

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 10th October 2023

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

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

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M Shiel Dods, S O'Sullivan, Mrs R Smith and NY Councillor S Watson.

Councillors Langthorne and Robinson declared interests in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That, subject to the following amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September, 2023 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record -

- (i) Under item 5 Public Participation - amend to read

Councillor Watson who had Chaired the recent meeting between the BRG and Brompton Junior Football Club, remarked that the football clubs general attitude at the recent meeting had not been initially acceptable due to a number of misconceptions.

- (ii) Item 16 (iii) is incorrect to read:

It was also reported that the hedge alongside the Wildlife Area of the Sports Village (ie, on the Brompton side of North Moor Road) had recently been cut on the inside and the outside.

Councillor Kelly arrived at 7.20pm.

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

- (i) Sports Village.

Responses received from NYC in italics regarding the issues raised from the last Council meeting -

1. When will there be a consultation with local sports clubs as to what their needs are as regards the pitches? - not just the football clubs but such as hockey clubs and other local sporting organisations. *Yes, further consultation will be taking place with local sports clubs to inform future planning for the site, but we don't have any timescales for this at present.*

2. Is there any indication yet as to what sports are to be provided for? - Brompton Council feels that this should include hockey and tennis as football seems to be quite well provided for in the locality. *No, there is no current indication of what sports will be provided for at this stage, it will depend on what comes out of the consultation.*

3. What will the consultation period be? - Councillors have been asked this several times. *I can't answer this at the moment – the Council is currently undertaking a Strategic Leisure Review and we will need to wait to see what comes out of this before we can move into a consultation phase.*

4. Is funding in hand for 3G pitches and will their use be for other than football? *No funding has been sourced or secured yet for future phases. In terms of what sport provision will be included will depend on the consultation.*

5. How many clubs and teams is it anticipated will be using the sports village? *At the moment we know that Park Run and Sunday Football Leagues will be using the site, plus those existing clubs who access the leisure centre and the all weather pitch.*

6. Before the Sports Village is opened to the public there will be a lot of tidying up to do - eg reinstating broken fences - I see that overgrown hedges have very recently been cut back. Will all such works be carried out before the land is handed over? *There is a maintenance plan in place for the site – and work is planned on tidying up the hedges (I have a meeting next Thursday with our contractors to discuss our needs). Are the broken fences you have mentioned the ones that are on the main road on the bridge? If so, these are not our responsibility. There are number of areas of concern around the bridge area (broken access road, broken fencing, graffiti, overgrown landscaping etc.) but these are the responsibility of the developer. We are currently trying to engage with them regarding the graffiti but not having much luck. Colleagues from the Highways Department are helping us with this and I can update you when we have engaged with the developers if that is helpful?*

A Councillor had subsequently made the following comment –

Even though consultation is still to take place someone has already made the decision that there will be yet more football pitches so how much land will there be left to consult about?

(ii) St Thomas's Church Wall.

The Clerk reported that confirmation had been received from York Diocese of permission to carry out the reinstatement works to the Church wall. The Stonemason had advised the Clerk that he was currently programming a start date for the repair work.

In the meantime the Clerk had made a comprehensive visual inspection of the Church wall in the past week and was of the view that there had been no significant deterioration since the structural survey had been carried out.

(iii) The BRG and Brompton Junior Football Club.

Matters were still on-going. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk having been kept informed of the situation.

(iv) Repairs to the Leaky Dams.

The Internal Drainage Board had granted the licence to carry out the works to the leaky dams and tractors were be cutting out the watercourse in the current week and repairs to the dams would start on Monday 16th October. AGREED – That the Contractors be asked to take photos of the completed works so that they can be placed on the Councils website.

(v) St Thomas's Information Plinth.

The Clerk had spotted two Australian visitors trying with little success to read the information plinth on Church Green which was obliterated with dirt, bird droppings etc and went down the next morning and gave the board a good clean.

(vi) Overgrown Hedges.

The Clerk reported that two properties on De Bruce Road had been written to ask them to cut their hedges. Both were overhanging nearly half of the footpath, with one hedge being particularly bad as it was a 10' high Leylandii which was completely out of control.

Another hedge that had been of concern on Northallerton Road had been cut back on the previous weekend.

- (vii) Felling of Tree on Water End Green opposite 52 Water End.

Concerned residents had been informed that it is planned to fell this Lime tree on the 1st November.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

- (i) Mrs B Slater reported that no progress had been made with the BJFC regarding the signing of the Service Level Agreement. This matter had been on-going since the 14th August and the draft Agreement had been backwards and forwards several times as BJFC wished to see amendments made to it. The BRG had agreed that it would not make any amendments and had informed BJFC that if they were unable to sign the SLA without any amendments then there was no other option than to cease football on the 15th October and to remove the metal container by November 15th.

The Councils Vice-Chairman commented on the good work that the BRG was currently doing.

It was understood that BJFC was holding a meeting on the following Sunday.

The Clerk had been advised of the link to the Persimmon community champions page and had forwarded this to Mrs Slater.

5. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON.

Councillor Steve Watson had forwarded his report to the Clerk before the meeting -

Sports Village – nothing much to add to Lisa Wilsons response reported to the last Council meeting.

Am awaiting the return of a legal document from Taylor Wimpey with the land transfer being imminent.

Hedge being cut back on advice of specialist to provide a better environment for wildlife long term.

Lamp near Cotswold Street – replacement lamp due to be fitted 17th October.

Sign – contractor being chased up by Taylor Wimpey.

The Council's 20mph query was awaiting a reply from the NY Transport Portfolio Holder Councillor Keane Duncan. Councillor Watson stated that he could have funding within my locality budget for another VAS sign if needed.

With regard to new play equipment a question had been raised by a resident with Councillor Watson regarding the height of the new climbing frame and privacy. The Clerk reported that no-one had contacted BTC in this respect therefore he could not add anything further. The comment was made that the original slide had probably been higher than the new gym equipment.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/09/2023 to 30/09/2023
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	1 Reports

Anti-Social Personal	1 Reports
Total	2 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	2 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	7 Reports
Other crimes inc. Drugs	1 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	2 Reports
Total	12 Reports

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

The Vice-Chairman had repaired the litter bin in the Recreation Ground and had picked up the broken glass that had been around the play area the previous weekend. The Clerk remarked that broken glass had been a regular occurrence in the play area in the past but none had been recorded during 2023 to date.

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 9TH October.

Quotations had been received from Snowballs for land at foot of Cockpit Hill –

Quotation to supply and install 4no bollards (Manchester style) and road marking hatchings to roadway in front of 2no bollards - £1785 + VAT. – bollards being for Cockpit Hill and on corner outside The Three Horse Shoes.

Quotation tarmac surfacing works to parking area at front of cottages - £4780 + VAT

Recommended - That the quotation received from Snowballs for the supply and installation of 4 bollards in the sum of £1,785.00 + VAT to be positioned at the foot of Cockpit Hill and outside the Three Horse Shoes be accepted.

Councillor Carter undertook to inform Snowballs accordingly.

Recommended - That the works in respect of the quotation received from Snowballs for tarmac the area of spare land at the foot of Cockpit Hill in the sum of £4,780.00 + VAT be deferred until the next financial year and that Mr D Langthorne in the meantime clear the overgrowth as had been originally intended.

Recommended - That the Vice-Chairman and Clerk inspect the climbing frame to ascertain if it is worthwhile cleaning and powder-coating and that if it is then it be offered as a donation to the Primary School.

Councillor Hazelwood pointed out that it would not be possible to inspect the inside of the steel frame tubing for the climbing frame to access its condition and therefore its condition could not be guaranteed. Consequently if the climbing frame was offered for donation to the Primary School it needed to be pointed out that there was an element of risk as the climbing frame was 23 years old. Councillor Kelly undertook to speak to the Headteacher.

Recommended - That once the outdoor gym equipment had undergone it's inspection then the Clerk arrange for it to be officially opened to the public inviting the Press, Councillor Watson and Councillor Hazelwood.

Recommended - That at the present time the only works to be carried out at the car park be the clearance of vegetation so that the Council is aware of what overall works would then need to be carried out.

Recommended - That the Clerk enquire if the local Wildlife Consultant can carry out a survey and provide a management report for the sum in the current budget.

Councillor Briginshaw reported that overall cutting of the wildlife area would not be carried out at present as two barn owls were in the vicinity attracted to rodents in the overgrowth.

Recommended - That the Clerk ask Snowballs for an estimate of the costs of breaking up and removing the top path at the Cemetery.

Recommended - That the Clerk ask Streetscape, Wicksteed and Produlic for quotations to supply and fit new swings in the Recreation Ground and for a new climbing frame and additional play equipment at Water End, including any necessary safety surfacing.

It was suggested that Pennine Playgrounds be also contacted in due course and this was agreed.

AGREED – That the decisions of the Finance Group as set out above be approved.

A Councillor expressed concerns that the Finance Group had made decisions without other Councillors having had the opportunity to engage in discussion of the matters in respect of which decisions had been made.

It was clarified that the decisions of the Finance Group were recommendations put before the full Council for endorsement and that any Councillor could raise any issues in respect of them. Another Councillor pointed out that if the matters referred to the Finance Group came individually to full Council for debate then the Council meetings would go on for an unacceptable length of time.

- (ii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

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

No meeting held this month but all on-going.

- (iv) Joint Pedestrian/ Cycling Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

9. PLANNING MATTERS.

- (i) Decisions.

ZB23/01485/ADV – Advertisement consent of 1 aluminium sign on steel posts at Taylor Wimpey Thurston Park Development North Northallerton Phase 1A Land at Stokesley Road – Granted.

- (v) Applications.

ZB23/01973/FUL – Application to replace ridge tiles, parapets and replace flash banding material with lead flashing at 10 Lead Lane – No objections.

ZB23/01974/LBC - Application to replace ridge tiles, parapets and replace flash banding material with lead flashing at 10 Lead Lane – No objections

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

North Yorkshire Council (2nd half-yearly Precept)	34,000.00
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Payments –

CE +CM Walker (September grasscutting)	1,648.80
P Atkin (Expenses)	31.74
P Atkin (Salary)	384.28
HMRC (PAYE)	96.00
PFK Littlejohn LLP (External Audit fee)	756.00
TP Jones and Co LLP (Quarterly payroll)	59.40
PlayEquip Ltd (Fitness Equipment signage)	198.00
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping)	45.00
Mrs M Shiel Dods (Reimbursement for bulbs)	249.36
Mr D Langthorne (Labour – various)	195.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire)	60.00
Mrs A Trehitt (Annual Allotment Rent)	1,200.00
The Royal British Legion (Wreath for Remembrance Day)	100.00
Sam Turners and Sons Ltd (Sealant, Adhesive + Bolts)	17.86
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	27.41 *

*Paid by Direct Debit

Bank Balances - As at 3 October 2023

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £81,793.13

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £141,697.51

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

External Audit

The Clerk reported that the External Auditors had issued their opinion on the audit of the 2022/23 accounts as follows -

“On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper

Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention to the authority – “None”

Several issues had been raised during the course of the audit by the initial investigating auditor and with John Robinsons assistance all were satisfactorily answered.

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

It was reported that the adult gym equipment should shortly be ready for public use after an independent safety inspection had been carried out. Information boards informing as to the use of the individual items of equipment had been ordered. Councillor Hazelwood reported that there may be a small additional charge to be paid.

AGREED - That (i) as the next grass cut would be the last of the season until next year the lock would need to be taken off the gate so that the grasscutters could get into the field; and, (ii) the safety mats from under the climbing frame be put into storage.

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

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - 41864 - Cockpit Hill - The Closure had taken place for a period of 1 day on 6th October 2023 for pothole patching works.

Speed Limit at New Bridge.

NY Highways response to Councillor Watson –

“I understand you have raised a query regarding a 30mph sign on the new bridge at North Northallerton. We had requested the developer take this down because speed limit repeater signs are not permitted where you have a system of street lighting in place. There was a concern over being able to enforce the speed limit with that sign in place so it has been removed, the post will be taken down in due course as well”

Councillors commented that the situation was a complete nonsense.

20's Plenty Branch Meeting - Thursday 21 September 2023

The report of the meeting appears in the Monthly Update.

ARGEED- That – (i) The Clerk contact NY Highways and ask that The Green and Water End areas be machine swept especially as there were considerable amounts of conkers on the roads;

(ii) the Clerk also ask NY Highways why the road markings outside the School had not yet been renewed as this work had been promised during the School Summer holidays.

13. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA - Including Future Management Programme for the Wildlife Area.

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who had informed him that their Wilder Team should be able to provide advice as regards someone who could look at and draw up a management plan for the future development of the wildlife area at Water End.

Councillor Briginshaw reported that she was currently dealing with the Bio diversity Team at the Environment Agency regarding beck side planting, possibly with hazel and willow to provide a canopy over the beck.

With regard to bulb planting these had been recently ordered but as it was considered that there was sufficient planting on the Green at Water End the priority was to continue the bulb planting in the Rugby Club area.

Councillor Briggins Shaw reported that she would get volunteers to help with the bulb planting.

As regards the new wildlife area at the North Northallerton Development it was AGREED – That Councillor Watson be asked to find out what the intentions of North Yorkshire Council are as regards future weed killing and the planting of wildlife flowers.

14. DATE OF REFRESHER TRAINING SESSION FOR COUNCILLORS.

The Clerk reported that more responses from Councillors as to their preferences for an evenings session in November were still needed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting.

The Meeting of the Hambleton Branch of the YLCA would be held on Wednesday, 18 October at 7.00pm via Zoom.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7.15pm

(ii) Holly adjacent to Path alongside the Recreation Ground.

It was noted that the overgrown holly bush reported on the village walk round at the Methodist Church had still not been cut back. Mr Paul Walker who was present at the meeting undertook to see that this would be done.

(iii) Hedge Cutting.

It was reported that the hedge about which there had been concerns on Northallerton Road had been cut back and a good job had been made.

(iv) New Bridge - Pedestrian/ Cycling Use.

It was noted that the lanes for pedestrians and cyclists had not been separately marked out over the new bridge.

(v) Water End – Information Boards.

Councillor Briggins Shaw reported that she had collected the two new information boards to be placed at the viewing platforms at Water End.

17. BURIAL MATTERS.

No funerals have taken place in the past month.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

