

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 13th December 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs E Kelly, Mrs A Robinson, Mr S O’Sullivan (in the Chair) and Mrs R Smith.

There were 6 members of the public present at the meeting including District Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson and County Councillor Steve Watson.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman Councillor O’Sullivan was elected as Chairman for the duration of the meeting

COUNCILLOR O’SULLLIVAN IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs S Brigginsshaw, Mr R Carter, Mr M Langthorne and Mrs Shiel Dods.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED - That, subject to the amendment below, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2022 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Amendment - Page 8 – Public Question (iii) - District Councillor Mrs Sanderson reported that the District Council had quite an amount of spare finance and would be shortly looking at the issues of warm spaces and the cost of living crisis. She therefore asked if it was possible to donate a sum of £250-£500 for the people who were running this and making meals in the village rather than them having to beg for a donation. –

To read - That the Town Council had quite an amount of spare finance

3. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

6th November to 7th December 2022 –

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2 Reports
Total	2 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	1 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	4 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	1 Reports
Violence against the person	5 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports

Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Total	12 reports

Information requested by Councillors at the last Council meeting – Crimes recorded on the UK Crime Statistics site - 12 months to September 2022 (the site operates 2 months behind actual)

In order – number of crimes -

Danes Crest Estate – 49, The Hiltons (including Fernwood), 41Winton Road - 18 (unsure what this area covers), Northallerton Road – 13, Cockpit Hill – 12, Lodge Lane – 9, Orchard Grove – 9, Lead Lane – 8, Corber Hill – 6, The Green – 5, Fullicar Lane – 5, Little Lane – 5, BRA Field – 5, Linen Way – 5, Church View – 4, Banks Road – 3, Vikings Court – 3, The Green – 2, De Gaunt/De Bruce Road – 2, Brompton Lane – 1, Station Road – 1, Cotswold Street – 1, Mill Hill Close - 1

Types of crimes -

Violence and Public Order – 86, ASB – 69, Criminal Damage + Arson – 40, Burglary – 6, Theft – 5, Other – 3

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (i) Christmas Tree.

The Christmas tree purchased from Sam Turners had been erected on Church Green on the first weekend in December.

- (ii) Additional VAS post.

It was reported that having inspected the site with Clerk NY Highways were liaising with Swarco regarding the best place to install the additional post for the VAS sign opposite the Rugby Club.

- (iii) Tree Condition Survey.

A survey of the condition of the trees around the village was currently being carried out by Smeedem Foreman of Knaresborough.

- (iv) Survey of Church Boundary Wall.

The survey of the Church boundary wall had recently been received from Civil and Structural Consultants Ltd. The survey identified necessary works to the wall in three categories – High, Medium and Low. Stonemasons were being contacted to ascertain if this was a job that they wished to tender for and Councillor Sanderson provided an additional contact for a local stonemason.

- (v) Flood Alleviation.

The Chairman and Clerk had met with Coxons of Exelby on the 18th November who were to draw up a maintenance programme for the beck in order to alleviate future flooding issues. This would include digging out of the overflow channel in respect of which they would remove and take away the surplus soil and restore the surface.

They had also advised on the works required to repair the leaky dams and would submit details for the digging out of another flood water overflow pond to take a capacity of 200cu m of floodwater. They had also recommended that re-profiling of the beck was not a viable proposition when considered against another overflow pond as costs of re-profiling could be around £3m with little gain.

Coxons had also advised against any de-silting works at the first road bridge as any benefit would be extremely limited and costly.

The digging out of the overflow channel was to take place in the Spring so that the Green recovered which it would not do if done in the winter months.

(v) 20's Plenty Campaign.

A "Photo Shoot" including residents, children and dogs had taken place on Saturday 10th December around the banner at the Brompton end of the Northallerton Road Cycle Path. A Press Release was being sent to the Darlington & Stockton Times for publication in the 16 December edition.

(iv) Bulb Planting.

The remainder of the bulb planting on Lead Lane etc had been carried out by The Chairman and Vice-Chairman and Councillor Brigginsshaw. In addition the 1,000 bulbs for Thurston Park estate had now been planted against residents fences instead of on the green areas.

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

None reported to the meeting.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on Monday 12th December and had considered the following matters -

Precept - Financial Year 2023/24

Recommended - That the Precept for the financial year 2023/2024 be set at £68,000.

In view of the additional number of houses within the Parish there was consequently no increase in next years annual Council Tax payment to that in the current year with Band D properties currently being £63.54 and for 2023/24 being £63.47.

Cost of Living Crisis

Recommended - That a donation of £150.00 be made to The Living Rooms in Northallerton in view of the cost of living crisis.

Church Wall Survey.

Recommended - That the Clerk enquire as to what Stonemason companies would be interested to tender in due course for the works required to be carried out to the Church wall.

+ the invoice for the Church wall survey be allocated to Cemetery works recommended to be approved.

Burial Fees

Recommended - that current burial fees be increased by 10% (subject to rounding up where necessary) in line with inflation.

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

(ii) Middle Bridge.

The Clerk reported that there had been no change from the previous months position of the bridge being removed in January.

(vi) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm dated 05 December 2022

Present: Robert Carter (RC), Jason Hazelwood (JH), Emily White (EW).

Item	Details	Actions
1.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
2.	<p>20s Plenty Campaign:</p> <p>A "Photo Shoot" would take place a 0900 on Sat 10 Dec around the banner to be placed at the Brompton end of the Northallerton Road Cycle Path. A Press Release would then be sent to Janet Gleeson at the D&S for publication in the 15 Dec 22 edition of D&S.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>RC</p>
3.	<p>Brompton Village Sign:</p> <p>This was not a Group responsibility until such time as the position and design of the sign had been agreed by the full Council</p>	
4.	<p>Cockpit Hill Car Park:</p> <p>This could not be progressed until the "Garden Licence" for the sub station had been issued by NPG and a quote received from Snowball's, the contractors, for surfacing</p>	
5.	<p>Cycle Paths:</p> <p>RC & JH attended the meeting of the Pedestrian/Cycleway Joint NTC/BTC Working Group held in the Northallerton Town Hall on Tuesday 15 Nov 22. We are awaiting confirmation as to whether a confidential NYCC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Phase 2 could be released to all the members of the group</p>	
6.	<p>Danes Crest Crossing:</p> <p>No further progress can be made until the quote from Snowballs has been received</p>	
7.	<p>Three Horseshoes Visibility Issues:</p> <p>It was agreed that this needed further discussion in view of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planters would need to be big enough so that they could not be manhandled out of the way • If too big would be no different to a car parked in the space • Who would maintaining the plants? • They would look untidy if just placed without levelling the cobbles • The issue of parking behind yellow lines was still to be resolved • Darren Barrott, Road Safety Assistant, Area 6 Boroughbridge Office email dated 29 Nov 22 re yellow lines 	
8.	<p>VAS Sign:</p> <p>Awaiting erection of a second pole</p>	
9.	<p>Access to NYCC Highways Portal:</p> <p>Progress had been made but it was slow</p>	RC
10.	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White lining at junction of Fullicar Lane and Water End • White lining generally in the village need renewing • The "heritage" status of cobbles had still yet to be resolved 	
11.	<p>Date of the next meeting:</p> <p>The sub cttee will meet be at 7.30pm on the second Monday of each month. The next meeting would be on 9 Jan 23</p>	All

- (vii) Play Equipment/Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment Working Group.

It was reported that Councillor Hazelwood was in the process of obtaining quotations from three providers of outdoor adult gym equipment.

- (viii) Pedestrian/Cycleway Joint NTC/BTC Working Group.

The next meeting of the Joint Working Group was to be held in the New Year.

Notes of the previous meeting are contained in the Monthly Update.

- (vi) Meeting with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Members of the YLCA had met with Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner on the Tuesday, 29th November. Full notes of the previous meeting are in the Monthly Update.

Several concerns had been raised with regard to the submission of monthly crime statistics to Councils. The Assistant Chief Constable had pointed out that the reason that only figures were presented with regard to the various crime categories was due to Data Protection interests with the possibility that in rural areas if further details were given then these could identify victims. He added that he did not have the resources to spend more time providing further details on crime statistics.

As regards returning the holding cells back to Northallerton from Harrogate as Northallerton Town Council had recently been informed that taking offenders to be logged in at Harrogate took the time of two Police Officers and this could be anything up to 4 hours away from the town due to queues in the logging in process at peak periods. The ACC confirmed that the holding cells had been removed from Northallerton in September 2016 and a lot of mitigation had been put in to see that the duty staff was not depleted and that there were options of taking offenders to holding cells in Darlington and Middlesbrough as decked by the custody staff. He added that there was now a system whereby Officers from Harrogate met those from Northallerton halfway; this was information that had not been provided previously.

The possibility of there being more Police visible on the ground was answered by saying that people didn't necessarily see the Police driving about and that Neighbourhood Policing would remain the bedrock of North Yorkshire Police who currently had the highest number of Police Officers that it had ever had.

There had recently been a substantial promotion to increase the numbers in the NY Force with several hundred additional Officers having been recruited in recent months and with the Force having this month added many more new Officers and having of 500 more Officers now than it had ever had previously. It takes three years to train up an Officer before they could be signed off from their probationary period and they do not patrol until they have reached their 37th week of training.

Issues were raised with regard to the failings in the 101 system and the Commissioner was asked what she intended to do to resolve these problems.

The Commissioner agreed that the response times were nowhere near good enough and it was a matter on which she was completely focused and had added an extra £70,000 for extra call centre personnel and overtime payments and this was the Assistant Chief Constables number one priority.

The Commissioner advised that anyone could submit questions to her via her monthly online surgeries or via her update meetings with the Police and that she also included a lot of information on her website.

- (vii) NYCC Parish/Town Councils Briefing.

The County Council held a briefing session with representative of Parish and Town Councils on the 27th November.

The notes of this session are in the Monthly Update.

Work was continuing between the County Council, the District Councils, the YLCA and SLCC to establish a Parish Charter in which the key areas for Town and Parish Councils would concern elections, polls and costs, financial matters, consultation and engagement, service delivery such as refuse collection and planning; involving over 700 Parishes across North Yorkshire in moving forward joint liaison arrangements.

It was planned to have a draft Parish Charter ready for consultation with Parishes for this December, with the Councils Executive approving the Charter for consultation in January 2023 providing for a 12 week consultation period and drop-in sessions with local officers. There will also be regular monitoring and review of the Charter.

An assurance was given that the Customer Service Receptions, the Area Office being at the Civic Centre, would be face-to-face and also appointments could be made to see planning and other officers.

The opening hours of the customer service receptions would be as existing and would not change from day one, having one telephone number with voice recognition to direct enquire to the particular office in that particular Council area. Officers manning the reception would have lots of information to hand regarding the Councils services.

(viii) Hambleton and Richmondshire Rural Transport and Access Partnership Meeting 5th December 2022.

The notes of the meeting are contained in the Monthly Update.

Councillor Kelly arrived at 7.15pm

7. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications

22/02724/FUL - Retrospective application for the provision of roof mounted solar panels, the temporary cladding to the facade and the proposed replacement rendering to the frontage of the dwelling - 1 Cockpit Hill

AGREED – That the Council objects to solar panels on roof of 1 Cockpit Hill which is in the Conservation Area as they are on the front of the building, however the as the Council supports the principle of Green Energy re-positioning would be acceptable at the rear of the building.

Also AGREED – That the Clerk enquire as regards the planning position in relation to satellite disks on the front of properties in the Conservation Area.

(ii) Decisions.

None received since last meeting.

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Funeral Services Ltd (Burial fee)	150.00
-----------------------------------	--------

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
P Atkin (Expenses)	51.07
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00

Mrs C Huang (8 hours sweeping)	80.00
NYCC (Annual website management fee)	460.00
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Various hedge cutting + works at the beck)	940.00
Structural & Civil Consultants Ltd (Survey of Church wall)	1,680.00
Mr D Langthorne (Various works)	235.00
The Living Rooms Northallerton (Donation)	150.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges -)	24.91*
Paid out of meeting –	
Brompton Churches Group – (Warm Spaces Group)	150.00

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £76,667.95

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £13.20

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

Donations.

AGREED – That having considered the information received after the last meeting a donation of £150.00 be made to The Living Rooms.

It was also reported that Councillor Carter had requested that a further donation be made to the Churches Group for Warm Spaces and it was AGREED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to the January meeting.

Bank Mandate – Payment of Cheques.

The Clerk reported that he had spent several hours in discussions with Barclays Bank over the past few days. It was apparent that someone in carrying out the five year review of the Councils account had deleted the bank mandate and the recovery system had only brought up the previous three signatories of which Barry Martin and Derek Plews were no longer Councillors.

The Bank had been unable to restore the settings but on the Clerks instructions had deleted Barry Martin and Derek Plews as signatories.

Consequently the Bank had prepared a new Bank Mandate which after signatures and return would take 10 to 14 days for the new signatories to be added. Cheques would not be authorised until that had happened and there was therefore no possibility of issuing any cheques at the current Council meeting. The Clerk would inform those due to be paid of the delay.

10. ANNUAL PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24.

AGREED – That the Precept for the financial year 2023/24 be set at £68,000.00.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

The North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty meeting was held on Thursday 24th November.

The full notes of the meeting are contained in the Monthly Update.

The County Councils Portfolio holder for Transport Keane Duncan was currently ascertaining what the actual public response for 20's Plenty across the County is and responses to his Twitter account had been be positive, indicating a 90% positive response.

There was a need to keep pressure on so that 20 mph speed limit would cover large areas rather than the present NYCC process of concentrating on small areas including outside of schools, especially as the fragmented approach costs far more added to which is the County Councils current policy of including physical traffic calming measures. At present the County Council seemed to be quite happy to just add individual 20 zones.

Requests from Parish and Town Councils for a 20 mph speed limit needed the support of their County Councillor. County Councillor Stephen Watson had apologised for missing the November deadline of the Constituency Area Committee for the comprehensive survey report from Brompton Town Council to be placed on the agenda.

At 7.35pm the meeting was opened to the public for the asking of questions.

- (i) District Councillor Mrs Sanderson mentioned that as regards the CIL monies the Chairman had indicted at the last Council meeting that the £25k approved for payments of survey fees etc in respect of the middle bridge were additional to the CIL monies due from HDC. This was not the case and Councillor Sanderson produced Minutes to that effect.
- (ii) District Councillor Mrs Sanderson explained the availability of additional CIL monies held by HDC totalling £2m for which local communities could apply for funding for projects prior to the end of March 2023. There was a provision that any monies granted must be spent within 5 years or would then have to be returned.

The Leader and Chief Executive of Hambleton District Council had been empowered to decide on any applications but the final decision for approval of grants would then need to be referred to NYCC for approval.

AGREED – That applications be made to the Leader and Chief Executive of HDC for monies from the unspent £2m CIL pot for the following schemes -

1. Flood Alleviation Scheme based on report being prepared by Coxons (circa £30k to £50K)
2. Replacement of middle bridge (circa £50k)

And that the Council support an application for an extension to Weavers Pavilion as recently agreed by the BRG Committee (cost as yet unknown).

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Bulb planting had taken place over the past month– see under Matters Arising above.

13. CORRESPONDENCE.

None reported.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held The Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 17th January 2023.

15. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that a notice had been placed at the Cemetery informing that any Christmas wreaths remaining on graves after 19th February would be removed and disposed of.

It was also reported that a grave in Plot H that had sunk substantially during recent wet weather had now been topped up and the fallen headstone just inside the Cemetery gate had been re-erected.

With regard to burial fees it was AGREED – That current burial fees be increased by 10% (subject to rounding up where necessary) in line with inflation.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm