

Minutes of the Annual Brompton Town Parish Assembly held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Thursday 20th April 2023

PRESENT – Councillors S Brigginsshaw, R Carter, M Shiel Dods (in the Chair), J Hazelwood, M Langthorne, S O’Sullivan, A Robinson.

There were 8 members of the public present at the meeting.

1. MINUTES.

Copies of the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held online on the Tuesday 19th April 2022 were circulated prior to the meeting.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 19th April 2022, as circulated, to be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman submitted the following report thanking the Clerk, Councillors and the Working Groups for their hard work during the past year –

There have been several common themes on the Councils agenda over the past year, these mainly being -

The opening of the new bridge

The middle bridge at Water End

The 20’s Plenty campaign

The receipt of the CIL monies and

The cutting of the hedge along the new Sports village on Northallerton Road.

The new bridge is open, the middle bridge has been removed, an application for default 20mph in Brompton is with the County Council, the CIL monies have been received and the hedge has been cut - all relatively recently.

It was at this time last year when serious concerns were put forward regarding the lack of a pedestrian controlled crossing on the east side of the new bridge on North Moor Road and surveys are currently being carried out by North Yorkshire Highways as Brompton Council, jointly with the Northallerton Town Council are firmly of the firm view that the pedestrian crossing points which are extremely well used and the islands that are currently there are totally inadequate

It was intended last Summer to renew the broken fencing along the southern boundary of the Recreation Ground. However, the joiner contracted to carry out the work suffered an accident, and after further delays that work has only recently been carried out.

Dog fouling has been a constant issue as it has been in previous years mainly around Church View, Cockpit Hill and Water End however attempts to get people to recognise the issue appear to have been successful but it was necessary to leaflet all properties with regard to the dog fouling near the Village Hall.

The Councils Insurers added further conditions to its Policies in view of the fact That many of the Councils trees overhand highways. This has resulted in a full survey of the trees from which it is

evident that once again substantial tree works are necessary. These works account year on year for a substantial part of the Councils budget.

Several volunteer planting days have been held for improvement of the wildlife area at Water End.

Unfortunately the fire engine toddler springer play equipment and the basket ball hoop had to be removed from the Recreation Ground during the year on safety grounds. Two new toddler springers have recently been ordered.

A larger Christmas tree was ordered this year to be sited at the Church this being a 12 foot Norway Spruce.

Three significant planning applications on the Councils agenda attracted increased attendance by the public with one application being considered at a special meeting of the Council. One of those applications is now the subject of a planning appeal.

Unfortunately at the North Northallerton Development there are no new allotments on the Brompton side of the Parish boundary.

A comprehensive review of crime statistics undertaken in December revealed that crime levels in all categories had fallen and have continue to do so.

During the last year the flooding issues on the A684 have also been resolved.

The Councils number one priority is now to get the leaky dams that protect the village from flooding repaired this year and the overflow drainage channel at the beck at Water End dug out again.

Banners encouraging 20mph have been erected at several locations in the Parish.

The Councils Highways Group is currently taking steps to resolve parking issues outside the Three Horse Shoes.

New dog/ waste bins have been provided for the new housing estates.

A grant of £10,000 has been received from the National Lottery for outdoor adult gym equipment for the Recreation Ground.

The status of Scot Pit Lane is to be decided by the Planning Inspector during the Summer.

Two Vehicle Activated signs were erected in 2022 on the approach to the Primary School and at De Bruce Road.

Northern Powergrid have agreed that the Council can manage the former electricity Sub station site.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer reported that the Councils financial position was as follows -

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022	31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Balances Brought Forward –	9,492	5,642	35,212
Precept -	45,000	54,000	62,000
Other receipts -	8,239	23,936	6,300

Payments -	57,089	48,366	56,800
Balances carried forward -	5,642	35,212	60,656
Total fixed assets -	72,500	72,500	

Current balances in Bank - £60,456 + £141,024

The first half yearly Precept for 2003.24 in the sum of £34,000 was expected in the next few days.

The Councils aim was to retain the equivalent of ones years Precept in the Bank at year end as a contingency for the unexpected.

31 March 2024 – Anticipated –

Total Expenditure - £118.300

Income - £119,000

Precepts -

2020/21 - £45,000

2021/22 - £54,000

2022/23 - £62,000

2023/24 - £68,000 – NIL increase due to new houses

VAT reimbursement accounted for a significant proportion of the Councils income,

In the coming year repairs to the Church wall, tree works, resolving flood issues and grasscutting alone would amount to over £70,000.

At present the possibility of further grants seemed to have been exhausted the Council having received substantial grants for the outdoor adult play equipment, the Vehicle Activated signs and for the structural survey of the Church wall - in all amounting to around £16,000.

The £141,000 CIL money was now in a separate bank account as it was not anticipated that there would be any expenditure from this money during the current financial year.

Burial income was at an all-time low and as had also been experienced with Northallerton Cemetery this is mainly due to the opening of the new Maple Park crematorium at Busby Stoop just over a year ago

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

A resident expressed concerns about the situation at Bowe Bridge and the dangers to parents taking their children to school, especially as motorists from the Darlington direction didn't slow down and expressed also concerns over the lack of speed bumps.

Councillors responded that they had been working in conjunction with the school for 20 years on this matter, and the current position was hopefully that the County Council would introduce a 20mph zone if not for the whole of the village at least at the school. It was stressed the matter of highway issues were ones for the North Yorkshire Council, as Brompton Council that was not a highway authority. The Council had also for many years tried to get a traffic priority system at Bowe Bridge however Network Rail had always objected to this.

As regards the VAS signs a Councillor pointed out that the new sign at the Rugby Club was largely ignored, and the only effective measures would be Police presence. However, the Clerk pointed out that there were only 1.5 PCSOs on a daily basis covering the whole of Romanby, Brompton Northallerton.

With reference to the tree survey report referred to in the Chairmans statement, Mr Tyreman drew attention to the tree outside 54 Water Ends which he said was dying and the Clerk reported that he had already been in communication with the resident living adjacent about this tree but would again look into the matter.

As regards removal of the middle bridge at Water End in answer to a question Councillor Hazelwood reported that the Council was not in the position to replace the bridge solely as a Council, particularly as the bridge had not belonged to the council.

The resident, Mr Walkerley stated that he had spent time in the County Records Office which had revealed that the former Internal Drainage Authority had handed the bridge over to the former North Riding County Council and Brompton Parish Council.

Councillor Hazelwood indicated that the possibility of a different design of bridge was being looked into. However, this would need a new flood impact study as well as an application for planning consent and at every stage this would cost money and consequently there would be a need to set up an independent group to look at raising the money as an independent group could obtain funds that were not available to the Council.

The former Chairman of the Council who was present at the meeting remarked that the Highway Authority had refused to repair the bridge and therefore previous repairs had been carried out by the Parish Council.

Mr Walkerley contended that the Council should have made the bridge safe before removing it, but it was pointed out that the structural survey had revealed that the bridge could not be repaired in situ and had to be removed as it was a dangerous structure.

Mr Walkerley also contended that the fact that the Greens were common land meant that under the Property Act 1925 the Council was the legal guardian of the bridge and Mr Tyreman questioned when was the last time that Water End Green had flooded since 2002.

Councillors pointed out that any new bridge would need to comply with current stipulations, including being 600m above 100 year flood levels which was stipulated by the Environment Agency and not by the Council. These were the EA's rules and the Council would have to abide by them and whilst there were some exemptions these didn't apply in this case, therefore any new bridge had to meet with standards existing at the present time.

In answer to a further question it was confirmed that representatives of the Environment Agency had visited the site of the bridge on several occasions.

The next stage would be to design a bridge, which met with current standards with there also being the issue of groundwork's to consider.

There would also be a need to consult with all residents about the need for a new bridge and not just those residing along Water End especially as the £140,100 CIL money had come from the construction of the new housing estates and whilst there was no legal requirement to consult about the spending of such monies the Council had agreed to do that as it had originally said that it would do when the first indication that the Council was to receive such monies was received in late 2017.

The Chairman also confirmed that the Health and Safety Executive had agreed with the plan to remove the bridge and therefore if there were any complaints in this respect they should be submitted to the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Tyreman asked whether the Council would match pound for pound whatever was raised by an independent group, which could be registered as a Charity and Councillors pointed out that the

Council did not have money to pay for a new bridge and in all probability the majority of those residing on the new housing estates would have very little idea that there was even such a bridge at Water End.

A Councillor stated that the Water End only accounted for between 10 and 12% of the village population and the Chairman reported that Brompton Council was the only Council in the whole County that would be going out to the village to consult everyone about the spending of the CIL money.

A Councillor remarked that it was unfortunate that the current Council was getting the blame for matters that should have been dealt with many years ago.

Mrs Cornforth asked about the situation of the bridge at the Ford and was informed that this was a North Yorkshire Council bridge and that Councillor Hazelwood was currently chasing up from NYCC inspection reports on the condition of the bridge and also for the road bridge at the bottom of Cockpit Hill; it being also pointed out that North Yorkshire Council was also responsible for the bridge that lead to Walkers Field.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Environment Agency had indicated that the most appropriate way in which to stop any future flooding would be to re-profile the back however it had been estimated that this would cost between £150,000 and £240,000 to achieve.

Mrs Cornforth reported that a post holding warning signs at the level crossing on Station Road was completely rotten and the Clerk undertook to take photographs of the post and report the matter to North Yorkshire Highways.

Mrs Slater asked what the Council was doing for the forthcoming Coronation and the Chairman reported that this had been discussed in Council and it had been decided not to arrange anything but that the Council would support and encourage people to do their own thing such as the holding of local street parties. Mrs Slater responded that she was disappointed that the Council was not doing anything for the village at a time when it had gone out to the village recently as regards the spending of money on bird boxes.

The Chairman replied that the money spent on bird boxes only amounted to £200 from the Councils existing Wildlife budget, and that the only persons consulted were those residing at Cockpit Hill and Water End.

Mrs Slater continued stating that in her view the Council should have offered something for the children in the same as had been done for the Millennium, but Councillors were of the view that this would not of been money well spent, the Clerk adding that while the Council had spent money in 2000 on mugs for the children these had cost around £2.99 each whereas the current cost of similar mugs was around £7.99 and with up to 1,000 children in the Parish Councillors felt this would be an unjustified expense.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm