deal with other flood relief issues such as removing weed from the beck or spraying weed and possibly other ponds away from the beck to hold rainwater back from flowing into the beck, (this was latterly to the way the Sue Butler flood group was going). or even planting trees.

The email referred to above is set out below –

From a Press report dated - 13th January 2022

England's EA has told its staff to "shut down" and ignore reports of low-impact pollution events because it does not have enough money to investigate them, according to a leaked internal report.

The ruling on so-called category 3 and 4 incidents means that events such as farm pollution or hazardous dumps by business may not be properly investigated. The decision has infuriated river groups and NGOs.

An Environment Agency briefing to staff, issued in November says there is leadership support for "no response to unfunded low- and no-impact environmental incidents", also known as category 3 and 4 incidents.

The document also hints at the agency's frustration at ministers and the money set aside for its work. It says the EA's leadership team has "made it clear to government that you get the environment you pay for".

Exceptions to the rule will be pollution incidents caused by a regulated site or a water company, says the briefing, although it does not explain how it will determine the source or seriousness of an incident if it is not attended or investigated.

Ignoring the huge number of pollution reports that come in each year will have benefits, says the agency's briefing, including "reduced overall effort spent on the incidents that present the lowest risk to the environment", increased effort on "charge-funded regulation", more space to prioritise higher-risk incidents, "increased consistency of response and service for customers", and reduced disruption to officers in and out of hours.

In an Environment Agency agency states that it currently responds to more than 70,000 incidents each year, and the number continues to increase.

However, data from the agency's National Incident Recording System shows that while 116,000 potential incidents were reported to the agency in 2021, just 8,000 were attended, and that this number had fallen from 12,000 in 2016, when 74,000 potential incidents were reported.

"We cannot keep trying to do what we are not funded to do; we do not have the money or resources," states the presentation deck. "We are in an unsustainable position. Our incident responders feel under growing pressure, and this is affecting staff resilience and wellbeing."

Should staff hear of a category 3 or 4 incident that does not relate to a water company or a regulated site, they are told: "Do not substantiate report, call site or add any details. Shut down report." Template reply letters have been created for agency staff in anticipation of complaints.

The agency's customer service commitment says the regulator had its budget for responding to environmental incidents cut last year and that as well as slashing responses, it will no longer provide feedback on any action taken to tackle pollution events.

It follows many years of grant-in-aid cuts for the agency. However, the government gave the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and its agencies an additional £4.3bn in the latest spending review in October 2021. An overview of the Environment Agency's settlement is due this year.

The Rivers Trust, called the move an "appalling scandal". "Category 1 and 2 pollution incidents obviously have a very serious impact on the environment, but they are the tip of the iceberg. The vast majority of incidents are in lower categories, and they are what cause the death of rivers by a thousand cuts..

"Resources and political backing to take robust action in all cases of pollution if our rivers are not to continue suffering endemic pollution and an ongoing decline in quality ... It is absolutely essential that there should be a credible threat of enforcement for all pollution incidents if we are to restore our rivers to good health for the next generation."

An Environment Agency spokesperson has said: "We focus our incident response effort on those pollution incidents which pose the greatest risk to the environment".

A Councillor commented that some of the CIL monies needed to be put towards flood relief. The Clerk reported that he had received £1,000 towards flood matters from the NYCC Locality Budget as had been arranged by County Councillor Hugill.

The Clerk reported that as a HDC Councillor he would be looking at the dams with Mr Southwell and a representative of the EA on a date to be arranged and that any Councillors were welcome to come along.

The Chairman suggested that this could also be an issue for an open evening in The Methodist Church and it was suggested that the Rivers Trust be asked to attend that event.

AGREED – That efforts be taken to re-establish a Flood Group and advertisements be placed to attract interest.

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

(i) District Councillor Stephen Watson pointed to the need for the Council to have a Resilience Plan.

9. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications.

None received to date.

(ii) Development at The Glen - Virtual Meeting with Broadacres Housing Association.

A virtual meeting had been held on the 2nd February with a representative of Broadacres Housing Association and Mrs Amanda Madden, HDCs Housing Enabling Officer, regarding a proposal by Broadacres Housing for development at The Glen, Little Lane.

The proposed development comprised 14 dwelling units with 9 affordable housing units at the north end of the site and 5 market for sale properties at the south end; being a mixture of dormer bungalows and two bedroom houses. The affordable provision being more than the 40% in housing estates.

Planning consent on the site had in the past been refused for market for sale properties only.

Broadacres Housing would only acquire the site on the granting of planning consent.

Amanda Madden undertook to undertake a new Housing Needs Survey timed for 14th February with a return date of the 11th March.

In essence Councillors concerns were -

Flooding

The lack of a full length footpath

Increase of traffic onto a country lane

Car parking - + possible overflow onto other areas of the village that were already full of parked cars.

The effect on the entrance to the village

Damage to the heritage of the settlement of Brompton

Opening up of developments along Stokesley Road and further along the north side of Little Lane and other areas of the village

A further meeting has been requested when these issues have been addressed.

Councillors questioned what the demand for these properties was likely to be in view of the very low demand revealed in the questionnaire return when the village had been last surveyed when only 10 responses had been received. The meeting was informed that Broadacres Housing was no longer building 60 Affordable Houses at the NND site as Taylor Wimpey had decided to develop the site themselves therefore this may lead to demand.

A Councillor also asked if anyone had contacted the school to see if there was sufficient capacity for more children.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

NYCC (Locality Budget for Flood Works)	1,000.00
Funeral Services Ltd (Ashes fees)	150.00
Funeral Services Ltd (Ashes fee)	50.00

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
P Atkin (Including Zoom + black ink cartridge)	42.90
HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
Sam Turner and Sons (Road salt)	28.80
Darrell Langthorne (Grit Bins + seat on Church Green)	338.04
George F White (Professional fees for Cemetery extension)	3,594.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	23.06*

* paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Account - £200.00

Business Savings Account - £44,326.87

High Interest Account - £13.20

With regard to the fees payable to George F White in the sum of £3,594.00 for professional fees for the aborted Cemetery Extension proposal the Chairman informed the meeting that when the matter had first arisen a sum of £12,000 had been verbally agreed the vendors, this had subsequently risen to £100,000 and at that stage County Councillor Mrs Sanderson had told the Council that it needed to appoint an Agent to deal with matters, hence the engagement of George F Whites. An independent Valuer had then valued the required land at £24,000, which was not acceptable to the vendors.

Subsequent changes to the burial policy and future use of land that in 1937 had been earmarked for a path but never constructed would mean that at current burial rates there would be sufficient capacity in the Cemetery for burials until around 2056 and for ashes for years beyond that.

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

11. PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF THE MONARCH.

Councillors had been made aware that the Council did not have a protocol in place for the death of the Queen. A draft protocol has been forwarded to all Councillors and it was AGREED – That the protocol be adopted.

12. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including - Notification of Road Closures + North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty.

VAS Signs.

NY Highways has informed the Council as follows –

The costs will be -

- Approximately £3,500 + VAT each solar power VAS.
- £250 for each post installation in existing retention sockets.

Councillors have agreed to proceed with using solar, as it would be better to use the existing retention socket on Station Road, as this is a better position for sun exposure. This would mean that the installation of the post is £250 at each site.

Therefore two VAS with solar units from Swarco would be approximately £7,000 + VAT.

The Council will now request a quote from Swarco for 2 x MVAS to S-30-r-234-SD-BDH specification signs including solar arrangement and battery. The battery is one of the standard batteries in the VAS, which provides approx. 3 days of backup power requesting a 5 year warrantee and that the sign is to be interchangeable between 20 and 30.

AGREED – That Councillor Langthorne be appointed to turn both of the signs round at 2 to 3 monthly intervals.

20's Plenty

The North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty met virtually on the 10th February.

Selby District Council are to debate the matter at it's next Council meeting but it is not expected to be approved.

82 Parishes are now on onboard - ie 71 Councils. Perhaps some areas that already have 20 zones haven't joined.

Need to get NYCC Councillors on board - they had all received an invite to the meeting but none were on line. Same invite to go out to them for the March meeting.

Jason Hazelwood displayed the map he had worked up showing all areas of the County that had adopted the 20's Plenty motion. This was considered to be very useful as it depicted the groups of Parishes that had joined up and showed other areas where they had not, but many of which were very rural in nature.

The map was also significant as it showed areas where few Councils had come on board - particularly in the Scarborough area.

It would be useful for the Branch to have individual Councillors email addresses so that information could be sent directly to them.

The consultative tool POLIS was discussed.

This had been used to poll resident's opinions on such as the Harrogate Station Gateway programme to develop the town centre and in Knaresborough and one unexpected result had been the level of support for 20mph.

The POLIS service is offered to environmental groups for free.

It was agreed that a general Press release be put out to the main newspapers in each of the Districts.

It was also considered advantageous to transmit 20's Plenty information through the web site of environmental and campaigning groups and cycle groups such as Harrogate Cycle Action.

Wear and a tear on highway surfaces would be less with 20mph limits leading to fewer potholes and noise would be reduced by 50% at 20mph.

The only realistic way of implementing the new Highway Code would be to implement default 20mph in urban areas. It was agreed that this would be good for discussion on Radio York with a talk-in to get the message across.

One of the difficulties of processing individual 20mph zones was the required Traffic Orders at around £5,000 each. However if this was rolled out across the County then there would be a considerable saving.

Also across the County default would also be better understood by drivers and lead to better compliance.

The bureaucratic process was an major obstacle to Parish Councils and the current situation was not cost effective as the implementation of individual Traffic Orders across the County would be extremely expensive.

It was suggested that a theme be adopted along the lines of - "Improving Peoples Better Quality of Life - Better Places to Live" - thus creating a positive vision.

The Christmas card had been successful and there was the opportunity to send the 20's Plenty Valentines Card to County Councillors this month.

It was suggested that candidates for the new Unitary Council be asked to include their support for 20's Plenty on their election leaflets.

Then if elected they could be held to account if they didn't act on their election pledge.

It was acknowledged that no changes to NYCC Policy would be likely to come into effect until the Unitary Council came fully into effect in 2023.

This however would provide an interval in which the Branch would be able to gather information on progress being made elsewhere in the Country,

It was mentioned that more significant accident reduction rates would be achieved if main roads were included in the 20mph zones in settlements particularly as the main road was in many villages the only road through those villages. It being the preference with regard to any exceptions for proof that they were valid exceptions.

20's Plenty had been included as part of the Conservative Manifesto in Cornwall.

Jason Hazelwood reported that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request to NYCC asking how many requests had been received for 20mph zones in the past 10 years. He was currently awaiting a response.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the NYCC new Policy had yet to appear on the NYCC web site. Another downside was that the NYCC web site was targeted to applications for single sites only.

Finally it was reported that SNAP which was used by drivers to send videos of serious driving incidents directly to the Police was under review as NY Police was being inundated with videos.

Next meeting

7.30pm Thursday 10th March

13. ANNUAL NEWSLETTER.

The deadline for the receipt of articles from other organisations is the 25th February for printing early March and distribution immediately thereafter.

14. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

No new items were raised under this agenda heading.

15. GRASSCUTTING TENDER.

The annual grasscutting quotation (incorporating the matters agreed to be added to the contract at its December 2022 Council meeting has been received from CE and CM Walker as follows -

Grasscutting Cost per cut (14-15 cuts)

Greens 220.00

Church 105.00

Cemetery 160.00

Verges 152.00

TOTAL £764.40 per cut.

Mr Walker had confirmed that the small increase this year had been due to the national situation regarding red diesel.

AGREED – That the quotation be accepted.

16. CORRESPONDENCE.

No correspondence other than reported elsewhere was reported to the meeting.

17. 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 on Tuesday 15th March 2022 at 7.00pm.

(ii) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be held remotely on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 7.00pm.

(iii) Power Point Induction Session for Councillors following the 5th May Elections.

AGREED – That the Clerk arrange for an induction session to be held for all Councillors after the May elections.

(iv) Forthcoming Election – 5 May 2022.

The Chairman reported that she had collected nine election packs from HDC that Councillors could collect from her after the 25th February, though they could if they wished collect a pack themselves from the Civic Centre after that date. It was confirmed that as per the adopted practice Election Notices would be placed on the Notice Boards around the village.

(v) Car Parked on the Cobbles at Station Road.

It had been reported that a car parked on the cobbles at Station Road made it difficult for parents with children and pushchairs to get past. Photos had been sent to the Police and it had subsequently been mentioned to the owner of the vehicle.

(vi) New Bridge – Wind Blown Material.

Reference was made to windblown material from the new bridge site that was getting into nearby fields. This had been referred to the developer through NY Highways. Comment was made as to how narrow the road across the bridge seemed to be. Councillor Carter undertook to forward photos of the dropped kerbs that were being installed as he had concerns about these.

Councillor Hazelwood commented that the width would depend on the volume of HGVs using the bridge adding that Cockpit Hill had not been constructed for such large vehicles but County Councillor Hugill pointed out that they were permitted so as to gain access.

Councillor Carter also again referred to the uncut hedge just past the new link road on Northallerton Road which HDC had said that they would not cut as the land transfer had not yet taken place. It was however imperative that the hedge on this well used footpath be cut back in the next six weeks before the bird nesting season. AGREED - That as it was in Northallerton Parish NTC be approached to ascertain if it would be willing to share the costs of cutting back the hedge and removing the undergrowth on a 50 - 50 basis.

(vii) Overgrown Hedge on Stokesley Road.

It was reported that the hedge adjacent to Stokesley Road leading towards Hellikeld corner had still not been cut back. This had been referred to NY Highways and the Clerk undertook to ask what progress was being made in the matter.

It was also reported that the hedge adjacent to 71 Northallerton Road needed to be cut back.

(viii) Planting of Bulbs.

Councillor Langthorne reported that over the past three years he had planted over 5,000 bulbs around the Greens, many of which were now at a height of 1.5 inches in growth. He was however very disappointed that dog walkers showed no respect for the bulbs and frequently just walked over them. AGREED - That this be reported in the Annual Newsletter.

(ix) Parking of Horse Box along Little Green.

It was reported that the parking of a large horse box along Little Green was making it difficult for motorists to get by as insufficient room was being left. AGREED - That the Clerk ask the PCSO to look into the matter.

(x) Social Media.

The issue of the Brompton Community Facebook page was raised as it appeared to have become defunct due to a change in the persons who were originally running it.

(xi) Branches in the Recreation Ground.

It was reported that the branches were still in the Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that a resident had asked him if he could take the branches away and the Clerk had agreed to this. The Clerk was surprised therefore that the branches were still there and undertook to contact the resident after the meeting as they needed to be take away before grasscutting commenced.

18. BURIAL MATTERS.

It was reported that two ashes plots had been sold and one interment of ashes had taken place in the last month. Also the Clerk intended to computerise the ashes plot records.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm