

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on
Tuesday 25th April 2023**

PRESENT – Councillors, 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 10 members of the public present at the meeting including County Councillor Steve Watson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

An apology for absence was received from Mrs S Brigginsshaw (illness).

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

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March 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 March 2023 is set out below.

| Statistics taken from | 01/03/2023 to 31/03/2023 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Crime Type | |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 0 Reports |
| Anti-Social Personal | 0 Reports |
| Total | 0 Reports |
| | |
| Arson | 0 Reports |
| Burglary Dwelling | 0 Reports |
| Burglary Commercial/Other | 0 Reports |
| Criminal Damage | 1 Reports |
| Theft (inc. Theft from Shop) | 1 Reports |
| Violence against the person | 3 Report |
| Other crimes inc. Drugs | 1 Reports |
| Hate Crime | 0 Reports |
| Robbery | 0 Reports |
| Fraud | 0 Reports |
| Auto Crime / SMV | 0 Reports |
| Total | 6 Reports |
| | |

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

- (i) Highway Gullies – South end of The Green at Water End.

NY Highways has advised that the gullies in question were inspected on the 12th April and no defects were recorded with any of them.

- (ii) Damaged Lamp Standard on Corner of North Moor Road/ Cotswold Street.

County Councillor Watson reported that the damaged lamp standard was to be replaced in June.

(iii) Footpath from Strikes to the New Estate.

County Councillor Watson reported that he was to meet with the NY Footpaths Officer on the 9th May regarding footpaths including the path along Darlington Road from Strikes to the new estate.

(iv) New Bus Services.

County Councillor Watson has stated that he expects some movement shortly with regard to the Section 106 monies provided for new bus services.

(v) Grant Applications to NYC.

NYC has acknowledged the two applications for CIL monies grants for the Flood Allievation Scheme and the Refurbishment of the Recreation Ground however to date the new Council has not set in motion new rules for dealing with such applications of which there are expected to be many across most of North Yorkshire.

(vi) Water End Drainage Channel and Leaky Dams.

James Coxon of Coxon Bros, Exelby has confirmed that he will be digging out the drainage channel to the south of the Green at Water End as planned either this month or early next month.

With regard to the repairs to the leaky dams he is going to put in the application for consent to the Internal Drainage Board and says there is no problem in him getting the leaky dams repaired this Summer.

The additional holding pond will be a different matter as 1. There isn't currently a farmer willing to have one on their land and 2. The major expense would be on getting rid of the spoil if no landowner is willing to take it.

(vii) Church Wall.

Weeds growing in the Church wall cause considerable and extremely expensive damage. Sympathetic hand weeding of the wall itself so that no part of the structure is dislodged needs to be carried out periodically during the weed growing season. It has been noticed however that considerable damage is being caused to the outer base of the wall due to weeds growing into the wall from the bottom of the wall where it joins the pavement. The Chairman has therefore agreed that CE+ CM Walkers be engaged to spray around the base of the wall periodically in the same way as they spray the weeds on the path alongside the Recreation Ground.

(viii) Bridge near The Ford.

NYC bridges has advised that the bridge is not due a survey and is in reasonable condition.

(ix) Brompton Warm Space Group.

The last planned Warm Space meal took place on Thursday 23 March and it was decided not to continue as attendance had not been as expected.

The Group was successful in its bid for to Hambleton DC for a grant for meals provided in January to March 2023 resulting in the monies put aside for these and BTCs grant of £150, not having been used. All the support which was received was very much appreciated and although the attendance was low the meals were enjoyed by those who attended.

Any donations that had not been used were to be send to the Hambleton Foodshare and Councillors agrees that also include Brompton Town Council's grant of £150.

- (x) Recreation Ground.

An obscene drawing has appeared on the roundabout at the Recreation Ground which is to be removed.

- (xi) Sign Post at Rail Crossing on Station Road.

The corroded sign post at the level crossing that was reported to the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly has been reported to NY Highways as it is very nearly completely corroded through.

- (xii) Damaged Footpath Adjacent to Stokesley Road.

Damage made to the footpath adjacent to Stokesley Road near the new houses has been reported to NY Highways.

- (xiii) Local Crime Event.

The Clerk had attended the local Crime Event on the 29th March.

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

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had looked around the Recreation Ground on the evening of the Council meeting and had found that the gate neat to the Methodist Church was damaged and needed to be repaired. AGREED – That Mr D Langthorne be asked to repair the gate.

6. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group met on the 24th April.

AGREED - That Councillor Carter be added to the Bank Mandate.

The Working Group has reviewed the Receipts and Payments for the financial year ended 31st March 202. AGREED - That these be approved by the Council as outlined on the last page of these Minutes.

The Chairman thanked the Finance Group, the Clerk and Mr J Robinson for the work they had carried out on the above matter.

The Finance Group also agreed that the Internal Audit commence this week and that the Annual Financial Return for the financial year 2022/23 be submitted for approval to the May meeting of the Council for submission to the External Auditors.

Future meetings of the Finance Group are to be held on the day prior to Council meetings as if held earlier it is unlikely that the monthly Bank Statements will have been received.

(ii) Middle Bridge.

(a) Response to the questions raised by Mr K Pollitt on the 20th March –

1. A cost breakdown of the money spent to date

| Costing breakdown for work to date | | |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Contractor | Description of works | Cost |
| Structural & Civil Engineers | Structural surveys | £540 |
| Walter Thompsons | Security fence | £355 |
| Geo F White | Part | £2,860 |
| D Langthorne | Labour | £380 |
| YDS Ltd | Trailer hire | £150 |
| Colin Wilson | Removal of Sandstone | £300 |
| Vintage Autos | Lead Paint Survey | £100 |
| Wallaces Engineering | Barriers | £3,900 |
| Geo F White | Feasibility drawings | £1,820 |
| Shire Surveys | Topographical survey | £2,220 |
| | Total | £12,625 |

2. Visibility of the three quotes to replace the bridge as generally required by a tendering process.

In the case of the removal of the bridge as this would not exceed £20,000 only one price was received - being the £3,250 (+VAT) from Wallaces Engineering no tender were requested.

The Councils Financial Regulations state –

"3.5. Where the Council intends to enter into a contract exceeding £20,000 it shall invite tenders from at least three firms from the appropriate approved list".

As regards a new bridge the Councils Agents George F Whites were asked to obtain quotations for a like for like middle bridge with options for soft wood and hard wood but this was not proceeded with as Geo F Whites did not have a bridge design.

Councillors are unaware of the content and amounts of any prices that Geo F Whites may have endeavoured to obtain.

The Council does however possess 3 quotes. These are not official tenders but they are quotes from -

- YDS Ltd – Steel
- CTS Bridges – Hardwood
- CTS Bridges – Softwood

These are enclosed for your information.

3. Why was the village constituent not consulted in a similar manner by the town council regarding removal / replacement of Middle Bridge?

Updates on progress with regard to the bridge were consistently included in the Minutes and Monthly Updates sent to those residents who have requested to receive them and have been referred to at the monthly Town Council meetings.

In addition the updates were also periodically included on the Councils web site and placed on the notice boards around the village and at the site of the bridge itself.

The legal position as regards any dangerous structure is that it must be reported by any person who is aware of it to the local authority who will then endeavour to contact the owner for them to remove the danger or fence it off to prevent public access.

If the owner is not contactable then it is for the local authority using its emergency powers to make the structure safe and in due course recover the costs from the owner also doing.

This includes any structure suffering from the effects of fire, explosion, storms or high winds, or impact by a vehicle.

As the County Council, being the bridges authority denied ownership of the bridge Brompton Council itself cordoned off the danger and arranged the necessary structural survey.

As revealed in the Minutes Brompton Council has never admitted any ownership of the bridge, and there is no indication that it has ever done so.

With regard to the question as to why the Council did not consult with the village constituents concerning the closure of the bridge it would be inappropriate for any Local Authority to consult with residents as regards any dangerous structure before taking action and the actions taken by Brompton Council were carried out so that the public were not put in any danger.

Brompton Council met its obligations as regards the closure of a dangerous structure.

- (b) A copy of a letter sent to Rishi Sunak MP by a local resident has been forwarded to all Councillors.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting held this month – all matters are on-going.

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

No meeting held this month –

Everything is progressing at varying speeds -

Springers - Order placed and deposit paid

Outdoor Gym Equipment - items agreed and confirmed at last Council meeting – Councillor Hazelwood is looking into the groundworks/safety surfacing calculations + options + who is to be the installer

Options for improving access next to the double gate to be looked into.

Climbing frame - relocation site agreed

Safety Inspection – Councillor Hazelwood is chasing up quotes for the matters that need rectification from Tyne and Wear Play annual inspection.

Pump Track – Councillor Hazelwood has in hand but is likely to be a more long term project.

The Clerk has undertaken the YLCA Play Equipment Safety Inspection course at Northallerton from which a number of issues need to be looked at. Councillor Hazelwood was to undertake the same course at Bedale but unfortunately the course was cancelled due to a lack of participants.

Councillor Kelly arrived at 7.12pm

6. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Applications.

ZB23/00772/FUL - Alterations and extension to existing Dwelling – 39 Cockpit Hill - No objections.

The Chairman pointed out that the new prefix code to the planning application referred to those applications within the area of the former Hambleton District Council.

(ii) Decisions.

23/00446/FUL - Change of use of land and remove existing building and replace with proposed building to be used in connection with holiday accommodation business - Standard Hill Farm Darlington Road – Granted

23/00624/CAT - Works to a Beech tree in a conservation area - Rivendell Water End - Granted

Tree Works.

The Councils planning application for works to trees around the village has been registered with NY Planning Authority however the Planning Officer wants all the information in the Tree Survey Report to be transferred onto plans. Large scale C1 size plans have been printed by the County Print Unit but there is a considerable amount of work involved in writing the required information for each of the 178 trees onto the plans.

Councillor Hazelwood suggested that Smeeden Foreman may be able to assist with this matter,

The Clerk also reported that adverse comment had appeared on social media about the Council management of the trees in the Parish. The originator of the comments had been contacted and had accepted the Councils position.

7. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Wilson and Willoughby (Burial fee) | 165.00 |
|------------------------------------|--------|

Payments –

| | |
|---|----------|
| YLCA (Annual Subscription) | 790.00 |
| Mrs S Brigginsshaw (Reimbursement for seeds) | 43.99 |
| SAM Turner & Sons (Sand, cement, stakes, bolts etc) | 109.76 |
| Mrs C Huang (Sweeping) | 45.00 |
| Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree works) | 1,770.00 |
| P Atkin (Expenses) | 36.03 |
| YDS Ltd (Trailer hire) | 60.00 |
| P Atkin (Salary) | 384.24 |
| HMRC (PAYE) | 96.00 |
| *NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) | 41.11 * |
| *Paid by Direct Debit | |
| ** Paid out of meeting – | |
| MacVenture (Deposit to two Toddler Springers) | 2,520.00 |

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £60,024.82

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £141,024.82

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

The final accounts for 2022-23 financial year appear on the last page.

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

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-39245- Water End, Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 5 days between 15th May 2023 and 19th May 2023 to allow for a Yorkshire Water road closure to assist with sewer works in private land. The Road Closure and any associated Diversion Routes can be viewed using this URL link <https://one.network/?tm=133727450>

20's Plenty.

The next meeting of the local Branch of 20's Plenty was to be held on Thursday 27th April.

Highway Visibility Mirrors.

With regard to Highway Visibility mirrors the following information has been received from NY Highways –

Applications for traffic mirrors at junctions in rural areas will only be considered when specific criteria can be met. This will only include sites where –

There is a proven record of accidents related to poor visibility and high speed crossing traffic.

Physical improvements to improve lines of sight are not possible.

The drawbacks of installing traffic mirrors will not outweigh the benefits to road users.

North Yorkshire Police are fully supportive.

Mirrors must be convex and the frame must be a singlet colour and they are not permitted in urban areas.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Including Remote Access to Meetings.

This matter was raised during public question period at the last Council meeting. The legal position is -

Remote meetings are not permitted since the end of the Covid restrictions.

What that means is that although a Council can arrange a Zoom or other such connection (usually if a member of the Press requires it) anyone who is so connected can only view or listen to the meeting and they cannot take any part in the meeting such as speaking at any stage including any public question time that a Council may permit + that includes any Councillors who may not be able to be physically present as no-one can be deemed to be present remotely.

The Governments view was that it could be open to abuse as otherwise Councillors may just stay at home and take part instead of meeting in public with residents in their Parish Council meetings.

11. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCILS STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS - ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Council is currently signed up to the Hambleton District Councils Code of Conduct.

The new North Yorkshire Councils Code of Conduct has been forwarded to all Councillors and it was AGREED – That the Council sign up to the North Yorkshire Councils Code of Conduct.

12. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

No new matters to report. The daffodil bulbs especially along the beck sides have done particularly well this year.

The meeting was opened to the public for the asking of questions at 7.30pm.

(i) County Councillor Watson reported on the following matters.

- There was a lot of work being done with transferring systems previously operated by the former District Councils across to the new Council with there being a need to fully

integrate IT systems before the meeting of the next Area Constituency Committee to be held in Richmond.

- Adverse publicity about the cost of the statue at The Treadmills site had appeared recently but the cost had not all been paid by the former District Council as had been reported.
- A meeting was to be held with County Councillor Keane Duncan the NYC Transport Portfolio Holder shortly who was reviewing an in depth study of 20mph and County Councillor Watson was to look at the issues locally with him on site.
- County Councillor Watson reported that as regards the repair of the leaky dams he had spoken to the new NYC Communities Director and to County Councillor Peter Wilkinson who was looking into the process to be adopted for such grant applications and they had acknowledged that the Council application had been registered; this being the main application to pursue at the present time.
- As well as the damaged lamppost At Cotswold Street hat were a number of other signs that had been damaged and were in need to repair.
- As regards reported damage on social media over the weekend about the footpath alongside Stokesley Road County Councillor Watson reported that the damage has caused due to there having been a period of exceptional wet weather during the winter that had contributed to the damage and that it had not been caused by a farmer as was being suggested.
- In answer to a question by a member of the public County Councillor Watson undertook to look into the faulty a street lights near the School.

Councillors responded to County Councillor Watson that -

The path along to The Green Tree was covered in mud and that as regards the path adjacent to Stokesley road along by the new estate it was unfortunate that after the ground had been grass seeded people had contained to walk on it and asked whether a temporary fence could be put up to discourage people from doing this so that the grass would have a chance to grow.

A Councillor suggested that when County Councillor Watson carried out his visit with County Councillor Keane Duncan it would be opportune for them to speak to the School Crossing Patrol lady about the traffic situation outside the Primary School.

Councillor Carter again mentioned the defective footpath surface at the entrance to the Sports Village.

(ii) Mrs Sanderson reported that she had been contact by famers about the situation of the leaky dams affecting their land adding hat she had spoken to the Internal Drainage Board who had stated that they were awaiting confirmation that the Council had authorised Coxon Bros to carry out the repair works to the dams. The Clerk reported that he had already informed the IBD that this was the case but would contact them again to ask whet other information they required from the Council. The Chairman added Hyatt the money for this work was not an issue as the Council had already agreed to use its own funds if the grant application to NYC was unsuccessful. Mrs Sanderson added that if necessary a representative of the IDB would attend a meeting of the Council.

(iii) A member of the public asked if the Council was aware that the Queens Canopy oak tree at Water end had been substantially cut back and was invoked that this was something that Councillor Brigginsshaw was dealing with as it has been thought that the tree had died but

there were currently green shoots on it and the Clerk undertook to make enquiries in this respect.

‘ 13. CORRESPONDENCE.

- (i) Letter Sent to Rishi Sunak MP.

At the agreement of the correspondent Councillors have been forwarded a copy of a letter sent by a resident to Rishi Sunak MP who has yet to communicate with the Council regarding the matter.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- (i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council of the Council, being the Annual Meeting be held on Tuesday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm.

- (ii) Allotments at Carnival.

AGREED – That the following be placed on the Councils web site -

At Brompton Carnival on Monday 29th May at 1.30pm on The Green, Brompton Allotments Group will be holding a plant stall to raise funds for the allotments and advertise the allotments to the wider village.

There will be plants, house plants and garden related items for sale.

Please come along

- (iii) Planting at Thurston Park next Season.

AGREED - That Councillor Smith advise the Chairman as to what seeds and plants will be required for planting at Thurston Park Estate in the next planting season.

15. BURIAL MATTERS.

Cemetery of the Year Awards 2023.

Over the past three years entering this competition has proved to be a worthwhile learning curve but it isn't anticipated that the Burial Board can improve on its score of last year which put Brompton Cemetery in the top bracket but some way off the very top as it doesn't for example have mains water, its own gravediggers, lock the cemetery gates at night or supply umbrellas etc in inclement weather.

Progress from when first entering the competition has been excellent as much was learnt from what other Burial Authorities do and how improvements could be made from that, for example with on line burial plot searches and on line burial application forms and a few other tweeks.

Northallerton and Romanby JBC dropped out of the competition last year as they considered that they had taken it as far as they could. AGREED – That the Burial Board does not enter the 2023 competition.

Received from a Resident.

“Having visited the cemetery at Brompton today I just want to say how pleased I was that the benches have been repaired and how nice it was to be able to sit for a while, its lovely to see it is looked after and tidy, I can now get water out of the tank something not been able to do for a while”.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm^I

| RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>2021/22</u> | <u>2022/23</u> |
| <u>GENERAL A/C INCOME</u> | | |
| Precept | £54,000.00 | £62,000.00 |
| Bank Interest | £3.46 | £297.89 |
| VAT Refund | £19,394.28 | £4,719.91 |
| Grants | £1,000.00 | £11,400.00 |
| Burial Fees | £1,900.00 | £3,400.00 |
| Memorials | £90.00 | £210.00 |
| Wayleaves | £348.55 | £348.55 |
| Allotment Rates | £1,200.00 | £1,200.00 |
| Village Caretaking | £0.00 | £150.00 |
| CIL Moies | £0.00 | £141,100.00 |
| TOTAL | <u>£77,936.29</u> | <u>£224,826.35</u> |
| <u>GENERAL A/C PAYMENTS</u> | | |
| Salary/HMRC | £4,876.07 | £5,831.16 |
| Admin- Expenses,Misc,audit fees,printing,payroll services,web site,newsletter | £3,616.52 | £4,139.07 |
| Grasscutting | £10,446.40 | £10,135.20 |
| Hedge Cutting | £0.00 | £940.00 |
| Dog Bins | £898.92 | £1,024.56 |
| Sweeping | £565.92 | £733.20 |
| Allotments | £1,500.00 | £1,673.18 |
| Insurance | £686.36 | £1,636.24 |
| Water End Wildlife Area | £1,634.96 | £1,177.75 |
| Cemetery Works | £0.00 | £7,808.11 |
| Room Hire | £222.00 | £300.00 |
| Recreation Ground | £68.40 | £300.00 |
| Noticeboards | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Defib | £0.00 | £150.00 |
| Tree Works | £4,280.00 | £8,663.24 |
| Donations | £850.00 | £894.95 |
| Trade Refuse Bin | £346.41 | £326.34 |
| Car Park | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Highways | £35.94 | £205.15 |
| Village Caretaking- building materials, hire charges | £1,561.43 | £6,294.77 |
| Projects - Bridge | £8,516.45 | £0.00 |
| Projects - Cemetery | £3,594.00 | £0.00 |
| Projects - School Bridge | £3,809.40 | £0.00 |
| Projects - VAS Signs | £0.00 | £8,184.00 |
| TOTAL | <u>£47,509.18</u> | <u>£60,416.92</u> |
| <u>BANK RECONCILIATION</u> | | |
| | <u>2021-22</u> | <u>2022-23</u> |
| Opening Bank Balances | £5,955.19 | £36,736.20 |
| Plus Income Received | £77,936.29 | £224,826.35 |
| Minus Expenditure | £47,509.18 | £60,416.92 |
| Unpresented cheques | £1,554.00 | £1,644.87 |
| Cash in hand | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| (Capital assets carried forward see below) | | |
| Figure reported at Annual Return | <u>£37,936.30</u> | <u>£202,790.50</u> |
| Balance of Barclays Community Account a/c | £200.00 | £175.00 |
| Balance of Barclays Business Premium a/c | £36,523.00 | £60,586.68 |
| Balance of Barclays Premium Savings a/c | £13.20 | £141,024.82 |
| Sub Total | <u>£36,736.20</u> | <u>£201,786.50</u> |
| Plus credit for cheques presented this year from last year accounts | £1,200.10 | £1,004.00 |
| Total | <u>£37,936.30</u> | <u>£202,790.50</u> |
| Difference | £0.00 | £0.00 |

