

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 20th February 2024

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs S Briggshaw, Mr J Hazelwood, Mrs E Kelly, Mrs M Shiel Dods (in the Chair), Mr M Langthorne, Mrs A Robinson and Mrs R Smith.

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carter and NY Councillor Steve Watson.

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 24th January, 2024 having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. CO-OPTED VACANCY.

The vacancy was currently advertised on the notice boards around the village, on the Council's web site and on the Facebook Northallerton Noticeboard page. The Clerk added that one expression of interest had been received and Councillor Smith reminded the Clerk that there had been another person who had expressed an interest before the vacancy had been announced. The Clerk undertook to follow this up.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

(i) Virgin Media Works

The Clerk had met on site with the Virgin Media on the 6th February.

The connection bollard was to go on The Green but that didn't seem appropriate as the trees and roots could affect it and the digging up to install the bollard could also affect the trees.

The connection bollard would therefore be positioned just off the highway on The Green adjacent to The Pinfold where it didn't interfere with any trees or with the grasscutting.

The Clerk had asked that the terminal box that was to go next to the Zoom box near the bus shelter be green to match the others and not the usual Virgin Media grey and they had agreed to this. AGREED – That the actions taken in this matter be endorsed.

(ii) Felling of Sycamore Tree in the Churchyard.

Contrary to the decision at the last meeting of the Council to fell this tree to ground level it was subsequently decided to leave the tree at the height originally decided upon due to the increasing costs of further removal and the fact that this work was taking up essential time when it was necessary to be carrying out hedge cutting works before the cut-off date. Although it was accepted that some rot may occur due to the ingress of rain water into the large branches that remain it was considered that this would not be a problem for well over 20 years and perhaps many years beyond that. AGREED – That the actions taken in this matter be endorsed.

(iii) Proposed Ecclesiastical Parish Boundary Changes

The Clerk had met with the York Diocese representative on the 26th January concerning the change of the ecclesiastical boundaries between Northallerton and Brompton.

In effect this removed the whole of the new Persimmon estate and adjoining agricultural land from the Brompton PCC area and placed in with Northallerton PCC.

The Vicar of All Saints Church would then have responsibility for that area and Reverend Cooper would be given additional rural parishes.

This did not however affect where people would be buried in any way as that followed the BTC/NTC local authority boundaries.

Councillors as members of Brompton Burial Board viewed plans of the proposals at the Council meeting so that they were aware of the proposal as the York Diocese was required to consult.

AGREED – That no objections be raised to the proposals.

(iv) Bollards at Corner of The Three Hose Shoes.

The Clerk reported that the contractor had put the barriers up ready to start work but had been called away to another job and had therefore removed the barriers. Since then they had been unable to carry out the works whilst Virgin Media were working in that area.

(v) Broken Glass in the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk had removed a large quantity of broken plate glass early on the previous Friday morning from all around the Recreation Ground.

(vi) Church Wall.

The Clerk reported that reinstatement works were proceeding well and the skip on Church Green on the Northallerton Road side was for the removal of all the spoil from the church wall repairs.

(vii) Faulty Street Light – Hilton Close.

NY Councillor Steve Watson was pursuing the repair of the street light on the Northallerton Road/Hilton Close junction. This light had been paid for by Brompton Council in 2020 and taken over by the former HDC. The light had not worked for some time and NYC had no record of it but it was clear that BTC paid an extra sum of money to cover on-going energy and repair charges so that the light could be taken over by HDC. Obviously this information had not been passed onto the successor Authority.

(vii) Rats at the Allotments.

The Chairman reported that there was once again instances of rats at the allotments site and therefore she was currently contacting the NY Councils pest control services to see what action could be taken and would be meeting with an officer shortly.

5. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON

Councillor Watson was unable to attend the meeting due to a family matter but had advised that at the NY Council meeting during the current week he would raise the issues of the CIL grant applications and the transport monies.

It was AGREED that a letter be sent to the D+S Times regarding the missing £500,000 for new bus services if there has still been no progress in finding where the money gone.

Questions raised during the meeting for the Clerk to send to Councillor Watson -

Why isn't the new allotments site at the Sports Village open yet?

What is happening about the consultation process on the next stage of the Sports Village?

Apparently there was a pond mistakenly dug out at the Thurston Road side of the new estate and has just been left as it was in the wrong place - what is happening about filling it in?

What is the progress on the new wildlife area off North Moor Road?

What the update was on the safety report on North Moor Road which was supposed to be happening in December 2023 along with results of the traffic survey that was carried out.

The traffic lights adjacent to the Aldi site on North Moor Road have been going onto red consistently recently when there is no traffic about - can this be sorted please.

The Council asked the Clerk to express its thanks to Councillor for sorting out the hedge at the new Sports Village on Northallerton Road.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No public questions were raised under this item on the agenda.

7. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/01/2024 to 31/01/2024
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	9 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	2 Reports
Total	11 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	8 Reports
Other crimes inc. Drugs	7 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	1 Reports
Total	18 Reports

The Police had advised that there was a specific reason which they were dealing with for the large increase in incidents compared with recent months.

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

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had attended the recent Local Transport event held at Northallerton Town Hall. The event had been well attended by residents but most were of the older generation. The Clerk reported that Northallerton Town Council was engaging with Northallerton School and College to address this. The main concerns raised were about the lack of bus services especially as this restricted people from the villages from getting into town.

The Vice-Chairman had also been very busy carrying out works at the allotments.

9. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 5th February.

The Chairman and Councillor Robinson signed the NY Locality Budget return form so that the grant of £2,000 towards new goalposts at the BRG field could be paid into the Councils bank account. This would be done when the money was paid into the Councils bank account.

The Clerk had received correspondence from the HSBC Bank which would hopefully lead to the receipt of a sum of £2,026.47 being the monies held by the bank from the former Middleton Whittaker Charity.

The Group had had a preliminary look at the budget heads for the financial year 2024/25.

Coxon Brothers had been asked to supply estimates for taking out the bends at the leaky dams. This work being subject to the receipt of CIL Grant monies from NYC.

The quotations from play equipment companies for works in the Recreation Ground would be available prior to the March meeting of the Finance Group.

The grasscutting tender for the 2024 grasscutting season had been received from CE+CM Walkers with a 4.7% increase on the 2023 tender at £862.80 per cut. RECOMMENDED - That the tender be accepted.

The Clerk to ask Hillside Tree Surgeons to invoice the Council for as much tree and hedge works as possible by the time of the March Council meeting.

The Clerk to remind Swaledale Stonemasonry that the amount to be invoiced for with regard to the Church Wall in the current financial year is to be no greater than £13,000 inclusive of VAT with the remainder being invoiced for in the next financial year.

The Clerk to arrange with the Councils insurers to add the adult outdoor gym equipment to the Councils insurance policy.

As regards the Allotments RECOMMENDED - That the Council pay for the installation of the water butts.

RECOMMENDED - That a donation of £100 be made to The Methodist Church towards the costs of work to the floor.

That the Clerk make enquires about the future maintenance of the four Defibrillators in the village.

That the BRG Committee be asked to submit a Business Plan outlining its financial needs for the future.

Works to the car park be only for clearance works is the sum of £2,000.

The following be projects -

BRG - Goal posts and Linen Mill plate.

Cemetery - Path, drainage and sunken graves.

Wildlife areas - Village Green + the School

Notice Board at the Wildlife area to be moved back to the path at the Water Splash.

In 2024/35 dog/litter bins be provided at the Rugby Club and at the entrance to Lodge Lane.

Councillors BTC email addresses be set up for when the new banking arrangements come in.

The Finance Group to in future meet on the Tuesday in the week before the monthly Council meetings.

The meeting was informed that the setting up of the Unity Trust Bank account was progressing well.

AGREED – That- (i) the recommendations of the Finance Group as set out above be accepted, and (ii) that Councillor Kelly be placed on the signatory list for the Unity Trust Bank along with the Chairman and Councillor Robinson in view of the fact that Councillor Carter would be away until May and that this matter be again considered on Councillor Carter's return.

(ii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

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

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

Tenders for works in the Recreation Ground were currently awaited; two having been received to date.

(iv) Joint Pedestrian/ Cycling Working Group.

Summary of Local Transport events held in Northallerton Town Hall on Saturday 10th February. A more detailed report will be submitted to the March Council meeting.

Area Concerned

Future transport priorities for Northallerton.

Summary

Following a recently held Northallerton-wide transport event in the Town Hall, this report provides initial feedback and considers the next steps.

Information

Northallerton Town Council, jointly with Brompton and Romanby Councils, recently hosted a successful transport event in the Town Hall, the principal objective of which was to help guide the future of transport in Northallerton and the surrounding area. It is also necessary, in the short term, to influence the development of the new Local Transport Plan, currently being developed by North Yorkshire Council, and the upcoming Mayoral elections.

It should be noted that additional support was provided at the Town Hall event by North Yorkshire Council, Hambleton Strollers and bus user groups.

The event was well attended by over 150 local residents providing a wide range of valuable comments and suggestions relating to all forms of transport throughout the town.

To ensure the full success of the event is built upon, the following actions are proposed:

- A summary report of all the comments/suggestions is prepared and circulated to all stakeholders, including North Yorkshire Council to assist in the development of its County wide Local Transport Plan.
- The report be sent to all York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayoral candidates, as the successful candidate will have responsibility for future transport improvements.
- Discussions to take place with Northallerton School and Sixth Form College to consider how the views of younger residents could be sought.

(v) YLCA Hambleton Branch Meeting – 14th February 2024.

The report of the meeting appears in the Monthly Update.

9. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions

ZB23/0206/MRC – Variation of conditions regarding occupancy of dwelling limited to a person employed locally in agriculture or forestry or dependents at Northfields Bungalow, Long Lone – Refused.

ZB23/02516/FUL – Installation of dropped kerb to allow access to the driveway at front of dwelling at Corber Hill - Granted

(ii) Applications

ZB24/00119/FUL – Replacement door and storm porch cover – 8 Manor Court – No objections.

ZB23/02288/FUL – Retrospective construction of an agricultural storage area and possible workshop – Newstead Bungalow, Deighton Lane – AGREED - To inform NY Planning that the Council is of the view that this planning application should not be determined until full details of the possible workshop have been submitted as there are various distinctions between uses of workshops - whether this is a domestic workshop or something else, perhaps commercial, is however unknown in this case.

ZB24/00288/FUL – Erection of 3 Detached Dwellings and Provision of Associated Domestic Curtilage – Lombardy, 89A Northallerton Road – No objections subject to the views of NY Highways.

(iii) Enforcement Action.

Removal of solar panels at 1 Cockpit Hill – The Clerk reported that the necessary report had been drafted and submitted to NYC Legal Department and that the Enforcement Officer would inform BTC when the Enforcement Notice had been issued.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

Nil

Payments –

Sam Turner and Sons (Road salt + Barrier tap)	66.12
Brompton Methodist Church (Room hire)	120.00
Brompton Methodist Church (Donation towards floor repairs)	100.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	47.95
P Atkin (Salary)	429.38
HMRC (PAYE)	107.20
Hillside Tree Surgeons (removal of tree in Churchyard + hedge works)	2,100.00
Mr D Langthorne (Various works)	685.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire + transportation of storage tanks)	372.00

Brompton Town Council (Chequ to open Unity Trust Bank Account)	500.00
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	27.41 *

Bank Balances at 2nd February

Current Ac't - £200.00

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £38,668.26

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £142,190.93

AGREED

- That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.

12. LOCAL BUS SERVICES.

AGREED – That if no positive response on the matter is received from Councillor Watson a letter or article be placed in the Darlington and Stockton Times.

14. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

(i) Road Closures.

PLANNED ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION - SW-19187-The Green,Brompton

The Closure will be in place for a period of 5 days between 26th February 2024 and 1st March 2024 to allow for fibre installation works on behalf of Avonline Network Services Ltd

(i) Meeting of Town/Parish Councils held at Area 2 Highways Office on 13th February 2024.

The report of the meeting appears in the Monthly Update.

Councillor Hazelwood left the meeting at 7.52pm

15. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

Councillors were to meet at the wildlife area at Water End and at the School with MAB Ecological of Thirsk on the 23rd February.

Councillor Briginshaw reported that she had listened on a bird watch App at Water End and had found 25 different species of birds including a gold finch, a jay and a barn owl. Councillor Briginshaw undertook to prepare an article on this for the Darlington and Stockton Times.

Councillor Kelly showed a video of an otter that was swimming in the stream at Walkers field on the day of the meeting.

16. GRASSCUTTING TENDER – 2024 GRASSCUTTING SEASON

TENDER AGREED - See recommendation of the Finance Group above.

17. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Parking on Hilton Green

The Clerk reported that a request had been received asking that the Council remove parts of the grassed area on the northern side of Hilton Green to provide more car parking. The resident had been asked to refer their request to Broadacres Housing Association.

(ii) Letter of Complaint.

The Clerk had received a very lengthy email from an unhappy resident who had just moved into Brompton saying that Brompton Council must do much better and listing numerous complaints about housing matters. The Clerk had informed the resident that the property that they occupied came under Broadacres Housing Association and not Brompton Council.

(iii) Step next to the Dance School.

A lady had tripped over the step in the dark next to the Recreation Ground leading to the path along to The Methodist Church. AGREED – That the step be painted a light colour so that is visible in the dark

(iv) St Thomas' Church - Request to Plant Daffodils and Flower Beds in the St Thomas' Church Yard.

Received from the Parochial Church Council -

Time has passed by very quickly since our request to plant daffodils in the St Thomas' Church Yard (February 2021) and we would like to get this and some small flower beds (directly outside the main church entrance) underway as soon as possible.

It was proposed that we plant the daffodils on Sunday 20 October after 9 am service and plant the flower beds over the spring/summer months. We will be mindful of the grass cutters when deciding on the size of the flower/shrub beds.

AGREED – That the Council make no objections to this proposal.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of Next Meeting.

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.15pm.

(ii) Bins on Thurston Park Estate.

Councillor Smith reported that the part of the estate where people walked their dogs had no dog or litter bins. There was however the issue that the estate was not yet adopted. However it was AGREED - That Councillor Smith inform the Clerk as to where the bins should be located so that the matter could be looked into further.

(iii) Drainage – Thurston Park Estate.

Councillor Smith reported that following the very heavy recent rainfall there appeared to be no issues with drainage on the Thurston Park estate. It was not however known if any works had been carried out to assist with this.

Councillor Smith left the meeting at 8.10pm.

(iv) Christmas Lights.

The Chairman pointed to the need to use the shed in the Cemetery which was full of the Christmas lights that had been acquired from Northallerton Town Council. It had been ascertained that many

were as had been previously determined only useful for parts otherwise they would be scrap. Since acquisition it was also the view that they were too large for Brompton.

The Clerk undertook to liaise with the Vice-Chairman and a local scrap dealer to remove the lights that were not serviceable and the Clerk also undertook to take away the lights that had most probably never been used.

(v) Linen Mill Chimney Plaque.

The Vice-Chairman mentioned that the plaque would be better with the sign at the top of the plate rather than at the bottom due to its weight.

The Clerk undertook to ascertain if there were any photos of the chimney that showed the plaque.

(i) Climbing Frame.

AGREED - That Councillor Kelly ask the School if they want the climbing frame.

19. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk reported that two burials were scheduled to take place in the next week.

There were a number of graves to be topped up when the weather improved.

Several enquiries had been raised about family histories of persons buried in the Cemetery; the Clerk was working his way through them included meeting with relatives in the Cemetery.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had removed the Christmas wreaths from the Cemetery having completely filled the blue trade waste bin with more put aside ready for the next collection. He had also collected a number of broken glass jars that had been used for flowers on graves.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm