

**Minutes of the Annual Brompton Town Parish Assembly held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 16th April 2024**

PRESENT – Councillors S Brigginslaw, M Shiel Dods (in the Chair), E Kelly, M Langthorne, A Robinson and R Smith

There were 2 members of the public present at the meeting together with Councillor Steve Watson.

**1. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held on the Thursday 20th April 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, as circulated, to be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

The Chairman reported to the meeting as follows -

Thanking Councillor Steve Watson, the Clerk and Mr J Robinson for their work and support to the Council throughout the previous year.

Also reported the recent death of Mrs Margaret Chandler who had served on the Council for 33 years until 2027.

Successes -

At the start of the year in April 2023 the Council made strong representations to Rishi Sunak about the intended closure of the ticket offices at railway stations including the one at Northallerton Station. Considerable objections nationally resulted in the planned closure of the ticket offices being cancelled.

The changes in the rail timetables that would have adversely affected train services at Northallerton rail station were also overturned.

The Council is looking forward to getting improved bus services.

The Council has joined with Northallerton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council with regard to moving forward local issues of concern to pedestrians and cyclists. On the 9th February the three Councils held a Local Transport Event in Northallerton Town Hall which was well attended by members of the public. Residents were asked to put forward their views and concerns about local transport issues and these have been compiled into a report which has been submitted to North Yorkshire Council and that Councils Transport Portfolio Holder Councillor Keane Duncan.

Substantial repair works have been undertaken to the Church Wall over the past few months at a cost of around £16,000. Whilst periodic repair works have been carried out over the years it is ten years since major reinstatement works were last undertaken. It is hoped that it will be at least another ten years before any major works will be needed again.

Following on from the receipt of a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All the Council installed the adult outdoor gym equipment in the Recreation Ground during the Autumn. The equipment is one of the few of its kind in this area.

Also in the Recreation Ground a contract has very recently been let for the replacement of the toddler swings which are around 60 years old and also to carry out several reinstatement works such as renewal of safety surfacing to various items of play equipment.

The Council has engaged an Ecological Company to draw up a management plan for the future maintenance of the area of Green north of the Water Splash. The report is currently awaited.

Bollards have recently been installed on the corner outside the Three Horse Shoes so that vehicles cannot park on the corner on the cobbles and obstruct the view of motorists emerging from the Cockpit Hill direction.

Bollards have also been installed on Cockpit Hill to provide a crossing point for pedestrians.

Tree works around the village continue year on year due to the Council being responsible for the maintenance of nearly 200 mature trees many of which overhang the highways.

Expenditure annually on tree works and grasscutting accounts for a substantial part of the Councils budget with £23,500 being allocated for this next financial year.

Over a period of time the leaky dams that had been paid for and installed by the former Brompton Flood Group had fallen into disrepair and were no longer effective. In addition the drainage channel that leads from the beck near the road bridge at the foot of Cockpit Hill to the rear of the school had become overgrown and had flattened out and was no longer able to divert flood waters.

The works to reinstate the drainage channel and repair the leaky dams were carried out last Autumn budget at a cost of over £30,000 from the Councils own budget. The Council is also putting monies into its budget annually as a maintenance sum for future repairs to the leaky dams.

The Environment Agency advised that the best flood alleviation method to eliminate future risks of flooding would be to re-profile the beck along Water End but the estimated costs of this work would be at least £1.8m and the Environment Agency was not in a position to contribute towards the costs.

Broken drains in the Cemetery will need to be repaired this current year.

The Council has very recently moved to on-line banking,

Disappointments -

After a period of many months the Planning Inspectorate eventually made a visit to the Scot Pit Lane site to assist in its determination as to whether Scot Pit Lane should be added to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. The Council and residents have consistently advocated over many years for Scot Pit Lane to be open for public use as a right of way.

Unfortunately the Planning Inspectorate determined on the basis of all of the evidence submitted to it not to support the application and it is highly unlikely that the position will change at any time in the future.

### 3. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer reported that the Councils financial position was as follows -

	<b>31 March 2022</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>	<b>23 March 2024</b>
	£	£	£
Balances Brought Forward –	5,642	35,212	60,659

Precept -	54,000	62,000	68,000
Other receipts -	23,936	6,300	82,550
Staff costs -	4,876	5,831	6,462
Payments -	43,490	54,065	115,310
Balances carried forward -	35,212	200,142	163,327

The first half yearly Precept for 2024/25 in the sum of £38,000 was expected in the next few days.

The Councils aim was to retain the equivalent of ones years Precept in the Bank at year end as a contingency for the unexpected.

The Total Expenditure anticipated last year was £118,300 and this turned out to be very close at £117,100. The income received in the last financial year was £78.800 which was lower than had been anticipated.

31 March 2025 – Anticipated –

Total Expenditure – £79,500

Income - £87,200.

Precepts -

2020/21 - £45,000

2021/22 - £54,000

2022/23 - £62,000

2023/24 - £68,000 – NIL increase due to new houses

2024/25 - £76,000

VAT reimbursement again accounted for a significant proportion of the Councils income at £7,500.

During the year repairs to the Church wall, tree works, resolving flood issues and grasscutting alone would amount to over £70,000.

The CIL monies received from the North Northallerton Development had been placed in a separate bank account as it was not anticipated that there would be any expenditure from this money during the current financial year.

Burial income was once again very low compared with the traditional levels prior to Covid.

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

No questions were raised by the public.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm