

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

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs S Briggshaw, 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 10 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

There were no apologies for absence as all Councillors were present at the meeting.

Councillors Carter, Langthorne and Robinson declared interests in the cheque payments under the Accounts item on the agenda as either they themselves or a relative was the recipient of a payment.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th February 2022 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.

AGREED – That the Public from the meeting for item 15 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.

4. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

As at 16th March 2022 –

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Total	3 reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	4 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	6 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	1 Reports
Total	15 reports

Councillor Kelly arrived at 7.15pm.

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

- (i) Allotments Fence.

It was reported that a temporary repair had been made the allotments fence whilst new posts were being ordered.

- (ii) New Sign Cockpit Hill.

A new sign had been erected on Cockpit Hill following representations by residents.

- (iii) Cycling Provision.

The Clerk reported that Northallerton Town Council would be taking a Position Statement on Pedestrian and Cycle facilities in the town to its March Council meeting and would welcome a joint position statement with Brompton and Romanby Councils in due course as it was effect a Northallerton wide issue as the proposed corridors cross all Parish boundaries.

- (iv) Bridge at rear of Orchard Grove.

It had been reported to the Council that cracks had been reported on the bridge and NY Highways had reported that the bridge was a private structure that carried a public footpath but they would have it inspected and if there were any defects that affect members of the public using it on foot they would alert the owner.

- (v) Dog Waste Bin, Stokesley Road.

Following adverse comments on social media a new dog waste bin had been ordered to be placed in the vicinity of The Green Tree Inn on Stokesley Road. This had already been agreed to be purchased sometime in the 2022/23 financial year. However HDC had reported that there was a bin in that location and Hambleton Wombles who initially reported the problem had been asked to advise the Council where the new bin should best be sited.

- (vi) Climate Action Event.

The Clerk and Councillor Brigginsaw had attended the Climate Action event in the Town Hall on the 26th February and took away some useful information. Councillor Brigginsaw had forwarded links to Councillors and the School after the event.

- (vii) Church Door Entrance.

It had been reported that on the previous two Wednesday mornings when the Church Warden went to Church for the 9.15am service they had found around the door entrance rubbish and food on the pavement and again at this weeks lent service they found sandwiches etc again left at the door way to clean up. There was no evidence that anyone was living under a tomb as there had been about four years ago. Local CCTV was being investigated.

- (viii) Bonfires on the BRG Field.

Concerns reported to the Council about bonfires on the BRG field at the end of February had been referred to the BRG Committee. The BRG had responded that the part of the field mentioned with regard to the bonfire was owned by the BRG and the Committee felt that it did not come under the Councils direction. They had asked that in future any other complaints regarding the BRG Committee be directed to them.

- (ix) Methodist Church Chimney.

Permission had been granted for scaffolding access from the Recreation Field to carry out repairs to the chimney on the Methodist Church.

- (x) Annual Newsletter.

The printers proof had been checked and the printer was currently waiting a delivery of recycled paper.

- (xi) Affordable Housing Survey.

A draft report on the recent affordable housing survey had been received from the Housing Enabling Officer HDC. The final report would be released shortly.

There had been 17 responders to the housing needs survey questionnaire.

- (x) Middle Bridge at Water End.

As regards the middle bridge it was reported that the Council was still waiting for the permits that would allow it to remove the bridge as until these were received it would not be able to go out to tender for the removal.

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

No items were reported to the meeting under this agenda item.

7. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Working Group had met on the 14th March 2022 and had recommended as follows –

That -

A package of items to be kept in reservation for the death of the Monarch be purchased at an approximate cost of £150.00.

All Councillors following the May Elections attend the YLCA virtual training courses for Councillors at an approximate cost of £30 per Councillor.

It be confirmed that a sum of £500 was still in the Council's accounts for payment to the BRG Committee subject the presentation of receipts.

The backdated nationally agreed pay award be taken into account and claimed in next month's accounts onwards.

Consideration be given to the engagement of a revised Payroll Service provider for the next financial year onwards.

The distribution of the Annual Newsletter and the 20's Plenty leaflet be outsourced.

The cost of the 20's Plenty questionnaire leaflet be allocated to the Highways budget.

The rent of Church Green to the Showmans Guild, if required, remain at £150 and that the income be used to purchase ride tickets for school children.

The room hire at the Methodist Church be paid on a three monthly basis.

The NTC Finance Officer be again appointed for the Internal Audit of the 2021/22 accounts.

Mr J Robinson be again engaged to provide Financial Services advice to the Council.

AGREED – That the recommendations of the Finance Working Group as set out above be accepted.

(ii) Middle Bridge.

- (iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

The Working Group had met on the 8th March.

(i) Potholes – significant potholes throughout Brompton- worse areas Northallerton Road over Corber both directions, outside shop, Water End crossroads

RECOMMENDED - To report to NY Highways

(ii) Car park/footpath/crossing Danes Crest- car park surface needs attention – but not a priority.

RECOMMENDED – That the area needs to be tidied up with possible green screening from the road and that there is no need for formal pavement.

RECOMMENDED - That a crossing point be not included as it is on a blind corner and would be too dangerous; and hopefully 20's Plenty would help to resolve the issues.

RECOMMENDED – That M and D Langthorne be requested to carry out remedial surface repairs

RECOMMENDED – To look into purchasing the former electricity sub-station land and to look in to who owns the cobbled areas Land Registry bottom of Cockpit Hill

Once land ownership is established a site meeting be held to decide a works plan including disability access and possible clear space to cross to Danes from Cockpit.

(iii) Pedestrian bridge BRG - agreed this was one of the Priority Projects.

Feasibility study to be forwarded to Working Group + Head /Governors.

To ask what the current funding situation is - apparently nothing from HDC and NYCC no further funding until Unitary Authority comes in to action. To request a clear meeting with an NYCC Funding Officer to ask where we go from here.

Await consultation from School following the forwarding of the Feasibility Study.

Once agreed, submit planning application.

(iv) Bollards Cross Roads

When ownership of land outside the Three Horseshoes is confirmed obtain for quotes for bollards on first bay outside Three 3 Horse Shoes property.

(v) 20's Plenty – continue with Zoom meetings and feedback.

Follow up the survey monkey survey, posters designed by children and discuss school having a competition for a banner design winner to be displayed at the Carnival day on a stall - + outside school. Having an information table at the Carnival.

(vi) Cycle Paths – discussion around current link to Brompton and possibility of exploring the Stokesley Road through Green Tree. Unfortunately due to the railway line and beck it is unlikely for there to be a possible re- route to the village.

RECOMMENDED – have a representative on the new discussion group and ensure Sustrans are consulted.

(vii) North Moor Road Crossing

Discussed up to date correspondence with Andrew Watt from the Arete Trust who outlined a number of safety concerns the College has on Highways matters. College to let us know any contact they

have made with Rishi Sunak MP and to compose email directly to NYCC about North Moor Road and other areas.

RECOMMENDED – That the liaison and collaboration campaign with the College continue.

AGREED – That the recommendations of the Working Group as set out above be approved.

(iii) Hambleton Branch of the YLCA.

Notes from meeting of the Hambleton Branch of the YLCA held on 16th February 2022 -

The new Police Fire and Crime Commissioner to address a remote meeting on the 26th May, each local Council to nominate two attendees and submit any questions in advance.

A Liaison Group has been set up to receive information about the new Council for North Yorkshire for closer involvement in the implementation process.

It is hoped that information will be sent out about how common issues such as Green Bin charges etc will be rolled out across the County and how Council Tax will be dealt with as all Districts pay different levels of Council Tax.

The Joint Executive Board will decide whether to return to face to face meetings for the June cycle of meetings.

Branch resolutions to be put to the Annual Meeting of the Board in June include -

Rolling out 4G to the remote parts of North Yorkshire. The Local Councils Association was successful some years ago in changing the legislation permitting those aged 18 and over to qualify as local Councillors instead of the previous legislation of 21 and over.

The South Pennines LCA is to move that the 1894 Local Government Act be amended to permit local Councils to contribute financially to Churches.

This expected to meet opposition. The current law is that such contributions must benefit the wider community and the proposal would permit financial contributions to Churches.

However it is expected that if there are only one or two denominational Churches in a Parish then this will be regarded as discrimination.

Leeds LCA is to put a motion asking that legislation be passed that makes solar panels on all new builds compulsory.

The current Ethical Framework is subject to pressure on the Government to put sanctions in place to impose on Councillors who have breached a Councils Code of Conduct. Currently there are no sanctions in place for breaches.

A review of the National Parks and the Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONBs) is to take place with the Government suggesting that AONBs be renamed National Landscapes with two new AONBs being created as such areas have been extremely popular since the pandemic.

The reintroduction of remote meetings is on the national agenda.

Annual Council Meetings must this year be held between the 10th and the 25th May (inclusive).

Regarding the Queens Platinum Jubilee attendees reported that they would be lighting beacons, presenting commemorative mugs, organising street parties, co-ordinating local organisations, organising tea dances, picnics on the greens, and siting Jubilee benches. NTC is planting an apple orchard in the Applegarth.

It was hoped that NYCC would grant blanket cover for road closures for street parties rather than each organiser having to apply separately. An early decision on this would be needed soon.

Next meetings -

16th May with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

15th June - Hambleton Branch meeting in Northallerton Town Hall

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications.

22/00421/FUL - Conversion of an existing detached garage into a habitable annex. Low Grange Cottage, Brompton. – No objections.

22/00394/LBC - Listed Building Consent for alterations to the existing detached open sided garage to form a habitable domestic annex . Low Grange Cottage, Brompton - No objections.

22/00465/FUL - Alterations & extension to existing Dwelling at 18 Vikings Court – No objections.

21/02737/FUL -Remove existing casement windows to the Front of the property, supply and install 4 no. Traditional box sash windows in Accoya Timber with Traditional pulley wheels - waxed cord, traditional fitch fasteners. A simple sash with no sash horns. Heritage double glazed units, 4 over 4 georgian bar individually putty glazed. All windows will be primed, undercoated, finished with two top coats in Dulux Indian white. 1 Front Entrance door in Accoya Timber in a Georgian style 6 panel door with two top panels glazed. A photo of a wooden door is attached in documents. The door will be treated in the same way as the above windows. The colour has not yet been decided by the customer. 44 Cockpit Hill – No objections.

22/00315/MRC - Modify or remove all conditions from previously approved application reference number 21/00527/MBN-Application to determine if prior approval is required for the conversion of an existing agricultural building to form two dwellinghouses and for building operations reasonably necessary for this conversion – Standard Hill Farm, Darlington Road – No objections.

(xii) Decisions.

21/02738/LBC - Replacement of 4No existing wooden casement windows to front elevation with traditional white painted box sash windows in Accoya timber, Heritage double glazed units and simple sash with no horns. 1No. Front Entrance door in Accoya Timber in a Georgian style 6 panel door with two top panels glazed – GRANTED.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	55.00
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Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	344.00
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P Atkin (Including stamps + envelopes for rural Newsletters)	60.84
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HMRC (PAYE)	68.00
Mrs C Huang (3 hours street sweeping)	30.00
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree works)	2,520.00
Darrell Langthorne (Works at the Recreation Ground etc)	210.00
Mr J Robinson (Financial Services Advice)	375.00
Mr R Carter (Reimbursement of Land Registry fee)	35.94
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	23.06*

* paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £177.50

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £40,156.87

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £13.20

It was reported that of an income over the year of £76,000 the Council had spent £47,000 and the resultant reserve could very easily be wiped out if something unexpected occurred.

A Councillor said that it was unfortunate that situation regarding the CIL monies was still dragging on. District Councillor Mrs Sanderson responded that it was just a case of when and was connected to the timing of the bridge. She also stated that she would be able to get the figure of the amount of CIL monies involved, adding that the Council was not to worry as the CIL money was on its way and its delay was not anyones fault as this was due to the delays with bridge. The latest HDC response about the CIL monies had been sent to all Councillors by the Clerk. Councillor Sanderson undertook to get the CIL money figure from HDC in writing.

The Chairman reported that as it was over three years since the Council had consulted residents about how they wished the CIL monies to be spent in due course residents in the Parish would need to be consulted again.

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

10. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - 33439 - Northallerton Road, Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 7 hours between 3rd June 2022 and 3rd June 2022

VAS Signs.

It was reported that the legal agreement had now been signed with NYCC. The manufacturers had advised that there was currently a backlog with orders for VAS signs but they would deal with it as soon as they can.

20's Plenty

The North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty had met virtually on the 10th March 2022.

A Bromptons 20's Plenty questionnaire leaflet would be delivered to every household shortly.

Prices had been obtained for 20's Plenty marketing material such as bin stickers and banners.

Other Highway Matters.

As regards the Councils car park a Councillor commented that if it was resurfaced there would be run-off into the beck which would require drains to be put in similar to the car park at the allotments. Councillor Langthorne reported that a soak away would be provided.

Land ownership issues towards the bridge adjacent to the car park needed to be looked into.

As regards the new crossing point on North Moor Road a Councillor stated that the plan clearly showed a refuge, similar to those existing and not an island

Whilst it was expected that the new bridge on North Moor Road would be completed by Easter there would then be hand-over arrangements following on from that.

A Councillor also pointed out that the cycle path at the bridge didn't appear to be wide enough.

It was also reported that the Parish Portal was now up and running.

11. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

An article had appeared in the recent edition of the Darlington and Stockton Times following repeated damage to the Green at Water End around the wildlife area. Since then the culprits had been reported to be two teenagers, one with a push bike and one with a scooter/moped who appeared at 11.30pm to 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. The Police had been asked to patrol on these evenings and times.

It was reported that the damaged beds could be replanted.

12. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Letter dated 1 March 2022 from Brompton Community Primary School regarding the safety concerns around the School.

A copy of the following letter had been forwarded to the BRG Committee.

Dear Town Councillors,

I am moved to write to you to express my growing concern about the on-going and prolonged safety issues caused by, what I understand to be, unauthorised parking in the Brompton Recreation Ground car park. Permission was sought and given to allow parents of our school to park in the car park when dropping off and picking up from school to prevent unsafe practice of parking on Station Road. Unfortunately, it seems that local businesses are using the car park to store their vehicles, preventing parental use, thus, exacerbating a situation where, I fear, a pupil or parent may get seriously hurt.

Furthermore, it has come to our attention that there is no inclusion of a pedestrian crossing on the plans for the North Road Bridge and, given that a number of our pupils use that route on their journey to our school, this seems a potentially dangerous oversight! I would, therefore, offer my strongest support to any representation by you to rectify this issue and, in doing so minimize the risk to our young people.

The dangers to all of our stakeholders presented by our proximity to Station Road, particularly since an auto-trade business has been allowed to develop, has been an issue for some considerable time and has consistently failed to have been addressed satisfactorily, despite our extensive protestations. Does it take a serious injury or worse to prompt remedial action? It

now seems that the new development is going ahead with the same scant regard for the well-being of the community, particularly our young people. It is clear that the safety of our pupils and their parents is being compromised by these developments and I would urge you to act in the strongest possible terms, with our full support, to ensure that we are not dealing with a tragic accident.

The BRG Committee had responded as follows –

“..... The car park is another issue, one which neither of us has achieved a satisfactory result. We worked with the school and locked the main gate for a while, this failed on the school's behalf, on our behalf it failed as the Council complained that we were keeping people out by locking the gate. We have spoken to Mr. Stapley who knows our views on the car park being used as an extension to his business. We have spoken to the Police who cannot do anything; so, we appear to have a stalemate.

I have sat several times between 8.30 and 9.30 and 2.45 and 3.30 observing the coming and goings at the car park. On the morning visit, on each occasion there is 10 to 12 cars that park up before 8.30 and do not leave till 9.25. These people appear to be well known to the other parents as they have said that they do this every day, leave their car and then stand talking till 10 to 9 then return to the car park and stand in the car park until 9.25. If the car park was used just to drop of children, then there would be room for everyone.

Brompton Juniors who hire the facilities from us have problems on training days and match days with parking.

No one wants to see any accident at all”.

Councillor Briggins Shaw reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Schools Governing Body at which the main item that had been discussed was car parking. Recently children were due back in the afternoon from a school trip and there were very few spaces in the BRG car park for parents to park to collect their children with their suitcases.

(ii) Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Received from a resident -

I don't know if the PC has any plans to mark the Jubilee occurring this year but a friend and I were chatting and we thought how marvellous it would be to have a footpath from Brompton to Northallerton linking up with the path near the leisure centre. It could be known as the Jubilee Path and have 70 trees planted on its route. Ambitious I know, but so worthwhile. Please could you raise this for consideration at the next PC meeting.

The resident had been advised that the Council had already made its decisions regarding the forthcoming Queens Jubilee and that the Council had also decided not to plant any more trees in the Parish other than two oak trees, one being for the Jubilee. Neither was there any budget provision for 2022/23. However Northallerton Town Council was to consider a pedestrian and cycling strategy in March and would like to involve Brompton and Romanby Councils.

It was also pointed out that trees planted adjacent to paths caused problems for pedestrians and cyclists when leaves fell.

(iii) Mother's & Others Tots Group in the Methodist Church.

Received from a resident circulated to Councillors -

Rachel Smith and Michelle Waldron who have taken on the weekly Mother's & Others Tots Group in the Methodist Church. We run 9-11am Fridays, including school holidays, where we adapt slightly to accommodate older siblings.

We are keen to attract more local families and are always open to new volunteers from the community. Lesley Bustard has been a welcome addition to our team. Her local knowledge and wisdom are fantastic.

Michelle and I also run Tiny Time at Zion URC on a Monday morning and Little 1's at Northallerton Methodist Church on a Wednesday afternoon. We found these groups really valuable so are committed to making sure they continue to help other Mums and carers.

We are keen to be involved in any community projects and look forward to meeting you any Friday you are free to pop in.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council and the Annual Parish Assembly be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday 19th April 2022 with Annual Parish Assembly commencing at 7.00pm.

(ii) Letter from the Former Chair of the Brompton Flood Prevention Group.

"I'm saddened by the fact that the new flood group has folded already as the Chair had a great deal of enthusiasm to help with flood alleviation. I am extremely concerned that the Parish Councillors are looking at the leaky dams without the knowledge of what my flood group did in the 8 years I ran it as Chair.

I will always be available to chat through what we have done and why. It is very important that you don't reinvent the wheel. The dams are leaky dams not ponds. The leaky dams on Geoff's land do not need to be repaired as I had a conversation with Geoff about them and as there was no money to repair them he was going to take them out. The reason is that Geoff wouldn't allow them to be any higher so they weren't very effective, but they were very helpful to persuade other farmers to come on board to have leaky dams on their land. Most farmers want to drain their land rather than put something in their ditches that may cause their land to flood slightly.

Craig collects data from cameras we have near the leaky dams regardless of whether there's a flood group or not. He has evidence that they work and by looking at the photos you could see which dams need brash taking out. Craig has waders so providing it's not too bad and there isn't much water Craig may be able to get rid of it. Alternatively a councillor could put them on and do it. I asked Jan Hodgson to give her waders to the Chair of the new flood group. Ponds are the future as leaky dams need repairing if wing walls aren't put in. Before our flood group disbanded all the dams had wing walls which support the dam and stop erosion. I can tell you now that the EA will not maintain them.

The only hope is that the farmers in the future will be paid by the government to maintain them and encourage them to build more ponds. The evidence Craig has gathered from the cameras proves that the ponds work, The dams are only needed to slow the water so that it goes into the ponds more easily. Someone asked for a resilience plan, If that was a flood resilience plan we already have one and I gave it to the new Chair. If there's anything else I can help you with please send me an email. If you want to spend some money and the brash is particularly bad on the dams James Coxon contractor will clear a dam for £80".

District Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that the leaky dams were constructed when grants were available this did not cover their maintenance. However the Council could spend money on their maintenance.

AGREED - That Mr J Southwell be sent a copy of the letter and when a date was known to inspect the leaky dams all Councillors be invited to attend.

(iii) Queens Jubilee Street Parties.

AGREED - That it be advertised that if residents were thinking of arranging street parties or a Jubilee Lunch they were welcome to use the Greens and the park if they wanted to as long as they tidied up after them and didn't leave their rubbish for others to clear up after them.

(iv) Hedge on Northallerton Road.

The Clerk updated the meeting about the hedge along Northallerton Road to the North of the Civic Centre.

(v) Dead Fish in the Beck.

It was reported that no further information had been received about the dead fish that been found in the beck.

(vi) Incidents Involving a Councillor.

Councillor O'Sullivan reported that two weeks previously he had been confronted by a resident, who was not known to him, about a porch on a house in Lead Lane. The person had subsequently driven slowly passed him glaring in an intimidating manner; this had again happened on the day of the current Council meeting. This had followed incidents of damage to the cars of two Councillors in the recent past. It had twice been mentioned in Council meetings that if residents had a particular matter to raise they should contact the Clerk and notices had been put up around the village in this respect.

AGREED - That the Chairman report these matters to the Police on the Councils behalf and that a representative from the Police be requested to attend a future meeting to speak about crime matters in general.

(vii) Ukraine Appeal.

A Councillor asked where the Ukraine Appeal was being organised locally and was informed that items for donation could be taken to My Lockup on Darlington Road.

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

(i) Mr B Walker mentioned pot holes in the village and was informed that those marked round in white were for temporary repair and those marked in yellow wear for permanent repair. It was mentioned that due to the depth of the pot holes near The Shop cyclists had to go onto the opposite side of the road.

(ii) Mrs B Slater referred to the complaints about the bonfire on the BRG field and was informed that these had been made by residents who had been asked to refer their complaints to herself direct as Chairman of the BRG Committee.

(iii) Mr M Pollitt asked if residents could see the feasibility study and the flood risk assessment for the middle bridge and this was agreed.

He also said that it would be helpful to have an open public meeting to discuss the bridge. The Chairman pointed out that there would be an opportunity to ask questions at the forthcoming Annual Parish Assembly in April and later there would be a public consultation with regard to the spending of the CIL monies. However in the first instance the existing bridge would need to be removed. Mr Tyreman who was present at the meeting offered to replace the bridge but was informed that many permits needed to be acquired before the bridge could be replaced.

Mr Tyreman added that any ramp would lead to a back-up of flood waters. The Chairman pointed out that that was the reason why any new design needed to incorporate drainage.

- (viii) District Councillor Stephen Watson said the he would be surprised if the Council did not received the CIL monies.
- (ix) District Councillor Mrs Sanderson remarked that Town Councillors must appreciate that when elected they could not be anonymous and as such were exposing themselves to the public being able to challenge them. Councillor O'Sullivan responded that this should however be done in a proper manner and that in his former professional life he had never been confronted as a Head or Deputy Head teacher.

14. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that all Christmas Wreaths, around 300, had been removed from graves after the 22nd February deadline.

In answer to a question raised about the expiry of the term of 99 years of Exclusive Rights of Burial it was clarified that if no other arrangements were made graves then reverted to being public land – effectively common public graves. If the grave was a double depth grave and no-one else had been buried then anyone could be buried in that grave on top of the original coffin and any ashes could also be buried in such a grave.

The following item of business was considered in Private Session.

15. TO ADVISE THE CLERK REGARDING THE COUNCILS INSTRUCTIONS ON LEGAL MATTERS.

- (i) AGREED – That the group of Councillors previously liaising with Clerk in relation to the County Court case continue to review the matter and act accordingly.
- (ii) AGREED – That the matter of the Lease with BRG be left to the new Council to review and that the Finance Working Group determine any issues regarding the payment of the grant to the BRG.

The Meeting Closed at 8.40pm