

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church,  
Brompton on Tuesday 16th May 2023**

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs S Brigginsshaw, Mr R Carter, Mrs M Shiel Dods(in the Chair), Mrs E Kelly, Mr M Langthorne, and Mrs A Robinson.

There were 11 members of the public present at the meeting including County Councillor Steve Watson.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

A proposer and seconder had been received in respect of Councillor Mrs M Shiel Dods.

AGREED – That Councillor Mrs M Shiel Dods be appointed Chairman of the Council to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2024.

Councillor Mrs M Shiel Dods signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were been received from Councillors Mr J Hazelwood, Mr S O’Sullivan and Mrs R Smith (other commitments).

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

A nomination had been received from Councillors in respect of Councillor M Langthorne.

AGREED - That Councillor M Langthorne be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2024.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the Council held on the 25th April 2023, having been previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY.

AGREED – That the draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be noted.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS.

AGREED – That the appointments to the Councils Working Groups be as follows -

FINANCE WORKING GROUP - S O’Sullivan, A Robinson and M Shiel Dods

ROAD SAFETY AND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP - R Carter, J Hazelwood and E Kelly

OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT AND PLAY EQUIPMENT WORKIGN GROUP – M Shiel Dods, M Langthorne, J Hazelwood, E Kelly and the Clerk

WILDLIFE AREA WORKING GROUP - . S Brigginsshaw and E Kelly

FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP - R Carter, S Brigginsshaw, M Langthorne and M Shiel Dods.

PEDESTRIAN/CYCLING STRATEGY JOINT WORKING GROUP - R Carter, J Hazelwood and E Kelly

NEW ESTATES WORKING GROUP - R Smith and M Shiel Dods.

#### 7. APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER BODIES.

AGREED – That the appointments to other bodies be as follows -

The Allotments Group – M Shiel Dods

YLCA Branch Meetings - Chairman + Clerk

PCC liaison meetings - Councillors M Shiel Dods, A Robinson and the Clerk

#### 8. LOCAL CRIME REPORT

The Police report for April 2023 is set out below.

<b>Statistics taken from</b>	<b>01/04/2023 to 30/04/2023</b>
<b>Crime Type</b>	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	0 Reports
Total	2 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	1 Reports
Criminal Damage	0 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	1 Reports
Violence against the person	2 Report
Other crimes inc. Drugs	2 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	0 Reports
Total	6 Reports

#### 9. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

##### (i) Local Elections.

Three complaints were received on the 4th May that The Methodist Church was not open for people to cast their votes. However there were no elections locally that day and it was apparent that Radio York had been urging people to go out and vote and therefore some people had thought that there was an election in Brompton.

##### (ii) Planning Application for Works to Trees in the Conservation Area.

Large scale plans depicting the trees that require works to be carried out to them had now been deposited with the Planning Office. Councillors had been asked for their views as regards the trees that would in due course need to be planted to replace those that are to be felled.

##### (iii) Metal Plate off the Linen Mill Chimney.

The large metal plate weighing 2cwt had been stored at the former HDC Deport since the chimney was demolished. Arrangements were being made for this to be collected and stored away.

- (iv) Damage to 20's Plenty Banner.

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> May the 20's Plenty banner near the Rugby Club had been damaged beyond repair. Councillor Hazelwood had redesigned the banner and two new banners had been ordered; one as a spare.

- (v) Damaged Sign Post at the Level Crossing, Station Road.

The Highways Officer who covers Brompton had advised that he had raised an order for both sign posts to be replaced. This order had now been passed to NYCs contractors to be programmed according to priority.

- (vi) St Thomas's Church Wall.

The PCC was currently preparing the application for a Faculty for the works to the Church Wall.

- (vii) CIL Monies.

A resident had asked if the Council would spend the CIL monies during the current financial year. The Council previously agreed that this would not be the case and Councillors had confirmed that they did not wish to change this previous decision.

- (viii) Flood Alleviation Works.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Drainage Board had confirmed that it was not awaiting any information from the Council.

#### 10. CHAIRMAN'S/VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ACTIONS.

None reported to the meeting.

#### 11. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

- (i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and had monitored the income and expenditure for the current year to date and would continue to do so on a monthly basis before each Council meeting.

There were no matters of concern.

The Clerk had yet to meet with Internal Auditor therefore the report of the Internal Auditor and the AGAR return for the last financial year would be considered at the meeting of the Council in June.

Crow Leisure had agreed to increase the rent paid for the hire of Church Green for the May Bank Holiday Fair from £150 to £180. However the Fair organisers did not wish to continue to partake in the scheme to provide fair tickets to the school children.

The Finance Group therefore recommended that the income from Crow Leisure each year be donated to the School and that the School be asked if it has any specific projects that the money would benefit. The current amount stands at £330.00. AGREED – That this decision be endorsed.

Unfortunately the cheque for the deposit for the toddlers springers has not arrived at the manufacturers and has been cancelled and a replacement cheque was be issued at the current Council meeting.

As regards the purchase of the notice boards and positioning of a Brompton sign for the new estates these matters would have to be deferred until the estates had been adopted.

(iii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting had been held this month.

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

No meeting had been held this month – all matters were progressing.

(v) Joint Pedestrian/Cycling Working Group.

The Joint Working Group met on the 16<sup>th</sup> May to consider –

- Which of the four identified corridors is the top priority?
- How do we gather public support?

The Working Group Recommended –

That its name be changed to The Active Travel Working Group.

That the order of priority for routes be –

1. Brompton – Northallerton
2. Crosby Road – Treadmills
3. Broomfield – town
4. Standard Way area

That Councils support a public event in the lower Town Hall on a market day to publicise the routes and/ or at a stall at the Food Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Further consideration be given to the Press and social media publicity. Local Gyms be targeted with leaflets advertising any events.

Romanby P CI was continuing to press issues with regard to the bridges.

It was anticipated that a planning application will be submitted later in the year.

ARGEED – That the above recommendations be endorsed.

## 12. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

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

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

(ii) Applications

ZB23/00938/FUL - Revised application for construction of 38no. residential dwellings with associated access, parking, landscaping and infrastructure - OS Field 6504 Northallerton Business Park, North Moor Road/ Thurston Road – No Objections.

The Chairman undertook to forward a plan of the new developments to all Councillors.

(vi) Development at Lowfields Farm, Fullicar Lane.

The Clerk had spent the afternoon of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Lowfields Farm at the invitation of Mr Geoffrey Spence even though the Clerk had on several occasions informed him that he was no longer a Councillor for Brompton and that he really needed to speak to County Councillor Steve Watson and that BTC was not the Planning Authority.

The large building for the rearing of livestock granted was virtually complete with livestock in there and the old wood buildings from the 1950's put up by Mr Spences father had virtually all gone. In time the intention was to build a continuous brick the full length of the development with that part on the roadside of the wall being retained for parking along the outside of the wall adjacent to Fullicar Lane.

There was currently a Planning Enforcement issue about the height of the new agricultural building but that is of no concern to BTC.

Also the apartments for the workers were well on the way to completion which would mean that the static caravans that had been there for the past ten years would be removed.

Other improvements were the large expanse of Solar Panels on the full length of roof of the new building.

Mr Spence had outlined future intentions for further development but was advised to speak to his Agents and the Planning Authority.

County Councillor Watsons contact details had been provided to Mr Spence who had confirmed receipt of them and it had been suggested to Mr Spence that he may also wish to give County Councillor Watson an opportunity to have the same tour of the developments especially as he was on the Planning Committee.

It was also reported that a retrospective planning application for a replacement building for two buildings for housing dairy cattle at Lowfields Farm had been received on the day of the current meeting and would be considered at the June Council meeting.

(vii) Applications for Tree Works in the Conservation Area on the Village Greens.

The required annotated plans relating to the proposed tree works had been lodged with Planning Authority who had now logged the Councils planning application.

### 13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

NYC (Half-yearly Precept)	34,000.00
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Payments –

Wallace Fabrications Ltd (Bridge removal + fabrication of railings)	3,900.00
CE+CM Walker (April Grasscutting)	1,648.80
Sam Tuner & Sons (Sand and Cement)	14.96
Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd (Annual Insurance Premium)	812.74
RGPS (Signs for the Alloments)	108.00
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	40.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	29.65

P Atkin (Salary)	384.24
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Mr D Langthorne (Fencing works etc) )	220.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire)	60.00
MacVenture Play LLP (Replacement deposit cheque for Springers)	2,520.00
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	27.41 *
*Paid by Direct Debit	
** Paid out of meeting –	
PlayEquip (50% deposit for Outdoor Gym Equipment)	6,255.00

#### Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £156.01

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £92,015.04

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

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

The Bank Reconciliation appears on the last page of the Monthly Update.

The Clerk had agreed with Mr G Crow that the rent for the hire of Church Green for the Fair be increased this year from £150 to £180 as the sum of £150 had been in existence for over ten years.

#### 14. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT.

Item withdrawn from the agenda until the June Council meeting as the Clerk had not yet had time to meet with Auditor to discuss the report.

#### 15. AGAR – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – YEAR END 31 MARCH 2023.

Item withdrawn from the agenda until the June Council meeting.

Councillor Kelly arrived at 7.20pm

#### 16. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

#### 20's Plenty.

The local Branch of the 20's Plenty meeting had been held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. A resume of the meeting is contained in the Monthly Update.

#### 17. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Quotations were being sought for hedge works at the wildlife area and the felling of an ash tree but these works would not be carried out until the Autumn when other planting would take place. All bird boxes had been installed and it was confirmed that the Queens Jubilee Oak tree had died.

It was reported that the strimming of the path alongside the Recreation Ground had again been missed on the last cut. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr Walker recently about this and would contact him again.

At 7.30pm County Councillor Stephen Watson was invited to make his report and he updated the meeting on matters relating to North Yorkshire Council.

He reported that he had met with the Footpaths Officer and it was hoped that the footpath from the new estate alongside Darlington Road to Strikes would be brought up to standard.

County Councillor Watson had also met with the County Councils Portfolio Holder Councillor Keane Duncan and had looked at the areas that could be considered to be suitable for 20mph, especially from the Rugby Club to the cross roads and along Water End. It was hoped that County Councillor Duncan would take on board the issues that he had been shown including around the School.

The Annual Meeting of the County Council was to be held on the following day at which a public question had been lodged as regarding 20's Plenty and a vote of no confidence in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner had also been placed on the agenda.

County Councillor Watson added that he intended to ask questions about the CIL Grant monies as other areas had also raised this issue.

Unfortunately to date there was no further information about the monies that had been received from the developers about new bus services.

County Councillor Watson also said that when he was at County Hall on the following day he would look into the matter of the portakabins that had been raised by residents of Orchard Grove.

Councillors raised issues with regard to an area of tarmac near the new Sports Field and a broken wooden fence at the new bridge. Also whilst there was a "Cyclists Discount" sign on the Northallerton side at the new bridge there was not such a sign on the Brompton side.

AGREED - That a standing item be placed on the monthly Council agendas after Matters Arising - "Report of the local County Councillor".

At 7.40pm the meeting was opened to the public for the asking of questions.

1. A resident commented on the state of the beck along Water End adding that he did not know of any village where the beck was in such a state. It was pointed out that the Council was unable to do any works etc in the beck itself as this could only be done by the Environment Agency and was therefore beyond the Councils control.

It was accepted that there was an overgrowth of watercress this year and whilst the EA had been asked to target the weeds spraying was a very sensitive subject. The Council was encouraging different foliage to grow in order to encourage different eco systems to develop. In particular the EA would not permit dredging of the beck.

The most appropriate way of resolving issues would be to re-profile the beck but this had been estimated to cost at up to £250,000 to be of any effect.

The Chairman added that the Council had decided to encourage wildlife in the Water End area in general and was trying to achieve a balance. Councillors added that residents needed to accept that the Water End area was Village Green and not a domestic garden.

In addition some areas of Water End had not yet been cut this year as this would adversely affect the growth of the daffodils in the next year.

The Councils wild life strategy had seen the appearance of three mallards this year together with a barn owl that had not been seen previously.

In addition the beck was forming its own profiles whereas in the past the channel had been very straight and this was encouraging new habitats in the village.

Mrs Butler commented that she agreed with the resident and pointed out the dangers of encouraging the weeds to which a Councillor remarked that such a view in support of strimming along the beck wasn't going to bring wildlife back.

2. Mrs Butler stated that she had received a letter from NYC about the Councils planning application for works to the trees in the Conservation Area but that when she had gone on line to read the documents the font in the 100 page report was far too small to be readable. Mrs Butler added that she had never in the past received any notification about such works. The Chairman responded that this was an issue that Mrs Butler would need to take up with the Planning Authority

3. Mr Liversley asked why the Council was not being pro-active in notifying residents about works in the highway and road closures as this affected people's access to their properties. The Chairman responded that the Council did not have any more information to supply to residents on such matters than it itself received from North Yorkshire Council. The works concerned were in respect of works being undertaken by the Utility Companies and it was for those Companies to provide the information not for Brompton Council to do so.

4. Mr Walkerley asked if the Council had received any correspondence from North Yorkshire Council about the middle bridge. The Chairman replied that the Council had been informed by its legal representatives not to discuss the matter in Council meetings.
5. Mr Walkerley reported that there was a tree in the beck at Bowe Bridge and the Clerk undertook to contact the Environment Agency to arrange its removal.
6. Mr Tyreman expressed concerns about the state of the highway surface along Lead Lane with numerous potholes along the whole area of the road. Councillors said that this had been reported to NY Highways several times and the Vice-Chairman commented that because people were having to drive around the potholes this could lead to a serious accident. County Councillor Watson undertook to take the matter up with NY Highways.

## 18. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Portakabins at Orchard Grove.

Complaints had been received from residents about a number of portakabins sited in the car park at Orchard Grove by Broadacres Housing. The residents had been advised to contact the Planning Authority.

(ii) Scots Pit Lane.

The following letter had been received from the Planning Inspectorate -

I am writing concerning the 2021 Modification Order for Public bridleways nos. 10.19/28 & 10.110/43, Scot Pit Lane, Brompton & North Allerton which is being determined based on the paper file. The health and safety questionnaire advises that less than 150 metres is accessible that there are potentially dangerous animals on site. Although there is some user evidence, the case for the Order appears to be predominantly based on historical documents. The Inspector considers that a site visit is not necessary and will not assist were her decision. Therefore, she proposes not to undertake a site visit and intends to determine the Order based solely on the papers on file. Please can you indicate your agreement to this approach.

Councillor Carter had commented as follows –

The dangerous animals, by which they the ones that Langthornes farms are not actually on site, ie assuming the lane is or will be properly fenced they will be in the fields on either side. If the inspector is concerned about these animals she should make a site visit to determine what they are if they



are properly controlled in accordance with the law. If they are not then Langthornes are breaking the law anyway. I find it hard to believe that the animals are not properly controlled as I am not aware of anyone being attacked by one and I don't think there are as many as there used to be anyway. The inspector needs to be made aware of the circumstances as they exist today not that based on historical evidence.

AGREED – That Councillor Carters comments be endorsed and that the Planning Inspectorate be informed that it is the Councils view that a site inspection needs to be an essential part of the Inspectors review of this matter in making a decision.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of the next Meeting.

AGREED – The next meeting of the Council be held in the Methodist Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th June 2022.

(ii) Wildlife Area – North Moor Road.

It was reported that there was a need for an access gate at the new wildlife area.

20. BURIAL MATTERS.

(i) Missing Headstone.

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the mother of a daughter buried in an ashes plot in the Cemetery informing him that a headstone had been recently removed from the grave. Despite extensive searches of the Cemetery the headstone could not be found. However the headstone reappeared back on the grave two days later. The matter remains a complete mystery.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm