

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 21st February 2023

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs S Brigginsshaw, Mr R Carter, Mrs M Sheil Dods, Mr J Hazelwood, Mrs E Kelly, Mr M Langthorne, Mrs A Robinson, Mr S O’Sullivan and Mrs A Robinson.

There were 3 members of the public present at the meeting including County Councillor Stephen Watson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Smith (work commitments).

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in the Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January, 2023 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

The Police report for January 2023 is set out below.

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Total	3 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	2 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	7 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Total	10 reports

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (i) New Sports Field Development.

The following response was received from HDC about the possibility of further allotments at the North Northallerton Development –

Further to your email to Steve on 24 January I can confirm that we had originally planned to locate the allotments to the north of the bridge however our ecological/planting advisors thought that the shade from the bridge would restrict the suitability of the land for this purpose. It is also best that all of the allotments are kept together to make it easier for access, parking, people taking produce to and from cars, etc, and we therefore increased the number of allotments on the southern side instead.

The area to the north, due to being part in shade, is being developed as a wetland area with parts given over for edible planting such as fruit bushes – this will provide a rich ecological area for wildlife as well as providing foraging opportunities for the community.

It was noted that there were currently 100 residents on the NTC waiting list for the allotments.

(ii) Dog Fouling, Cockpit Hill.

Continual dog fouling along the west side of Cockpit Hill had been logged with the District Council. The Clerk had leafleted all properties on both sides of Cockpit Hill to make residents aware of how they could report dog fouling and asking if they had any CCTV images. A post on Facebook had drawn many responses but not all from Brompton and indicated that dog fouling is still widespread in the area.

(iii) Gully Emptying, Northallerton Road.

Response received from NY Highways –

One of our Highway Officers inspected the gullies causing concern on the 18th January. He advises me that at the point of his inspection there was no evidence of flooding or any reason to believe the gullies are obstructed. All gullies across the County are cleaned annually as part of a cyclic programme and unfortunately we are unable to consider additional non-programmed gully cleans unless a blocked gully poses an immediate risk of internal flooding to property or significant hazard to the highway, neither of which applies in this instance. According to our system these gullies are next due to be cleaned in April.

A resident had however reported that the four gullies on the east side of Northallerton Road southwards from the Recreation Ground had recently been cleaned out.

(iv) Former Electricity Sub-Station Site.

The garden licence for the site at Water End had been received.

(v) Unsafe Headstones in the Churchyard.

Whilst inspecting the Church wall the stonemason had inspected the three large headstones that had been cordoned off in the Churchyard for some time and had declared them to be safe. The stakes and barrier tape around each of the headstones had therefore been removed.

(vi) Demonstration at County Hall – Wednesday 22nd February.

Residents from Brompton and the surrounding area were being asked to attend a public demonstration outside County Hall, Northallerton on Wednesday 22nd February to urge County Councillors to approve 20mph in towns and villages where this speed limit would be appropriate on road safety grounds.

A demonstration was to be held by the North Yorkshire Branch of 20's Plenty, the campaign group striving to achieve default 20mph, between 8.30am and the commencement of the County Council meeting at 10.30am.

Recently many residents living in the Thirsk and Malton Constituency area had been disappointed that the Conservative County Councillors voted against recommending a trial of 20mph zones in their built up areas.

Representatives from that area and other areas had indicated that they will be joining the demonstration on the 22nd February.

County Councillor Steve Watson reported that Bromptons case for 20mph could not be put directly to the Richmond Area Constituency Committee at its March meeting.

Councillor Carter said that he would challenge any County Councillor to walk to school with a buggy for a week. He had recently been in Aberdeen where the 20 limit had also been implemented.

(vii) Cycle Path.

It was reported that HDC was to carry out a sweep of leaves along the Cycle path at the Rugby Club.

(viii) NND – New Litter/Dog Bins.

The Clerk reported that HDC had informed him that the three new bins for the North Northallerton Development would be sited shortly.

Councillors Hazelwood and Kelly arrived at 7.15pm during the consideration of the above item.

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

No matters were reported under this agenda item.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS.

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on Monday 20th February and had considered -

Tree Works

A quotation by Hillside Tree Surgeons in the sum of £5,000 was agreed out of Council as it was received after the January Council meeting as the work has to be completed before the bird nesting season commences. It is RECOMMENDED that this decision be endorsed.

Church Wall Estimates

Two quotations have been received for repairs to the Church Wall and these will be forwarded to the York Diocese in due course with an application for a Faculty so that the works can be carried out.

Both Stonemasons have been approved in the past for works to the wall and it is hoped that the Church Diocese Building Committee will accept the lower of the quotations.

Grasscutting Tender 2023 Season

The Finance Group RECOMMENDS approval of the quotation received from CE + CM Walkers for grasscutting for the 2023 grasscutting season in the sum of £824.40 per cut (maximum of 14 cuts). This represents an increase of 6% on last years price.

Highways/Road Safety Group Budget 2023/24.

The Highways Group has submitted its budget request for the 2023/24 financial year.

The Finance Group has commenced a comprehensive review of the financial situation for the 2023/24 financial years and this will be presented to the March Council meeting.

To date the Councils budget out-turns at year end are expected to be as originally drafted.

Yorwaste Price Increase

The Council has received notification from Yorwaste of a 10% price increase in the blue bin emptying service which will increase the monthly charge by £2.49.

Tree Works estimates

Quotes for Ledon Springers from MacVenture Play for the replacement toddler springers have been received however the nursery aged children are being asked which items they would like to have before an order is placed.

Room Hire

The Methodist Church is to be reminded to submit an invoice before the end of March.

Reserves.

RECOMMENDED that for future years the Councils Reserve contingency sum be set at an amount equivalent to one years Precept.

Allotments.

RECOMMENDED that grasscutting at the allotments be carried out by Mr D Langthorne and be paid for by the Council.

Purchases

RECOMMENDED that an account be set up at North Yorkshire timber for purchase of timber.

AGREED – That the recommendations set out above be approved.

(ii) Middle Bridge.

The removal of the bridge was awaiting the manufacture of the safety rails by Wallaces as these needed to be put in place on the day that the bridge was removed.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting had been held this month.

(iv) Play Equipment/Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment Working Group.

Although no meeting had been held this month matters are progressing as follows –

A decision is awaited from Awards for All to confirm that the grant of £10,000 awarded in September 2022 for metal dynamic and static equipment can be used to wooden static adult outdoor gym equipment.

Councillor Hazelwood has undertaken to resurrect the proposed BMX track issue that was before Council in March 2020 but was removed from the Councils budget the following month at the onset of lockdown as it would not at that time be possible to make any progress on the matter.

Councillor Hazelwood is also following up estimates for the necessary work required to comply with the play equipment safety inspection.

A survey of Nursery Year 2 children is currently being carried out as to their preferences regarding the springers.

The boundary fence was currently being repaired and new picnic tables had been ordered. The metal benches had also been taken away to be refurbished.

(v) Joint Pedestrian/ Cycling Working Group.

A meeting took place of the Joint Working Group in the Town Hall on Wednesday 8th February including a general discussion with County councils Officer regarding the NYCC draft proposals.

Four schemes are suggested as follows -

Scheme 1 - Brompton - Town Centre

Scheme 2 - South East Northallerton - Town centre

Scheme 3 - South Northallerton - Town Centre

Scheme 4 - Standard Way Industrial Estate

It was pointed out that walking or cycling from Romanby to town was very dangerous due to the narrowness of the roads and footpaths through the two bridges especially on Romanby Road where the path is very narrow and vehicles have difficulties passing each other long Bridge Terrace.

This had been an issue for very many years and was regretful when people were wanting to cycle town and to the Football Club and the Leisure Park.

The only feasible solution was seen to be traffic lights but this had been suggested over 50 years ago and had never materialised.

It was also pointed out that the North Northallerton Development Masterplan had shown cycle access going under the new bridge past the allotments.

NTC and BTC were currently urging NYCC to provide a pedestrian controlled crossing to the east side of the new bridge.

As regards Standard Way the situation had changed since the opening of the bridge as HGVs from the west of town travelling along Yafforth Road now turned along Standard Way in order to avoid the back up of traffic at the Darlington Road junction caused by the railway crossing at North End.

There is a need for positive results in terms of future funding and for there to be a focus on the funding aspect.

There is also the issue of whether cycle paths can be incorporated into existing footpaths but this would depend on the width of those paths as to what was accessible.

The issue was not just one of infrastructure but was a question of how to get people out of their cars. - this being the ultimate aim. At present the alternative options of walking or cycling were not attractive enough to achieve this.

The future planning application for 800 more houses east of the new Stokesley Road roundabout on Church Commissioners land would provide more opportunities.

This could in time open up access to the north east side of Northallerton and the Bullamoore Road area.

As regards Stakeholders it was intended to hold a public construction event and a survey of residents in the town in the Summer; such would also involve the Cycling Clubs and cycling groups. Mention was made of Cycle to School Week.

Schools themselves could work up travel plans for their pupils and they were able to do this independently.

The hope was expressed that if there were more cycleways then more people would cycle.

The next meeting would be held in two months time.

Councillor Hazelwood reported that the cycling initiative before the Joint Working Group really came down to a matter of funding.

County Councillor Watson was asked if he could look into the possibility of a one-way traffic priority system being implemented at the bridge on Romanby Road past Bridge Terrace, Northallerton due to the narrowness of the carriageway and the extremely narrow pedestrian footpath.

(vi) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting.

The YLCA Hambleton Branch meeting held on the 15th February mainly concerned a resume of the NYCC drop-in session held at the Civic Centre in the previous week regarding the Draft Parish Charter.

Although invited to attend the meeting no County Councillors were present. Representatives commented that non-attendance by County Councillors did not bode well for the future.

Concerns were again expressed as to how planning applications would be dealt with by NYC as currently the 7 District Councils operate variations in dealing with the planning process.

Fears are that the majority of planning applications will be rubber stamped and there will be no opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to get their local Member to raise matters on their behalf.

There are concerns as to how planning application decisions will be made, especially if they are being made by Councillors who have little knowledge of the particular area. In this respect several large applications are expected for Northallerton and NTC is concerned as to what input it will have into these, particularly in the detail of the applications.

Indeed with larger applications whether they will be full Council or Executive decisions rather than coming through the Area Constituency Committees as if it is to be the Executive many of those Councillors, if not all, will have no knowledge of the geographic Parish areas that the applications concern.

In addition will a local Councillor be entitled to take part in those discussions?

The call-in procedure has not yet been decided upon but is unlikely to be that currently operated by HDC.

Whilst the County Council has stated that nothing will be forced on Town and Parish Councils there is the issue that if NYC decided to no longer fund a particular service how will the local Council react as it may be forced to increase its Precept in order to take the particular service on itself by default?

With the current financial position of the new NYC Council it may very well start to withdraw funding in certain service areas.

Indeed in mentioning that Hambleton has four Leisure Centres and the Craven District only has one Leisure Centre at Skipton a local HDC County Councillor has commented "watch this space" - does that mean that NYC will be closing Leisure Centres in the Hambleton District?

It is hoped that the NYCC Parish Portal will be extended to cover other than highways matters in the future as it is generally acknowledged by local Councils that the Portal works well; although to date there have been no specific areas mentioned as regards the Portals possible extension.

It is also suggested that Parish/Town Councils should have one specific Officer contact point due to difficulties in gaining access to anyone with existing 780780 telephone number.

Concerns were expressed the draft Charter is a very high level strategic document and lacks specific detail.

There is disappointment that the draft Charter lacks any realistic plans for the devolution to Parishes and mentions only cost benefit when referred to devolving services to Parishes and does not have any regard to other such benefits for example environmental benefits.

There is a great reluctance on the part of NYCC to be specific on anything.

If overheads are to be taken into the equations then it could be likely that nothing will be devolved.

The Charter will be reviewed after 6 months and if any issues arise in its operation these can be considered by the YLCA Branch at its October meeting,

There was also a discussion asking what if anything Parishes were intending to arrange for the Coronation. Bedale TC indicated that it would be encouraging local street parties rather than arranging anything itself. The application process for road closures for street parties is now open and the applications are free.

Beacons are not being lit across the Country.

It is hoped that at the June YLCA Branch meeting a County Council Officer will outline how Parish Councils can introduce its own resilience plans in the case of emergencies - basically Good Neighbour Schemes.

(vii) NYCC Parish Charter Drop-In Session – 9TH February 2023.

A very poorly organised event from which attendees are in agreement that nothing of any value was learnt.

A question was asked as to what exactly NYCC was offering to Parish and Town Councils in its Charter as there were no specific references to any services.

The Deputy Chief Executive gave some examples -

Toilets - currently some are D CI and others are P CI operated.

Markets

Grasscutting

Playgrounds - in some Districts the District Councils run the play areas not the Parishes.

Litter picking

Footpaths

Community Halls

If there is a sustainable business case for these then NYCC will transfer the money.

However at present NYCC is only looking for six pilot projects across the whole of the County.

These will not necessarily be local.

There is also an issue as to how NYCC will determine the cost to the County Council and whether this will include overheads.

It was pointed out that most Parish Clerks are very part time and could not have the time, resources or experience to get involved in such as risk assessments, tendering processes, insurance liability etc.

There seemed to be no conception as to how Parish Councils operate.

Two Parish Meetings were represented and asked how the Charter would relate to Parish Meetings. The Deputy Chief Executive said that NYCC didn't even know how many Parish Meetings there were in the County.

An assumption had been made that if for example a pilot business case for Northallerton Market put forward by NTC was approved that all other market towns would be able to apply to run their markets but that will not be the case - each town would have to put its own business case which would then require the approval of NYCC.

This process whole be replicated across the services.

If for instance all 730 parishes wished to take forward public rights of way issues it was pointed out that NYCC would obtain the materials, new stiles etc - if NYCC was to bear this cost it would be an enormous cost on the Highways budget. However many Parishes would be likely to take this on board using volunteers as the backlog of rights of way issues across the County is currently 26 years.

Libraries got a mention - Great Ayton P CI pay from its Precept the salary of a person in the local library - other P CIs may wish to do likewise.

Concerns were expressed about email responses “endeavouring to be made within 20 days” in the Charter. Parish Councillors present reported that they hardly ever got a response and usually if they did it took months.

The draft Charter lacks any definition of what services could be devolved and how they will be devolved.

The HDC Councillors present pointed out the inaccuracies on the NYCC Parish Portal with many issues being reported as resolved eg street lighting when that is not the case.

The discussions then moved onto planning matters.

It was confirmed that Parish + Town Councils would have no more rights in making comments on planning applications than other residents.

Call ins by Councillors will only be for major developments as this is the system currently operated in some of the District Councils.

98.5% of all planning applications will be dealt with by officers under delegated matters.

There will be a separation between local decisions and strategic decisions and strategic planning applications in Hambleton could for example include County Councillors say from Skipton, Selby or wherever. There is no guarantee of any local involvement in the decision making on planning applications.

At present no-one yet knows who will determine major planning applications – there are only 6 weeks from the new Unitary Council becoming.

It was pointed out that there are different Local Plans across the County and that it will be over 7 years before a new Local Plan to cover the County will be adopted.

Local Liaison meetings are to be held annually in each Area to which Parish/Town Councils will be invited to attend and the YLCA will have a representative on an annual Country Liaison Meeting,

6. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

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

In answer to a question it was reported that the building concerned was Listed, was in the Conservation Area and that the planning application had been retrospective.

22/02845/FUL - Erection of a steel portal framed agricultural building for general purpose use - Poppy Cottage, Brompton Lane – Granted.

7. Applications.

23/00149/TPO - Works to fell 2 trees with a Tree Preservation Order - 62 Northallerton Road – No objections.

It was pointed out that the process for determination of planning applications would change after the 1st April, although the exact details of this had not yet been received.

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Mr and Mr Christie (Advance Plot Purchase)	525.00
Prof C + Prof M Bryce (Advance Plot Purchase)	315.00

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
P Atkin (Expenses)	54.68
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Mrs C Huang (5.5 hours sweeping)	65.00
Smeeden Foreman Ltd (Tree survey)	1,983.94
J T Atkinsons (Materials for repair to Cemetery Shed)	99.17
Sam Turner and Sons (Gloss paint etc)	82.87
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree and hedge works)	2,380.00
YLCA (New Councillor course – Part 2)	33.40
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	24.91*
D Langthorne (Works at allotments + Recreation Ground)	675.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire)	60.00
W Braithwaite & Sons (Trees, stakes and guards)	217.85

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £217.170.08

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £13.21

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

VAT

The Clerk reported that VAT had been claimed from HMRC in the sum of £3,429.10 for the period 1 April to 13 December 2022.

Periodic Bank Review.

It was also reported that the Barclays Bank periodic review had been satisfactorily completed.

Community Infrastructure Levy Spending Priority - Applications for Grant - Brompton Flood Alleviation Scheme + Northallerton Road Recreation Ground

The Clerk reported that two schemes had been submitted to NYCC for Proposed Works Across the Brompton Beck and Ings Beck Catchment in the sum of £50,000 and Northallerton Road Recreation Ground Improvements in the sum of £40,000.

The County Council had indicated that it would not be making any decisions on these applications until after 1 April.

Northallerton Town Council had been successful in its three bids for public toilets, allotments and green corridors in a total sum of £128,000 and all of the 15 community bids submitted in December with exception of one had been approved.

9. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL DRAFT PARISH CHARTER CONSULTATION.

This had been forwarded to all Councillors for comments but none had been received.

AGREED – That the Councils response be based on the report of the NYCC drop-in session as outlined above.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures and 20's Plenty.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-38327-Lead Lane, Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 7 days between 16th February 2023 and 22nd February 2023 urgent Yorkshire Water works to repair leaking fire hydrant
The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=132975305>

20's Plenty

The report of the Branch meeting held on the 26th January is included in the Monthly Update.

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

A tree planting day took place on Saturday 18th February.

Councillor Brigginsshaw undertook to put in a budget request for funding the Wildlife Group before the 13th March.

13. CORRESPONDENCE – Other than referred to elsewhere on the agenda.

None.

At 7.25pm the meeting was opened to the public for the asking of questions.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(i) County Councillor Watson reported that he had recently attended the NY Highways meeting in Thirsk and reported that resurfacing would be taking place around the Darlington Road area to the North End level crossing during the coming weeks.

As regards the new bridge a review of the safety situation was to be carried out including a request having been made for 30mph repeater signs and for the officers to look at the pedestrian crossing point on the east side of the bridge.

A Councillor pointed out that for vehicles turning right from Brompton onto the new bridge the fence was too high as it was difficult to see oncoming traffic and an alternative would be for a mirror to be placed at the location. However County Councillor Watson reported that that would not be feasible and said that the fence needed to be moved back.

Another Councillor suggested that the corner of the fence needed to be curved and County Councillor Watson said that he would be willing to include the costs of doing this from his NYCC Locality budget

With regard to the footpath towards Strikes, adjacent to Darlington Road had been raised at the previous evening's meeting of the Northallerton Town Council when the question had been raised as to whether this is part of the path which was mud on the surface could be tarmacked.

It was also pointed out that the new footpath adjacent to the estate to the overgrown area of land actually lead to the packhorse bridge which was private and could not be crossed and the question was raised as to why this footpath to been put in when people couldn't go any further. County Councillor Watson undertook to look into the matter.

As regards further allotment provision County Councillor Watson undertook to look into the matter and explained that there had been a site for more allotments in the original Plan but this had been found to be on the shaded of the bridge. The Chairman pointed out that Councillor Sanderson had previously said that she would arrange for another area of land to be earmarked for more allotments.

A Councillor pointed out that the hedge of joining the new sports field side was badly in need of cutting, and was disappointed that the ecologist had indicated that it could not be cut back any further. County Councillor Watson responded that the funding for the development had been received from the European Development Fund and had included a lot of ecological conditions, adding that it would be better if the hedge was cut back so that in future it grow properly.

The Councillor added that the hedge was impeding the cycle path as two cyclists could not pass at the same time, and it would also help if the undergrowth to the path was cleared out. There was also the issue of part of the tarmac north of the gateway to the site on the Northallerton corner that needed to be filled.

Councillor Watson referred to these two meetings of North Yorkshire County Council to be held on the following day and on the Friday, adding that the 20 mph review was expected to be completed by the end of April or early May. There were however, questions raised by County Councillors about the validity of some of the data, but also commented that he agreed with 20's Plenty as regards the concept.

The Chairman asked if any progress has been made towards locating the £500,000 which had been allocated for local bus services and County Councillor Watson said that he intended to speak to Passenger Transport to ask what their understanding of the section 106 Agreement was adding that someone must be aware of the provision as bus stops had been installed at the new development.

As regards Portland Road County Councillor Watson said that the drainage appeared to be working. However, recent

2. Mrs B Slater reported that she has recently visited the Cemetery and was unable to get in the gate due to tree works being carried out, and added that she was disappointed that the workmen had been

dragging branches from the top end of the Cemetery and pushing wheelbarrows across graves and should have put the branches to one side.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had been unable to take his trailer into the cemetery to collect the branches and could not move them until they had been shredded, which was the reason why large branches were being taken to the opposite end of the Cemetery, but he agreed that they should be put to one side inside the Cemetery which should have been closed to the public. It was therefore AGREED - That the Cemetery be closed until Saturday and that notices be put up to this effect.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in The Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 21st March 2023.

(ii) Missing Bridleway Signpost.

It was reported that the Waymarker bridleway sign at the junction to Appleton Wiske was missing. AGREED – That the Clerk report this to NYCC.

(iii) Nest Boxes.

Councillor Briginshaw reported that the housemartins and possibly swallows would be returning to Water End doing March as they took mud on the side of the beck in order to make nests and therefore suggested that residents could be interested in extending the habitat for the birds by installing ready-made nest boxes which would cost £18 each and could be purchased to the wildlife budget.

Councillor Briginshaw undertook to compile a letter that could be circulated to residents at Water End as soon as possible, and estimated that four or five nesting boxes at the most would be required.

(iv) BMX Track.

Councillor Hazelwood reported that he was to start looking into the possibility of siting a BMX track at the Recreation Ground.

(v) March Meeting.

The Chairman reported that the March meeting would be Councillor Sandersons last meeting attending as a District Councillor.

15. BURIAL MATTERS.

No matters were raised under this agenda item.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm