

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

PRESENT – Councillors Mr M Langthorne, Mrs M Shiel Dods (in the Chair), Mrs R Robinson and Mr S O'Sullivan.

There were no members of the public present at the meeting except for Councillor Stephen Watson.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carter, Hazelwood, Kelly and Smith (holiday commitments) and from Mrs Brigginsshaw (family commitment).

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

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th June, 202 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

(i) Closure of Rail Ticket Offices.

Councillors had agreed that due to the deadline date for the rail ticket office consultation being so close to the BTC Council meeting an objection be submitted in respect of the intended closure of rail ticket offices.

Response made to the consultation –

“Brompton Town Council is extremely concerned that local rail users are now to be hit with serious problem with the intended closure of station ticket offices.

Brompton is a large community which adjoins the town of Northallerton in North Yorkshire.

Closing the ticket offices will seriously affect our local rail uses but particularly those in the older age bracket and those who suffer from disabilities. All at a time when local rail usage is increasing due to the considerable expansion of Northallerton, Brompton and the adjoining areas.

Tickets will be available from the platform machines however these are extremely unreliable. The platform notice boards have numerous notices that state that a penalty fine of £100 will be imposed for travelling without a ticket. This is extremely worrying.

If the machines are not working then you can't get a ticket. This seriously concerns rail travellers.

The platform machines are frequently out of use and until there is 100% reliability then the assistance of the ticket office staff should not be taken away.

These staff also carry out many other duties such as assisting travellers who have disabilities. The effect of the removal of this personal assistance will be catastrophic to these members of our community.

At a time when we are all being encouraged to use public transport this is certainly a backward step and will only encourage more people to travel by car.

We have automation in all of our Supermarkets with the self service checkout tills but in every Supermarket there is still a staff manned assistance till available.

This surely proves that there is a need for some degree of personal input whenever there is automation.

Many individuals such as the elderly, disabled and those with limited digital literacy depend on the station ticket offices for assistance, guidance and purchase of tickets. Removing this vital service would create barriers limiting their ability to travel independently and hindering their overall mobility.

The Council urges you to withdraw these draconian proposals”.

(ii) Scot Pit Lane.

The Definitive Map Modification Order was opposed and was referred by the North Yorkshire Council to the Planning Inspectorate for a final decision. The decision in this case made by the Planning Inspectorate whereby the Inspector has decided NOT to confirm the order – this means that a bridleway will not be recorded on the Definitive Map and the route will not be legally designated as a public right of way.

As per the Councils request the Planning Inspector did make a visit to the site prior to making her decision.

(iii) Drainage Channel and Repairs to the Leaky Dams.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk were arranging to meet with James Coxon regarding the drainage channel and the works to the leaky dams.

(iv) Emergency Plan.

The NYC Resilience & Emergencies Officer was working with colleagues in the EA to see how best we can increase the resilience of communities in North Yorks, and was hoping to reinforce the work done by those who had previously held a community emergency, or community flood plan. This would be an ideal opportunity to re-invigorate the County Emergency Plan and Councillor Carter had offered his assistance in this matter.

(v) Overgrown Hedges.

Mrs Isobel Sanderson had responded to the concerns raised at the last Council meeting as follows –

“Government rules only allow us to trim hedges between September 1st and March 1st , which makes your request difficult .

I will speak to the contractor and see if we can have a derogation otherwise it will be September”

GAEC (Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition) 15 states - you must not cut or trim any hedgerow on your farm between 1 March and 31 July (inclusive) – the main breeding season for birds – each year unless such work is necessary because any of the following apply:

The hedgerow overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedgerow obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders.

(vi) Decision of NYC Executive – 4th July Regarding 20mph Review

The NY Executive unanimously approved Councillor Keane Duncans review of the NY Councils 20mph Policy.

1. The core criteria for 20mph zones will remain as in the existing Policy and are unchanged.
2. An area-wide 20 is not supported.

The main issues raised at the meeting are included in the Monthly Update.

Subsequently the NYC Scrutiny of Transport Committee had called in the North Yorks Executive decision to reject default 20mph and that Committee would challenge the findings of the report and its recommendations as failing to give sufficient weight to the evidence submitted in favour of default 20mph, and failing to heed the advice of the world leading expert on 20mph limits, the UN, WHO, and the Stockholm Declaration.

The call in was to be heard at the Transport, Economy, Environment and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 26th July, 2023 at 2.00pm.

- (vii) Caravan at Cockpit Hill Car Park.

The four wheel caravan at the car had been removed however it has been replaced by a two wheel caravan that is being advertised for sale.

- (viii) Bridge Over Brompton Beck, Opposite The Orchards, Over/Under the Railway Lines.

The bridge was inspected in May 2023 by a volunteer ranger and it was reported as in need of serious attention.

North Yorkshire Council followed this up and on 5th July a team was sent out to 'repair' as much of the bridge as possible. It soon became apparent that the support beams were severely rotten and much of the ends were cut back exposing the decay.

The Public Rights of Way Officer was happy with the major repair but accepted that this was a temporary solution and that the bridge was condemned and placed on the replacement list.

The volunteer was asked to inspect the bridge every couple of months to ensure that it could remain open. If it becomes dangerous it will be closed.

- (ix) Painting of Bridge at Water Splash.

The approaches to the bridge at the Water Splash had now been painted.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No matters were raised as there were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON.

Councillor Watson had been asked to report particularly with regard to the Section 106 monies totalling £500,000 towards new bus services arising from the North Northallerton development and with regard to the two applications made to North Yorkshire Council for CIL funding towards improvements at the Recreation Ground and the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Councillor Watson reported that he had spoken with officers regarding the CIL monies and had been informed that North Yorkshire Council was not inviting bids at this stage and was developing a new approach with regard to the distribution of such monies.

He added that there had been a lot of bids for the money and that Bromptons application had been towards the tail end. It could however be in Brompton Councils favour that they were willing to spend

its own money on the flood prevention project as this proved a genuine commitment to deal with an urgent matter.

BTC had been proactive in the matter which it as hoped would be regarded as favourable.

Councillor Watson also reported that he had sent the lead Officer a copy of the Section 106 Agreement which outlined the position of the monies for new local bus services as there was a need to find out who was dealing with this matter.

With regard to the new allotments the developer Taylor Wimpey had been asked to come back to the site to carry out outstanding works including levelling out and issues of rain water not being able to permeate the hard core.

The Chairman reported that the School Headteacher was writing to NYC about future school places which could be affected by the new development.

Councillor Watson had been contacted by residents saying that the roads around the school development had not been swept for quite some time and he had therefore spoken to the developer who was to arrange a regular sweep of the highways.

Concerns were expressed at the state of Lead Lane where the carriageway was continually being destroyed by large tractors and the Arla milk tankers with regular patching repairs being a waste of NYCs money. Councillor Watson reported that NYC was carrying out patching works across the County as there was a shortage of contractors carrying out carriage resurfacing works and that this was a national problem.

The Vice-Chairman added that the roadway along Lead Lane was fracturing and that this would affect the sewer and water pipes as these were situated under the road. Councillor Watson remarked that it would take major works to excavate both sides of Lead Lane and to build it up.

A Councillor asked if a different type of surfacing, such as re-constituted tyres could be used as these would be cheaper and more durable.

The Vice-Chairman reported that large tractors and trailers were missing other vehicles along Lead Lane by inches and that there was slurry being spilt all over the road which had been reported to NY Highways and which was a health hazard to residents.

Councillor Watson undertook to raise this issue at his forthcoming regular meeting with Highways Officers.

Councillors thanked Councillor Watson for the help and assistance he was providing to the Council since he had been elected to serve on North Yorkshire Council and this was very much appreciated.

Councillor Watson left the meeting at 7.40pm.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/06/2023 to 30/06/2023
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	3 Reports
Total	5 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	1 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	1 Reports
Criminal Damage	1 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	0 Reports

Violence against the person	6 Report
Other crimes inc. Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	0 Reports
Total	10 Reports

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

A meeting had taken place to look at the siting of the outdoor gym equipment – see report below

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 17th July.

Beck Sides

RECOMMENDED - That future maintenance works be carried out by Hillside Tree Surgeons and not by Walkers.

Works at the Allotments.

RECOMMENDED - That the Council pay Hillside Tree Surgeons to carry out fencing works at the allotments site and works that permit further water butts to be used (the Allotments Group to pay the costs of the butts).

Outdoor Gym Equipment.

The second half of the payment to PlayEquip be made at the July Council meeting but that the matter be placed on the agenda for that meeting to discuss who is to install the equipment and whether the gym equipment should be delivered by PlayEquip direct to the company undertaking that work.

NYC Matters

The Clerk to ask Councillor Watson to report to the next Council meeting with regard to the following -

Progress as to the funding of the new bus services

An update on the applications to NYC for CIL monies towards the Recreation Ground and Flood Alleviation.

Car park.

RECOMMENDED - (i) That -

Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked to carry out works to clear the former electricity sub-station site and fencing works along the beck side adjacent to the car park and to also submit a quote for the resurfacing the car park; and

(ii) That a notice board be incorporated in the car park works so that the car park rules can be clearly displayed.

Unbanked Cheques

The Clerk to contact the companies about the following cheques which have not yet been banked.

RGPS - £108.00 for signs for the allotments - the Clerk having hand-delivered the cheque at the time.

MacVenture - £2520.00 - replacement cheque - collected from the Clerk by the company representative and has still not been banked.

AGREED – That - (i) the recommendations of the Finance Working Group as set out above be approved, (ii) that a price for resurfacing of the car park be also obtained from Mr K Whittaker and (iii) the notice board at the car park be of metal frame construction concreted into the ground..

Councillors commented on the good standard of works being carried out by Hillside Tree Surgeons which had lead to a lot of positive comments being received and the good work ethos that the Company had.

(ii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting of the Group had been held this month.

There was an urgent need to look at a solution for the untended piece of land at the foot of Cockpit Hill as this was becoming substantially overgrown and in respect of which two letters had recently been received from residents. None of the members of the Highways Working Group were present at the meeting to provide an update on the matter.

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

No formal meeting of the Group had been held this month.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Clerk had met and agreed that it would need a proper company to deal with climbing frame, especially for insurance purposes, and that the adult gym equipment be not delivered until an installer has been arranged. Unfortunately Councillor Hazelwood had been unable to attend the site meeting on Friday 21st Jul the due to a pressing commitment. There also needed to be consideration of the closure of the play area whilst the works were being carried out.

AGREED – That PlayEquip be asked to quote for the installation of the adult gym equipment and for a time line for the works and to also quote for the removal and resiting of the climbing frame. That they also be asked to quote for the reinstatement of the safety surfacing or to recommend a company who can carry out this work.

(iv) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting

The YLCA Hambleton Branch had met at Welbury on the 28th June.

A full resume of the meeting is contained in the Monthly Update,

The NY Parish Charter is to be reviewed by the NY Executive on the 18th July. In response to concerns that the Charter does not include any permanent commitments by NY to Parishes NY has responded that these were not included in the Charter in case NY Council was not able to meet them.

Also fears that NY Council will not devolve services to Parishes if they are found to be making a profit.

Disappointment was expressed at the recommendations of the NY Transport Portfolio Holder in his report on the review of 20mph criteria.

Concerns were raised that the NY Parish Portal has not been working for months. Promises to get it back up on line have not materialised and it is constantly breaking down and giving error messages. Requests for the matter to be rectified have been ignored.

(v) YLCA Meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable.

A meeting was held with the Assistant Chief Constable on Wednesday 12th July. Significant points from the meeting are contained in the Monthly Update.

(vi) Joint Pedestrian/Cycling Working Party.

The joint Northallerton, Brompton and Romanby Working Party was to meet shortly to look at the response to be made to the NYC Local Transport Plan consultation.

8. PLANNING.

(i) Decisions.

ZB23/00796/MRC - Modification of condition 2 (Plans) from previously approved application 22/01443/FUL- Construction of agricultural building for the rearing of livestock - Lowfields Farm Fullicar Lane – Granted.

ZB23/00919/MRC - Retrospective modification of condition 2 (approved drawings) of previously approved application 20/02582/FUL - increase in height of building from approved drawing - Lowfields Farm Fullicar Lane – Granted.

ZB23/01271/TPO – Works to fell tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order 1990/14, 1 Water End – Granted.

(ii) Applications.

ZB23/01366/FUL – Alterations and Extension to existing dwelling , High Dunnas, 45 Northallerton Road – No objections.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Brompton Allotments Group (Annual Rent)	1,200.00
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Payments –

Sam Turner & Sons (Various including paint)	112.60
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Works at beck + trees)	580.00
CE+CM Walker (May/June grasscutting)	2,473.20
Restarting Hearts (Defib Maintenance – June 22 to June 23)	150.00
PlayEquip (Outdoor Gym Equipment – 2 nd 50% payment)	6,255.00
YDC Ltd (Trailer Hire)	60.00
Mr D Langthorne (works at allotments, Cemetery etc)	463.21
TP Jones & Co LLP (Quarterly Payroll)	59.40
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	30.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	34.05
P Atkin (Salary)	384.28

HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
Brompton Methodist Church (Room Hire)	144.00
NYC (additional VAS pole)	500.00
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	27.41 *

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £75,739.58

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £141,318.85

As at 3 July 2023

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

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

11. INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT AT THE RECREATION GROUND.

Councillor Hazelwood was currently working on arranging an installer for the equipment.

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

No matters were raised under this agenda item/

13. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

To be reported to the meeting.

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

(i) Bus Stopping Point – Danes Crest Junction.

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a resident of Danes Crest regarding the fact that the Coathams Coaches the new bus company operating the service was refusing to stop at the bottom of Danes Crest Estate.

Whilst this was not an officially registered bus stop it was known that buses had stopped there for passengers for at least the past 43 years.

AGREED – That the Clerk investigate what the problem is with stopping at the foot of Danes Crest estate.

(ii) Speeding Traffic.

Received from a resident -

A Mercedes SUV has travelled through the village towards Northallerton at circa 50 mph, overtaken a car just before the Hilton Green junction with children walking to school moments before 8.30.

One day it will be worse.

I drove into the village last night at 8.30 and there was no one around, no cars parked along Northallerton Road so it is wide and inviting and it does require concentration to avoid creeping over 30 mph so, I do understand the challenges. Whilst I would wish the speed limit to be lower it would be difficult on this section and just hope that the legal limit is observed especially, when people are about. I think it would need a change in road design to materially affect behaviour on Northallerton Road or of course, by using intervention. A lower speed limit in the centre of the village seems sensible and practical.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

(i) Date of Next Meeting of the Council.

AGREED – (a) That for a trial period of six months Council meeting be scheduled to commence at 7.15pm and (b) that the next meeting of the Council be held in The Methodist Church on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 7.15pm.

(ii) Allotments Bulk Waste Bin.

AGREED – That - (a) the Council add to it's Yorwaste Trade Waste contract a 660 Bin at the collection rate of £12.72 (Weight allowance 45kg, Excess weight – 0.14p over) and that the Allotments Group reimburse the Council on a 6 monthly basis, and (b) the Clerk to enquire as to the collection point arrangements that would be acceptable to Yorwaste.

(iii) Rats at the Allotments.

AGREED – That the Council pay the Pest Control bill from NYC for dealing with rats at the allotments site and that a price for a regular service be obtained by the Chairman and referred to the Finance Working Group

(iv) Overgrown Hedges.

Attention was drawn to the overgrown hedges outside of 89 Northallerton Road which obstructed pedestrians from using the footpath.

(v) Village Walk Round.

AGREED – That this take place on the evening of the 22nd August starting at the Rugby Club and proceeding northwards through the village.

(vi) Councillors Training Refresher Dates.

AGREED – That the Clerk circulate possible dates to Councillors.

(vii) Resurfacing at the Water Splash.

Councillor Robinson undertook to forward the Clerk the details of the works that were to be carried out.

(viii) New Developments.

It was suggested that developers should be encouraged to install electric charging points in all new builds.

16. BURIAL MATTERS.

It was reported that no burials had taken place this month.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm