

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

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

There were 26 members of the public present at the meeting including Councillor Mrs Isobel Sanderson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Robinson (holiday commitments) and from County Councillor Watson who needed to attend another meeting.

Councillors Brigginsshaw and Langthorne declared interests in the Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st February, 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 February 2023 is set out below.

Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	4 Reports
Total	4 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	0 Reports
Theft (inc Theft from Shop)	1 Reports
Violence against the person	6 Reports
Other crimes inc Drugs	2 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Total	9 reports

COUNTY COUNCILLOR WATSONS REPORT

Updates –

Finally I am making progress regarding the transport infrastructure funding identified within the S106 agreement.

It is part of the legal documentation and as such will be held by NYC. We are currently checking how the funding is triggered for payment by TW and Persimmon and if it is a lump sum or 100k per year for the five years.

Safety audit – there are numerous traffic sensors around the Development and feeder roads to gather data.

As regards the junction with the bridge road and the concerns regarding visibility and the fence the visibility splay meet all standards laid out - 2.4m x 43m

The full safety audit is still progressing.

The hedge on Northallerton Road has now been cut. A little late but no nesting had started and if it had the snow the following week would have curtailed it. The newly cut area will give greater protection to small birds.

Footpaths – still waiting a face to face with the footpaths officer.

Road closure taking place all next week from 6pm on Darlington (A167) for road planing and tarmacing. This is from North End level crossing all the way along to the new roundabout at the NND.

Full details are on NYCC web site under Road Closures. Traffic Management Ambassadors will be on site during the works to ensure that residents and businesses can access their properties and premises.

The contract has been awarded for building the new Primary School with school being opened in stage starting with the Reception Class in September 2024.

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

(i) Demonstration at County Hall.

The demonstration held at County Hall on the 22nd February attracted much support from a wide area including the teacher of Brompton Community Primary School and a number of pupils who were featured on Radio York.

(ii) Damage to the BRG Field.

Damage was made to the football pitches behind Weavers Pavilion by a quad bike at 5.45pm on Saturday 11th March.

The bike riders were accompanied by the drivers of a two vehicles and the quad bike was ridden across the pitches which were extremely wet. Given the volume of snow and heavy rain recently this was purposely done as the ground was very soft.

The incident had been reported to the Police with CCTV footage.

The quad bike came from the Appleton Wiske/Deighton direction, both the other vehicles headed back towards Brompton village.

(iii) Cutting of Hedge on Northallerton Road

Complaints were received from residents about the cutting of the hedge on Northallerton Road at the new Sports Village which was long overdue and was carried out by HDC. The complainants claimed that birds nests were destroyed which was not the case as there were no nests in the hedge at the time of cutting and it was far too cold weather for birds to be nesting anyway.

A Councillor mentioned that the cutting of the hedge should be done earlier in the year and hoped that this would be done next year. Councillor Carter confirmed that there has been no nests in the hedge when it had been cut, adding that it had taken three years of efforts trying to get the hedge cut.

There were also issues of the footpath falling away in places and with mud on the road.

(iv) New Estates – Dog/Waste Bins.

Complaints were received about the siting of the new dog/waste bins at the North Northallerton Development residents saying that they wanted the bins outside their properties on the estates themselves and not on North Moor Road. This was not possible as the estates are not yet adopted and wouldn't be emptied.

A Councillor pointed out that the newly positioned dog litter bin on Cotswold Street was at an angle and needed to be underpinned and the Clerk undertook to contact Hambleton District Council to get the matter rectified.

(v) Dog Fouling.

A Facebook post about increased dog fouling in areas of Brompton attracted numerous comments about dog fouling allegedly all over Northallerton area.

(vi) NYCC Parish Charter Consultation.

The Clerk had submitted the Council's response in respect of the Parish Charter consultation.

(vii) NYCC Climate Change Consultation.

The Clerk had submitted the Council's response in respect of the Climate Change consultation.

(viii) NND Development – Allotments.

It had been confirmed that the land to the north-east of the new bridge would become a wildlife area and Councillor Sanderson added that she had done her best to try to get additional allotments on that land.

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

The Chairman thanked Councillor Sanderson and the Clerk in their capacities as a District Councillors for their efforts over the past years to support the Town Council.

Councillor Sanderson commented that the District Council's Making a Difference Grants had benefited the Parish over the years.

The Chairman reported that the issue of the middle bridge would be on the next Council meeting agenda, adding that this village had the good luck of having a Vice-Chairman who had the knowledge to identify the extent of the deterioration of the middle bridge.

It had been revealed that the bridge was not on the Council's asset register and that over the years little maintenance or inspection had been carried out causing the bridge to become unsafe.

The Vice-Chairman had worked tirelessly over the last 3 years, trying to save the bridge years to bring the matter of the middle bridge to its present conclusion and make safe the area so no serious harm would happen to residents and visitors.

People may not agree with how this Council made the decision regarding the bridge. However people have the ability to raise their concerns as that is how democracy works

What this Council will not tolerate is abusive behaviour and language. In particular threats of violence towards Councillors and vandalism of Councillor's property. This has happened on several occasions over the last few years requiring the involvement of the police.

Any threatening behaviour or antisocial activity will not be tolerated and if needed we will have no hesitation in involving the police.

The Chairman also reported that an incident of verbal abuse by a resident to a Councillor had been reported to the police on the day of the meeting

The new flood monitor would be installed soon and the existing one was currently working.

Councillor Hazelwood arrived at 7:10 pm and Councillor Kelly arrived at 7:15 pm.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group met on the 13th March mainly to consider the expected end of year outturn and the budget forecast 2023/24 financial year.

For 2023/24 the Working Groups budgets were RECOMMENDED as follows -

Wildlife Area - £500 - but not agreed to include the provision of another 10 trees as the Council had decided not to purchase any further trees once the ones ordered in 2022/23 had been planted.

Highways Group - £2,000 - for smaller projects - the car park and Cockpit Hill pedestrian crossing point project to come under the full Council - £9,000 as requested.

Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment/ Play Equipment Working Group - noted that the track will require planning consideration + expenditure on the project to come from the Councils bid to the new NYC for further CIL monies; (£15,000 is in the budget for the Recreation Ground).

Estimated 2022/23 expenditure - £58,800, approximately

Estimated 2022/23 Income - £83,398

Estimated spend for 2023/24 - £118,300

Estimated 2023/24 Income - £119,000

As there was no likelihood of spending any of the CIL monies received in respect of the North Northallerton Development in the forthcoming financial year as it would take time to ascertain what the public's views were it is therefore RECOMMENDED - That the Annual Newsletter be not circulated until later in the year and to include the CIL questionnaire - this is due to printing costs having increased substantially therefore only to print the one document in due course.

Councillor O'Sullivan reported that over the last year the Finance Working Group had looked at all budgets and had been able to present a balanced budget and to create a reserve of one year's expenditure in case any unexpected issues came up. He added that unfortunately the Council had no leeway on a number of matters such as heavy expenditure on trees and the Church wall which could use up all of the CIL monies. The Finance Working Group would carry out a six-month review of the budget situation in September.

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

(iii) Middle Bridge.

The bridge was removed on the 24th February and the guard rails were installed at the same time.

When the bridge was removed it fell apart as soon as it was lifted off the stone. A steel company representative on site commented on how bad the damage was and was surprised that the bridge had not fallen apart sooner, confirming that the whole bridge was beyond repair.

The stone abutments had been left in place with steel guard rails added.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

A Zoom Meeting had been held on the 13th March 2023

Item	Details	Actions
1.	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
2.	<p>20s Plenty Campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 3 councillors attended NY Council meeting protest. Nothing further to add to that provided by local media coverage. • EW reported that the house by the bus layby on Northallerton road has a camera that is constantly recording the traffic, most of which seems to be speeding. The 20s Plenty have been offered access to the recording should they be of use. 	
3.	<p>Cockpit Hill Car Park:</p> <p>Garden licence for the Sub-station has been received and a verbal quote of £9060 from Snowballs for refurbishing the car park has been given to RC who included it in the budget application for the next FY.</p>	
4.	<p>Cycle Paths:</p> <p>JH attended the Feb meeting of the Pedestrian/Cycleway Joint NTC/BTC/RTC Working Group. The LCWIP Phase 2 is a discussion document from which the most viable route, likely to be the Brompton- Northallerton route, will be selected for which grant funding will then be sought to submit a bid to Central Government to fund the implementation of the selected route. Competition for funding is likely to be fierce!</p>	
5.	<p>Danes Crest Crossing:</p> <p>Quote from Snowballs of about £700 received and included in the FY 22/23 budget submission.</p>	
6.	<p>Three Horseshoes Visibility Issues:</p> <p>Quote from Snowballs of about £700 received and included in the FY 22/23 budget submission.</p>	
7.	<p>VAS Sign:</p> <p>Awaiting erection of a second pole</p>	
9.	<p>Access to NYCC Highways Portal:</p> <p>RC now has access.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JH agreed to produce a “white lining” report based on the Sub Committees walk round in February. Which RC would then submit to NYCC. • There was no progress to report on the lights for the North Moor Road/Northallerton Road crossing. • The hedge alongside the Sports Village had been cut back. It has been noted by the Sub Committee members and several other people that, contrary to the claims by a local resident, there are no old nests in the hedge let alone any new ones. Work is required to clear the detritus off of the hedge side of the path. 	JH, RC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RC also included in the budget submission an estimate of £1200 for the removal of the two fences and the reinstatement of the footpath at the Brompton end of the cycle path to Northallerton. There was general agreement that the fences served little purpose. A “cyclists to dismount” sign would also need to be installed. 	
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 TBC.</p>	All

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

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

A very productive meeting at the Recreation Ground was held on Wednesday 15th March.

RECOMMENDED - That the following outdoor adult gym equipment be purchased from PlayEquip -

The wooden outdoor gym - £4,670

The sit-up and leg raise benches - £3,220 +

The climbing wall panel - £1,995

In due course these could be added to.

Siting to be as previously agreed between the Chairman and Clerk along from where the climbing frame is currently sited. This location will not intrude into other areas that may be required for further development as time proceeds.

The climbing frame to be re-located to a site next to the roundabout.

Councillor Hazelwood is to draw up a plan + also to calculate how much safety surfacing will be required.

Whilst the Company recommends rubberised safety surfacing there are other options which will be looked into.

There is also a need to decide whether the gym equipment manufacturer is to install the equipment or whether we outsource this - which would probably be a much cheaper option.

Also the issue of making the gate next to the double access gate more accessible as the existing kissing gate restricts ease of access.

In the past a metal barrier was agreed with NY Highways to go along the edge of the pavement on Northallerton Road so that children could not run out onto the road but this didn't happen due to it restricting access for the grasscutters.

The fence posts inside the small gate behind the rocker and the swings along the hedge line are all broken - new posts are put in along there to fasten the wire onto.

Councillor Kelly said that she would forward the results of the school childrens poll regarding the Springers after the meeting.

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

(v) Rural Transport Partnership - 5th March 2023.

The Clerk attended the quarterly meeting of the Rural Transport Partnership the details of which are contained in the Monthly Update.

In answer to a question the Clerk undertook to investigate further the issues of the use of the lift at Northallerton Station by persons in wheelchairs.

6. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications.

23/00446/FUL - Change of use of land to domestic and remove existing building and replace with proposed detached garage - Standard Hill Farm, Darlington Road. The Chairman reported that the Planning Officer was recommending to the Planning Committee refusal of the application as the structure was more applicable to a large house than an agricultural building and that consequently the applicant was to be asked to submit revised plans. AGREED – That the Planning Authority be recommended to refuse the application on the design grounds of the application.

23/00378/FUL - Application for the construction of a single storey link extension, two-storey extension to granary barn, double garage with a roof terrace, porch over main entrance. New window openings to main barn and granary, and internal alterations - Pond Cottage, Low Grange Farm, Brompton – No Objections.

23/00624/CAT - Works to a Beech tree in a conservation area - Rivendell Water End – No objections.

(ii) Planning Appeal - OS Field 7722, Lead Lane

It was reported that an appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of HDC to refuse to grant planning permission for four dwellings off Lead Lane. The Chairman added that the appeal was nothing to do with the District Council anymore as all documents had now been sent to the Planning Inspectorate. She therefore advise those members of the public present who had an interest in the application to engage their own Planning Agent in order to submit their objections to the planning inspector.

AGREED - That the Council does not amend its objections to this planning application and that the Clerk confirm this with Planning Inspectorate with the closing date for any further comments being the 6th of April.

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

HMRC (VAT reimbursement)	2,747.44
W M Scott+ Sons (Memorial fee)	55.00
Dales of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	50.00

Payments –

P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
P Atkin (Expenses)	51.62
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	45.00
Brompton Methodist Church (Room hire)	96.00

Northern Powergrid (Annual Garden Licence)	50.00
Sam Turner and Son (2 picnic benches + other)	726.08
NYCC (Renewal of Microsoft Licence)	60.44
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree works in the Cemetery)	5,080.00
W Braithwaite & Sons (Salix chrysocoma)	50.00
J Robinson (Financial Services advice - 6 months)	362.50
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire)	132.48
YLCA (Road Safety and Speeding Concerns course)	25.00
W Braithwaite & Sons (Saubus auc. Autumn Spire)	55.00
NY Timber (Wood for fencing)	1,752.78
Mrs S Brigginsshaw (Reimbursement for Watering Tubes)	35.95
Mr D Langthorne (Fencing works and works to benches)	950.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	24.91*

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £70,027.06

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £141,013.21

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

9. BUDGET 2023/34.

The draft Budget Outrun for the 2022/23 financial year set out below. To be updated and sent to Councillors when the March invoices have all been received.

<u>BUDGET EXPENDITURE</u>	2022/23	2023/24
	Budget	BUDGET
Salary/HMRC	6000	6500
Admin- Expenses, Misc,audit fees,printing, payroll services,web site,newsletter	4000	5000
Grasscutting	11000	11500
Hedge Cutting	400	1000
Dog Bins*	500	2100
Sweeping	600	0

Allotments		1600		1200	
Insurance		1600		1800	
Water End Wildlife Area W/G		1000		500	
Cemetery Works		4000		2500	
Room Hire		400		500	
Recreation Ground*		1500		15000	
Defib		400		400	
Tree Works		5500		10000	
Donations		600		500	
Trade Refuse Bin		300		400	
Highways Working Group		1000		2000	
Village Caretaking- building materials, hire charges		4900		6000	
Flood Prevention W/G		1000		0	
Project - Water End Bridge		0		3900	
Projects - Flood Prevention		0		25000	
Projects - Graveyard Wall		0		13000	
Projects - Cockpit Hill				9000	
Projects - VAS Signs*		10500		500	
Total Budget		56800		118300	

	2022/23	PROPOSED 2023/24				
	Budget	BUDGET				
Precept	62000	68000				
Bank Interest	0	150				
VAT Refund	2500	6000				
Grants	0	41000			NYC Community Fund	
Burial Fees	2000	2000				
Memorials	100	100				
Wayleaves	400	400				
Allotment Rents	1200	1200				
CIL Monies	0	0				
Village Caretaking	100	150				
Total Income	68300	119000				

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

20's Plenty

The Clerk reported that at the Branch meeting held on the 16th March 2023 the opportunity was taken to analyse the recent demonstration at County Hall and outline plans to move forward for the future.

There was disappointment that although on the day of the County Council meeting an official had indicated that 30 people would be permitted in the public gallery in the Council Chamber that had later been reduced to 15.

It was also disappointing that the children were not permitted to demonstrate the differences in stopping distances to County Councillors. The school children had recently posted a video demonstrating stopping distances on Facebook.

All Councils were now being written to to request that they put in 20mph requests to NY Highways as it was considered that just passing a Resolution that they support 20 didn't actually do anything.

A Councillor pointed out that Brompton CP School was the only school in the area which did not have a 20mph zone.

AGREED – That the Clerk send a letter to the Brompton CP School thanking the Head and pupils for supporting the campaign and asking that the letter be read out to the school children.

YLCA Road Safety and Speed Concerns Course

The Clerk attended the above course on the 9th March 2021.

Details are contained in the Monthly Update.

11. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Forty properties had been leaflet along Water End/Cockpit Hill with regard to the supply of house martin boxes.

Brompton is host to a population of summer migrant house martins that have historically chosen to make their little mud nest cups under the eaves along parts of Water End and Cockpit Hill. These incredible little birds pick of beak-fuls of mud and form a little 'cup' that is glued onto the facing brick work to rear their young. This year Brompton Town Council was supporting a national drive to encourage further nesting by offering free artificial nest cups to residents who wished to play 'host'. Properties had been leafleted near existing nests as there was a stronger likelihood of the artificial nest cups being made into to new home and helping boost declining numbers.

To date six boxes had been received and delivered to householders who had asked for them.

All daffodils on the Greens had come up but the cornflowers hadn't this season.

Unfortunately the daffodil bulbs planted with residents hadn't come up at the Rugby Club, at the top of Little Lane nor at Station Rd around the Brompton sign. It was suggested that perhaps they had been planted too late and may flower next Spring.

Councillors mentioned how nice the daffodils on the Thurston Park estate looked.

At 7.45pm the meeting was opened for the public to ask questions.

(i) Mr G Tyreman asked if the questions raised in the recent email concerning the middle bridge would be outlined in the Minutes and the Chairman reported that this would be the case in due course and the email containing the questions would be sent to all Councillors in advance of the next meeting.

(ii) Mrs B Slater reported that, with reference to the matter of the damage to the BRG field in the Monthly Update, there was no proof that the drivers of the cars were at any stage riding on the quad bike as the CCTV did not cover the whole of the playing field. It was agreed that the Minutes would reflect this.

(iii) Mrs S Butler confirmed that she had contact with the Clerk with regard to the painting of the bridge at The Ford, and the Clerk reported that he had contacted the County Councils Bridges Inspector to ascertain whether an inspection of the bridge needed to be carried out by the County Council prior to it being painted and a reply was currently awaited.

(iv) Mr K Pollitt asked if there would be any possibility of establishing a video link for future Council meetings as had been undertaken during the Covid period and the Clerk undertook to check as to what the current legal position was in that respect.

(iv) Mr Pollitt also said that he had previously offered to help on the new flood group, and the Chairman pointed out that at the current time there was no flood group, but that the Council would let him know when a new group was formed.

(v) Councillor Sanderson reported that there had been suspicious activity recently at night times around farms in the early hours of the mornings and asked people to be vigilant.

12. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Notice of Meeting – Richmond (Yorks) Area Constituency Committee.

To be held at 10.00am at County Hall, Northallerton at 10.00am on 23rd March 2023.

(ii) Highways Concerns.

The Clerk reported that a resident had recently raised several concerns with regard to highways matters in the Parish. These had been passed on to County Councillor Steve Watson, NY Highways and BTCs Highways Road Safety Group.

(iii) Brompton Churches Group – Events During 2023 – Permission to Use Greens.

Listed below are the activities the Brompton Churches have planned for 2023 and would like to ask permission to use the various Village Greens.

Sunday 7 May from 3 pm – 5 pm
Coronation Cake and Tea Party at Brompton Methodist Church and Methodist Church Green/St Thomas' Church Green

Sunday 28 May 2023 at 11 am
Carnival Praise service on Brompton Methodist Church Green

Saturday 12 August 2023 from 2 pm - 4.30 pm
St Thomas' Church Table Top Sale, Raffle, etc. on St Thomas' Church Green

Saturday 19 August 2023 at 3.30 pm
Pet Service on St Thomas' Church Green/Brompton Methodist Church

Sunday 27 August 2023 at 10.30 am
Brompton Churches Group Service & Picnic at Brompton Methodist Church & Brompton Methodist Church Green

Sunday 17 December 2023 from 5 pm – 6 pm
Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree at St Thomas' Church Lych Gate

AGREED –That permission be granted for the use of the Greens as requested for all of the above events to be held during 2023.

(iv) Local Government Reorganisation.

The Chairman reminded those present that the new North Yorkshire Council would come into existence on the 1st of April and that County Councillor Watson would be the sole Council representative for the Parish.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED - That the next meeting of the Council and of the Annual Parish Assembly be held on separate dates to be arranged during April..

(ii) New Primary School.

As regards the opening of the new primary school Councillor O'Sullivan said that there would be a need to get the right balance of staff in view of the fact that the school would be opening in stages, and this was an issue that the Headteacher would need to look at. He could however provide advise on the matter as he himself had experienced the same staged process.

(iv) Damage to Water End Green and Gullies.

Attention was drawn to the damage being caused to the south part of Water End Green that was the around the noticeboard and the probable detrimental effect on the gullies. AGREED- That County Councillor Watson be asked to look into the matter.

(v) VAS Signs.

In answer to a question the Clerk confirmed that the new VAS signs were adjustable to 20 mph although many in the areas they weren't adjustable; Brompton Council had paid extra so that the signs could be adjusted to 20mph in the future if case was successful.

(v) Traffic Surveys.

A Councillor asked if the results of the traffic surveys currently being undertaken in the areas would be made available to the Council.

(vi) Lead Lane.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the surface of Lead Lane was once again breaking up.

(vii) Benches around the Village.

The Chairman reported that the Vice-Chairman and his brother were currently checking all benches in the village and the question was raised as to who should be responsible for them. The Clerk reported that the Council had only in recent months approved its benches policy. It was suggested that anyone asking to install a bench be also asked to deposit a fee with Council to cover future maintenance costs. AGREED - That the Clerk forward the Benches Policy to Councillors.

14. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that a burial was to take place in the coming week and that two ashes plots had been sold in the last month,

AGREED – That plaques on memorial benches that are beyond repair be placed on the Cemetery shed wall if relatives so desire.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

