

# **BROMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL** – The current Members of the Council are as follows -

Mrs S Brigginsaw, Mr R Carter, Mr J Hazelwood, Mrs E Kelly, Mr M Langthorne (Vice-Chairman), Mr S O’Sullivan, Mrs A Robinson, Mrs M Shiel Dods (Chairman) and Mrs R Smith.

Parish Councillors are elected representatives who volunteer their time freely to work on behalf of local residents on matters pertaining to the remit of the Council but who do not make decisions in an individual capacity.

WELCOME TO THOSE RESIDENTS WHO LIVE ON THE KINGSBROOK AND THURSTON PARK ESTATES IN THE PARISH OF BROMPTON - WHICH IS THE MAJORITY OF YOU ON THE NEW HOUSING ESTATES – THIS MAY WELL BE YOUR FIRST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

On the 1st April Hambleton District Council ceased to exist and a new North Yorkshire Council became the sole Unitary Authority for this area taking on the roles of the former North Yorkshire County Council and Hambleton District Council and being responsible for all of the services previously provided by those two significant bodies.

As residents whereas you previously had three Councillor representatives, two for the District Council and one for the County Council, you now only have one County Councillor who you can put your representations to. That Councillor is Stephen Watson and you can contact him at -

Cllr.Steve.watson@northyorks.gov.uk

Importantly this significant change in Local Government (the first since 1974) has not in any way changed how Brompton Town Council operates - it being responsible for exactly the same services that it has been responsible for over very many decades.

By virtue of the recent Local Government Reorganisation Brompton Town Council has not gained any additional powers to operate any other services than it did before the 1st April this year.

In particular Brompton Council has no responsibilities at all with regard to your local roads - whether that be in respect of potholes, traffic issues, road closures, street lighting or signage etc.

The new North Yorkshire Council is responsible for all highway matters.

Therefore if you are aware of potholes of more than 40mm in depth, or a street light that is not working or any other highway matter you will need to contact North Yorkshire Council at the web site -

[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

The new contact number is 0300 131 2131

Also Brompton Town Council is not the Planning Authority so once again if you have any planning concerns you will need to contact North Yorkshire Council.

### **What does Brompton Town Council do?**

Local Councils have a number of legal powers defined by various statutory provisions and in most cases are directly responsible for providing the following services to their villages:-

- Bus Shelters, and their maintenance
- Street Lighting (other than that which is the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council) and its maintenance - NB – There are no Parish Council lights in Brompton
- Maintenance any lands it holds (including Car Parks), Village Notice Boards, etc
- Maintaining/Improving the Village Greens/Common Land
- Provision of Grit/Salt bins at strategic points
- Supporting the maintenance of village burial grounds
- Providing the use of play equipment in Recreation Grounds for the benefit of the wider community
- Planting trees/shrubs to enhance the surroundings and to commemorate key events
- Commenting on Planning Applications
- Providing a focus within the village for action/representations on key issues

You will therefore see that these powers are very limited.

In fact a very high percentage of the Councils budget each year goes on grasscutting and the maintenance of the numerous trees situated around the Village Greens.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church wall at St Thomas's Church which can be extremely expensive when needing to be repaired and also as Brompton Burial Board it administers the Cemetery on Stokesley Road.

### **This 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 removal of middle bridge at Water End

The 20's Plenty campaign

The receipt of the CIL monies

The continuation of the wildlife area at Water End

Substantial tree works – Brompton Council being responsible for around 200 mature trees many of which overhang the highways and therefore require regular inspection.

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

Improvement of local pedestrian and cycling routes jointly with Northallerton Town Council.

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 being carried out by North Yorkshire Highways as Brompton Council and Northallerton Town Council are firmly of the view that the pedestrian crossing points which are extremely well used and the islands that are currently there are totally inadequate.

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 is still necessary to leaflet all properties with regard to the dog fouling near the Village Hall. **IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PERHAPS FROM DOOR CAMERA FOOTAGE, PLEASE REPORT THIS TO -**

[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

The fire engine toddler springer play equipment and the basketball hoop had to be removed from the Recreation Ground during the year on safety grounds. Two new toddler springers have recently been installed the Recreation Ground and shortly adult gym equipment will also be installed there funded by grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery.

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 in relation of construction of four dwellings was the subject of a planning appeal which was subsequently dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

A comprehensive review of crime statistics undertaken in December revealed that crime levels in all categories had fallen and have continue to do so over recent months. Recent monthly crime figures are the lowest in Brompton over the last 25 years or so.

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 has recently been dug out again.

Banners encouraging 20mph have been erected at several locations in the Parish. Unfortunately one was vandalised on two occasions and has been reprinted onto a metal background to deter future damage.

The Councils Highways Group is currently taking steps to resolve parking issues outside the Three Horse Shoes and is looking at improvement works to the Councils car park at the bottom of Cockpit Hill with former overgrown electricity sub-station site now being managed in the future by the Council.

New dog/ waste bins have been provided for Banks Road and adjacent to the new housing estates along the new link road. Notice Boards will be provided when the estate roads have been adopted.

After a very lengthy process the status of Scot Pit Lane was decided by the Planning Inspector whose decision was that the location be not added to the Definitive Footpaths Map.

Two Vehicle Activated signs were erected in 2022 on the approach to the Primary School and at De Bruce Road. These were possible by receiving a substantial grant from North Yorkshire Police. Provision has been made for the one at De Bruce Road to be moved occasionally to a position nearer the new link road.

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of St Thomas's Churchyard including the trees and the church wall. The church wall has recently been surveyed by a structural engineer and has been found to need repair works estimated to be around £20,000. It is hoped to carry out these works over a period of time during this year and into 2024.

Brompton is protected from flooding by a series of dams on farmland to the north of the Parish. These are now in need of urgent repair and the Council has set aside approximately £30,000 so that these essential works can be undertaken. The granting of a licence to enable the works to be carried out is currently awaited from the internal drainage board.

The Council has applied to North Yorkshire Council to make the roads from the Rugby Club through the village to the crossroads including the area around the Primary School and then along Water End to be a 20mph speed limit. The Councils application is currently with North Yorkshire Council and a decision is awaited. If this can be achieved it will enhance the option of more children walking and cycling safety to school and will also improve the local environment overall.

The Council has joined within Northallerton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council to investigate how local pedestrian and cycle routes can be improved. The routes that have been chosen for review are - Brompton to Northallerton Town Centre, Crosby Road to The Treadmills, Broomfield to the town centre and the Standard Way area.

The route from Brompton to the Town has been chosen as the first priority.

### **Removal of the Middle Bridge at Water End**

Holes in the iron work girder structure running along the chequer-plate surface of the bridge which holds the bridge together were noticed in December 2020. Consequently Brompton Council closed the bridge pending an inspection by a structural engineer whose survey report indicated that 70% of the bridge was rotten.

This closure was on public safety grounds and it was at this time that NYCC confirmed that it was not their bridge.

Any new bridge must meet numerous new conditions imposed by the Environment Agency that were not in existence until more recent years. Any new bridge would need to be substantially widened and raised in height to comply with the 1:100 years flood prevention policies and accessibility law. Total costs of a new bridge could be in the region of £100,000.

As a new bridge was not affordable the Council asked the structural engineer to look again at the old bridge to see if a repair could be made. They had hoped that the remaining 30% of the bridge could be used as good steel to attach new steel girders etc. however the bridge was in such poor condition that it could not be repaired and the only option left was to remove the bridge and carry out remedial work on the paths and bankside to make its safe for the public in future.

The Council carried out its legal duty to remove a dangerous structure in order to protect the public and has put the safety of the community first.

The Council hopes that in the future a local group may be established to apply for grants etc that are not available to Brompton Council but would probably be available to a local voluntary body to finance a replacement bridge.

### **CIL Monies**

The Council has received £141,000 as its Community Infrastructure Levy from the construction of the new houses at the North Northallerton Development. In due

course a public consultation exercise will take place as regards the spending of this money

### **Reporting Local Crime**

Unfortunately many instances of suspected crime are never reported to the Police.

Reports must be made of ALL crimes that occur in the village. There has been a marked increase in crime including Anti-Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage, Drug Dealing, and Burglary in the Northallerton area. We are all responsible, reporting a crime means the chances increase of the offender being caught and brought to justice.

A few months ago there have been instances of the riding of motorcycles on the Greens at Water End. Please be vigilant and report such matters if you see them taking place.

The Police keep records of all crimes and this information goes into the Government statistics and can help to change the way crime is dealt with. Please Do Your Bit And Report Crime. HOW TO REPORT -

IF THE CRIME IS TAKING PLACE NOW 999 – OR CALL 101 IF REPORTING AFTER THE EVENT

GO TO THE POLICE STATION - OR CALL CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111, IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

The Council's PCSO is–

Dougie Beveridge  
Collar Number: 3758  
PCSO  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire Police

Dial 101, press option 2 and ask for Dougie by his full name or collar number. If using the collar number, please state each number individually.

### **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

If you are aware of anyone in the Parish who will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year please send details of their name and address to the Clerk at [Bromptonpc@aol.com](mailto:Bromptonpc@aol.com)

The Council has agreed that it will send a birthday card and flowers to a lady or an appropriate gift to a gentleman who reaches this age in Brompton Parish.

## **The Cemetery**

The Council also acts as the local Burial Authority –

If you are wishing to trace burial details of a relative who is buried in the Cemetery the Clerk is able to answer questions relating to burials in the Cemetery back to the 1930s. Please note that the Clerk does not have the details of persons who are buried in the Churchyard.

The Councils Burial Board section of the web site contains a Burial Plot locator to find burial plots in the Cemetery. If in doubt please contact the Council.

The current burial fees are as follows -

- £385.00 per burial plot
- £165.00 per interment in a burial plot
- £55.00 for Memorials (half size headstones – half fee)
- £110.00 for the purchase of ashes plot
- £55.00 for interment of ashes
- No fee for deceased persons under 16 years of age.

Fees are doubled where the deceased person did not reside within the Parish boundary but in such cases proof is required that the person still has immediate relatives in the Parish, unless they had moved out of the Parish within a period of less than 12 months.

**Please note that ashes plots are now available to any persons who live in the area of the former Hambleton District Council. Up to four lots of family ashes can be interred in each plot.**

For the information of relatives the details of the rules and regulations concerning the erection of headstones and memorials in the Cemetery are set out on the Councils web site.

ANY RELATIVES WHO WISH TO REMOVE A HEADSTONE OR MEMORIAL FROM THE CEMETERY FOR REPAIR OR RE-INSCRIPTION PURPOSES MUST ADVISE THE CLERK OF THEIR INTENTIONS BEFORE ITS REMOVAL.

## **The Council's Budget**

The Council's annual Precept for 2023/24 has been set at £68,000.00. This is a nil percentage Council Tax increase for Brompton Parish residents due to the additional number of houses now in the Parish. Details of all accounts are available for inspection upon request.

## **Use of the Councils Car Park at the Foot of Cockpit Hill**

The car park rules are set out below -

Car park spaces are only be available on a “first come first served basis”. No parking space will be allocated to any particular resident or vehicle.

Only vehicles having current Road Fund Licence and valid Insurance cover will be permitted to park on the land. Any vehicle not complying with the aforesaid will be reported to the Police.

Only vehicles owned by residents of the Parish of Brompton are permitted to park on the land unless visiting a resident for a period of no more than 24 hours.

Only private cars, motorcycles or vans no larger than a SWB Ford Transit may be parked on the land.

The parking of any trailers, camper vans, caravans, horse boxes, tractors, boats or boat trailers is not permitted without the previous written consent of the Council.

In the interests of safety no vehicles are permitted to park alongside the front of the site adjacent to Water End highway.

No vehicle is permitted to park on the unsurfaced two metre strip of land running adjacent to and alongside the beck as this area of land is to be left undeveloped to promote wildlife.

Persons parking vehicles on the site are asked to have due regard to the privacy of the adjoining householder by not sounding the vehicles horn, not slamming doors and only using headlights whilst the vehicle is in motion coming into or leaving the car park.

No maintenance work of any sort may be undertaken on any vehicle whilst it is parked on the car park.

No vehicles are to be advertised as being “For Sale” on the car park site.

The Council will not be responsible in any form for the loss of any vehicle, or damage caused to any vehicle by whatever cause, or the loss of property from any vehicle whilst it is parked on the land.

The only driving permitted of a vehicle on the land will be to park or move a vehicle from the car park.

Please take care when exiting the car park.

### **Roundup News (Brompton Wildlife Action Group)**

It was a busy Spring for both volunteers and nature with work undertaken across both the Water End wildlife area and the village to enhance our natural environment with -

**\*house martin** nest boxes distributed

**\*owl and bird boxes** erected in the wildlife area



\***spring bulbs** planted in front of the Rugby Club, Station Road, Corber Hill and Little Lane Lead Lane- this planting continues to expand annually

\***annual wild flower seeds** of poppy and cornflowers sown

\***tree planting**- 2 golden weeping willow, corkscrew hazel and willows, bird cherry and several birch and rowan

\* **hedge thickening**- the existing village green boundary hedge in Water End with mixed hedging to include ever green- cover for birds

\***identifying other areas** across the village where we can enhance habitats for wildlife

\***autumn bulb planting**

Future Projects -

\*replacement tree planting as work to remove dead or diseased trees continues

\*tree tag trail- a collaboration between Northallerton College students and BTC using QR codes

\*habitat creation- ongoing collaboration work between both Brompton Primary School, Men's Shed and BTC

We have a resident barn owl! Regularly spotted gracing the fields at North of Water End

If you would like to get involved and be on our ever expanding list of BWAG'ers, please contact [bromptonpc@aol.com](mailto:bromptonpc@aol.com) - whatever time you have to offer- we can find you a job 😊

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS ALSO ON THE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE - [Bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://Bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk)**

**Finally** – Meetings of the Council are held monthly in The Methodist Church commencing at 7.15pm(for an experimental period of six months), usually on the third Tuesday of each month. However very occasionally the date of the monthly meeting needs to be changed from the third Tuesday of the month to an alternative date.

Public questions must be submitted by noon on the day before the Council meetings. The Council reserves the right to respond to public questions in writing.

Council meetings are open to the local electors to attend but are not public meetings. However the Council meetings will be opened for a maximum of 10 minutes early on the agenda for Members of the public who wish to speak regarding items **within the remit of the Council**.

An Annual 'Parish Assembly' is held in April each year to enable residents to hear reports about matters relating to the Parish and to provide an opportunity for discussions on topics of general interest.

In effect the Annual Parish Assembly is a meeting of residents at which Councillors attend and to which the Chairman of the Council makes an annual report and the Responsible Financial Officer makes a financial report.

The Annual Meeting of the Council is held in May.

Mr P Atkin  
Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer  
Brompton Town Council  
c/o 61 Quaker Lane  
Northallerton, DL6 1EE

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