

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 18th June 2024

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

There were three members of the public present at the meeting including NY Councillor Steve Watson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies for absence were received, all Councillors being present at the meeting. .

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 21st May, 2024 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON

Councillor Watson reported that he was still trying to obtain the traffic data regarding the use of the new bridge and the level crossing and would be following this up with NY Highways tomorrow.

As regards the issue of the Councils 20mph application to date he had heard nothing back from NY Highways.

The local bus services had gone out to consultation and had resulted in a significant cut back and it had been found not possible to divert other services to the North Northallerton development due to tight schedules. Councillor Watson had put another suggestion forward to cover the new development to NYC but they had been reluctant to implement it.

The issue was to be raised at the meeting of the Area Constituency Committee on the 17th June but the matter had not been considered as it was during purdah and Councillor Watson had therefore asked that the matter be considered at the next meeting of the Area Committee in September. He would also continue to follow up what had happened to the funding money for new bus services.

A Councillor commented that it could be possible to alter the Richmond bus route to cover North Moor Road.

When further houses were built on the east side of Stokesley Road there would be a need for additional bus services not less.

A meeting was to be held in the first week of July with all parties about the Sports Village including the allotments.

More graffiti had appeared on the other side the bridge from North Moor Road and this was being cleaned off and an anti-graffiti surface applied. The Police had been asked if there was any CCTV information but this hadn't yet been received.

A resident at Alverton Way had complained about movements of top soil between sites on the new estate but this had now all been cleared and swept.

Councillor Watson asked the Council to put in an application to the NY Locality Fund for another VAS sign for North Moor Road and this was AGREED - The application to include an additional pole so that the sign could be moved periodically to the opposite side of the road.

It was also reported that grasscutting had been carried out off Stokesley Road on the 17th June By Northallerton Town Council.

Councillor Watson was asked if Taylor Wimpey could fix the damaged fence at the bridge and it was pointed out that there was a need for some signage to indicate that there was a fence in that location as it had been damaged twice by HGVs.

There had been issues with drainage on the new estates as apparently the Persimmon pumping station was carrying out the work of two pumping stations. Councillor Watson undertook to take this matter up with Persimmon Homes and Taylor Wimpey.

There were also issues with the Silo tank which was supposed to be screened by planting but was surrounded by clay and soil.

Councillor Watson undertook to enquire as to what was happening about the play area on the new estates.

Councillor Watson was asked if he could look at the condition of Lead Lane. A Councillor said that she had raised this matter with NYC who had responded that for the remainder of the current financial year the only works that would be carried out would be the filling of potholes and that Lead Lane was programmed for resurfacing in 2025/26. Councillor Watson said that he would get NYC to put this in writing at his next meeting with NY Highways.

A Councillor also reported the poor condition of the carriageway at the filling station on the approach to Stone Cross which was now worse than when the potholes were filled especially for cyclists. Another Councillor expressed concerns about the condition of the carriageway along Water End since the filling of potholes works had been carried out recently.

Attention was also drawn to the amount of high weeds along the Northallerton Road/ North Moor Road junction that adversely affected visibility and needed strimming back. Councillor Watson said that he would raise this at his forthcoming meeting with NY Highways but it depended on whether the area had been adopted or not.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

(i) Mrs B Slater outlined the scenario whereby the BRG, having taken advice from the North Riding FA had drafted a Service Level Agreement for signature by Brompton Junior Football Club. However BJFC had returned the SLA unsigned but had added its own versions of what it would agree to to virtually every clause in the document (which ran to over 40 clauses) and which had covered all aspects where there had previously been contention between the two parties and which needed to be resolved for the future.

Mrs Slater as Chairman of the BRG had asked the Clerk to have an oversight of the SLA as regards the comments made by BJFC and the Clerk had found several aspects of the comments made by BJFC to be completely unworkable so far as the BRG was concerned. In particular there was an unwillingness to provide the BRG with information about a number of matters that had been raised in the SLA and it appeared as though BJFC wanted ownership of the SLA rather than the BRG.

Mrs Slater asked whether in the circumstances the Council would support the BRG if it came to having to give Brompton Junior Football Club notice to quit as the BRG had no intention of altering the SLA that had been drawn up.

As examples BJFC were unwilling to take responsibility for the toilets whilst they had usage of the pitches and were parking vehicles so that access by wheelchair users to the field was blocked by parking in front of the access gates. There was an unwillingness of BJFC to supply contact details of the coaches who may need to be contacted on occasions.

The BRG was to hold a meeting on the coming Thursday to determine the way forward.

Mrs Slater supplied details of the charges made to BJFC, which had not increased since 2018 and which the Council considered to be extremely reasonable.

It was suggested that BJFCs response to the SLA be sent to the FA for advice and to advise BJFC that the BRG was dealing with the matter through the FA.

It was also mentioned that parents of children from BJFC who used to visit the cafe no longer came in and the reason for this wasn't known.

Councillor Hazelwood remarked that if the BRG was struggling to get football teams to use the pitches if BJFC left there could very well be an opportunity for playing hockey at Weavers Pavilion particularly as the local hockey club was desperate for somewhere locally to play.

Mrs Slater reported that some coaches from BJFC had asked if they would be able to stay and form new teams if BJFC left and this was seen as a possibility.

AGREED - That the Council support the BRG in its actions as regards the Service Level Agreement and the hire of the pitches to BJFC.

On a separate matter the Chairman reminded Mrs Slater that the Council was wishing to do something to commemorate the late Mrs Margaret Chandler and Mrs Slater undertook to inform the Clerk as to what was considered to be appropriate.

Councillor Watson left the meeting at 8.05pm

5. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/05/2024 to 31/05/2024
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	0 Reports
Total	3 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	1 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	0 Reports
Violence against the person	2 Reports
Other crimes inc. Drugs	0 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	1 Reports
Total	4 Reports

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

(i) Agricultural Vehicle Movements.

The following letter was sent to Mr G Spence after the last Council meeting -

Agricultural Vehicle Movements

Further to our recent communications about the effects of large agricultural tractor and trailer movements in the village in recent weeks arising from the transport of silage from your farm this matter was raised at the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 21st May.

The Council has received several complaints from residents about the speed of these large vehicles, the fact that drivers are using mobile phones whilst driving and the spillage of dirt etc from these vehicles onto the highway and residents parked vehicles.

In addition, the highway in general and the Water Splash especially are suffering from these continual heavy vehicle movements, not only in the vicinity of Fullicar Lane but also the adverse impact along Cockpit Hill and Lead Lane where the highway verges are continually being eroded, and also in all probability causing damage to pipe works below the carriageway surface.

More significantly the Council is extremely concerned that when reaching the Green at the foot of Fullicar Lane north of the Water Splash continual tractor movements took place along the wildlife area of the Green in effect using that part of Fullicar Lane as a dual carriageway by encroaching onto the Green in contravention of the Roads Traffic Act 1988 which prohibits driving of motor vehicles elsewhere than on roads including on Common Land. The surface of the Green at this location having been compacted.

On the advice of North Yorkshire Council Brompton Council is therefore to look at erecting fencing so that no encroachment of that area of the Village Green can take place in the future. Naturally thereafter the Council will pursue recompense should any damage take place to that fencing, or to the Green through efforts to drive along the edge of the Village Green which has protected status and will report any instances of driving on protected land to the Police.

Whilst silage movements may have ceased from Saturday 11th May there are now slurry movements taking place with reports of spillages occurring and of slurry getting into the beck and onto the highway. The very nature of the toxicity of the slurry presents a danger to humans and adversely affects nature.

The Council therefore would like you to take steps to restrict heavy agricultural vehicle movements within the village to an absolute minimum and also to ensure that steps are taken to ensure that all slurry is properly protected whilst under transportation.

This week highway works are taking place to rectify defects in the carriageways along Water End and leading to Fullicar Lane. It would be unfortunate if these works were to no avail due to further heavy agricultural vehicle movements in the future.

No response has been received. The letter having been sent by recorded delivery.

Councillors expressed concern about the deteriorating condition of the Water Splash which was being continuously worsened by the ever increasing movements of HGVs and large agricultural traffic.

The Water Splash had a historical significance for the village and had been formed when there was a need for access for horse drawn traffic and this historical structure was being significantly damaged by usage which had never been foreseen even in more recent past.

AGREED - That (i) NYC be asked to carry out an engineers survey of the Water Splash with the intention to impose a weight limit on vehicle movements through it and (ii) enquiries be made as to whether the Water Splash can be registered as an historical structure.

(ii) Broken Drains – Water End.

On the 13th June a resident was informed by the gully emptying crew that the highway drain outside 17 Water End could not be cleaned as it was broken. The matter has been reported to NY Highways who have responded as follows – *The Highway Officer who covers this area advises me that unless there are any emergencies on the network he is planning to attend this site with a big jetter machine on the 18th June, to ascertain if there is any obstruction in the system. However I can advise that we have not received any formal notice from our contractors to support the comments apparently relayed to Mr ****.*

(iii) Mud on the Road.

There had been complaints on Facebook on the 4th June about mud on the road from the level crossing to Oak Tree Garage. Councillor Watson undertook to visit the area on the following day to see if the farmers had cleaned the highway, which it had.

(iv) Car Park Footpath Site Meeting.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Carter and the Clerk visited the car park on the evening of the 12th June and had agreed the works for the footpath along the side of the car park.

Councillor Hazelwood questioned the issue of the path and the perceived need for one, the grass having covered the previous layby since the fence was erected.

Councillor Carter commented that when he was strimming the area he got positive feedback from people passing and it seemed as though some were walking on the grassed area.

(v) Grasscutting – Broken Window.

During recent grasscutting a stone had broken the front window of a property adjoining the Green at Water End, The resident had taken the matter up with grasscutting contractors.

(vi) Tree Works – Insurance Requirements.

The Council's insurers had advised that they were satisfied with the inspection arrangements adopted by the Council.

(vii) Annual Play Equipment Safety Inspection.

Confirmation was awaited from RoSPA as to the date of the annual safety inspection.

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

The only actions reported were related to the site visit on the 12th June to the car park.

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group had met on the 17th June.

AGAR for financial year ended 31 March 2024 - Agreed for reporting to June Council meeting and to be signed off by the Chairman and then submitted to the External Auditors.

Internal Audit report - Agreed by the Finance Group, no issues of concern. Minor adjustments to be made regards the next audit return.

RECOMMENDED - That the fencing works for the footpath at the car park at approximately £600 be carried out as soon as possible.

That the surfacing works to the car park extension in the approximate sum of £2,000 for the purchase of stone + digger hire and labour costs be reviewed at the October Finance Group meeting.

That the fencing works at the wildlife area at an estimated cost of £1,050 be reviewed at the October budget meeting together with Wildlife Area report.

That the Clerk ask Coxon Bros when they intend to carry out the removal of brash etc from the leaky dams + also obtain an estimate for the works of removing the bends from the areas of the leaky dams with a view to carrying out this work in 2025/26.

That the two budget headings under Cemetery Works + Projects be incorporated as one budget head entitled Burial Board Maintenance.

That Darrell Langthorne be asked to itemise works in the Cemetery separately from other works invoiced.

That the works of removal of the tarmac path at top of the Cemetery and re seeding be carried out in house.

That a sum of £30,000 be transferred from the Councils current account at The Unity Trust Bank into the savings account.

That the Clerk request an invoice from The Methodist Church for room hire.

That the contractor who dismantled the climbing frame be asked to meet the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the Recreation Ground as regards it's re-siting and that consideration be given to the repainting of the frame.

That Matthew Day of Streetscape be reminded that the Council has still not received the inspection report that was paid for as part of the contract for works in the Recreation Ground.

That the siting of new dog bins be looked at on the annual village walk-round.

That Mr D Langthorne be asked to check on the defibrillators as part of the caretaking duties + that the Clerk also speak to the Northallerton Restarting Hearts organiser about Defibrillator maintenance in general.

(ii) Road Safety and Highways Group.

No meeting held this month.

(iii) Pedestrian/Cycling Strategy Joint Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

(iv) Wildlife Area Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

(viii) New Estates Working Group.

No meeting held this month.

9. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING GROUPS.

To adopt the following terms of reference for the Working Groups as previously circulated to Councillors for comments –

Finance Working Group Terms of Reference

The Working Group consists of three Councillors together with the Councils Financial Adviser and the Clerk.

Meetings are held on a monthly basis on a date prior to each Town Council meeting.

The Working Group makes recommendations to the Council as regards the transfer of funds between the Councils Bank Accounts.

Prepares the annual budget for agreement of the full Council at the April Council meeting

Carries out a review of the Councils Budget each September having requested Working Group to provide the Finance Working Group with any revisions they may wish to include in the current years budget approved at the previous April Council meeting.

Monitors the budget monthly

Completes the Annual Return (AGAR) for agreement of the full Council

Carries out a monthly check on the bank reconciliation

Appoints an Internal Auditor

Reviews the reports from internal and external auditors and ensures that any issues raised are addressed

Makes recommendations to the Council on the implications of any financial aspects of tenders and contracts

Reviews the Financial Regulations periodically

Reviews the Assets Register

Prepares the Risk Assessment every three years

Reviews burial fees on an annual basis and makes Recommendations to the Council at its December meeting each year for implementation on the 1 January

Recommends authorised signatories on the Council's bank account

The Finance Working Group does not have any delegated powers; all recommendations are referred to the full Council.

Road Safety and Highways Working Group Terms of Reference

The Road Safety and Highways Working Group is a Working Group of the Council of three Councillors which if considered necessary can appoint an ad hoc person to the Group for the purpose of obtaining specialist advise on a specific matter as the case arises.

Meetings to be held as necessary.

The Chair of the Working Group to report to the subsequent monthly meeting of the Council.

Its key principals are:

1. To identify, quantify and list the traffic and highways issues (parking, congestion, speeding etc.) that affect the Parish.
2. To identify and evaluate options for improving the issues identified in the Parish.
3. To review any data from the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) or from such traffic/speed surveys undertaken by North Yorkshire Council or the Police and publicise the data and make recommendations to the Council for placement of the VAS sings and related advance warning traffic signs throughout the Parish.
4. Identify any individuals or groups or bodies that may be able to assist in the implementation of traffic alleviation measures in the Parish.
5. To research potential sources of funding streams for traffic and highways projects.

6. To report regularly on progress to the Parish Council and if required to other residents of the village.
7. To monitor the condition of traffic signs, highway lighting and in general carriageway conditions for report for rectification by North Yorkshire Highways.
8. To have oversight of unusual vehicle movements throughout the Parish and to recommend action to be taken or referred to NY Highway and/or the Police.
9. To advise the Police as to where speed monitoring action should be undertaken.
10. Put forward to the Council a budget of expenditure for improvements and development for the following financial year for discussion at the December Finance Working Group meeting with any revisions being made to the subsequent meeting of the Council held in September in the following year.

The Working Group has no delegated powers.

Wildlife Area Working Group

The Wildlife Working Group will consist of three Councillors although it is empowered to engage with volunteers as necessary of which there is no specified minimum or maximum number, with volunteers joining or leaving the Group according to need.

Meetings to be held as necessary.

The Chair of the Working Group to report to the subsequent monthly meeting of the Council.

The Working Group will:

Retain an overview of biodiversity and wildlife conservation within the Parish

To have oversight of the Management Plan for the Wildlife Area was written by MAB Environment and Ecology Ltd adopted by the Council on the 21st May 2024

To act in accordance with Beckside Management Plan as agreed by the Council in September 2022

Liaise with groups within the Parish having wildlife and conservation interests

Liaise with volunteers to weed out such as docks and dandelions from sown areas/beds

Note progress or otherwise of the growth of the variety of wildflowers and trees especially when requiring a watering regime

Manage, maintain and improve biodiversity and wildlife conservation within the Parish

Look to establish additional areas for bio-diversity and wildlife conservation within the Parish

Arrange for the construction and location of such as bird boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog habitats

Advise and make recommendations to the Council on the impact of proposals by owners and occupiers that may affect land being managed or proposed for management by the Working Group

Make recommendations for funding of improvements and prepare grants from the appropriate funding bodies

Put forward to the Council a budget of expenditure for improvements and development for the following financial year for discussion at the December Finance Working Group meeting with any

revisions being made to the subsequent meeting of the Council held in September in the following year.

This Working Group does not have any delegated powers.

New Estates Working Group

The New Estates Working Group will consist of three Councillors of which whenever possible a majority of Councillors will reside on the new housing estates forming part of the North Northallerton Development.

Meetings to be held as necessary.

The Chair of the Working Group to report to the subsequent monthly meeting of the Council.

1. To have regard to the aspirations of the residents of the North Northallerton Development residing within the Parish of Brompton as regards a project or project to be funded from the earmarked CIL Monies that will afford benefit to all residents of the various sections of the development on both the east and west sides of the new bridge.

Such expenditure to be programmed for the new estates after North Yorkshire Council has adopted the estates.

2. To establish what other smaller facilities such as grit bins, notice boards, litter/dog bins etc can be funded by the Council.
3. To support residents in ensuring that the developers carry out their commitments as regards long term upkeep and estate management, any service charge to occupiers being separate from council tax.

This Working Group does not have any delegated powers.

AGREED – That the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups as set out above be adopted.

10. PLANNING MATTERS –

(a) Applications.

ZB24/01120/FUL - Replacement of front door - 8 Manor Court Church View

AGREED – That no objections be raised.

(b) Enforcement Action – 65 Northallerton Road.

NYC had advised that the application for the retrospective construction of a shed at 65 Northallerton Road which was refused planning consent had been referred to the Secretary of State by the applicant as an Appeal against that refusal decision.

Solar panels - AGREED - That the Clerk ask NYC what is happening about the enforcement action to remove the solar panels on the roof at 1 Cockpit Hill.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Receipts –

G & G Leisure (Rent of Church Green)	180.00
HMRC (VAT reimbursement)	6,395.41

Hill Bors Funeral Directors (Burial fee)	185.00
NYC (Flood Relief Contribution)	15,730.00
Transfer from Barclays Bank Account	30,000.00
Dales of Thirsk (headstone fee)	60.00
Barthrams Funeral Directors (Burial fees)	1,100.00
<u>Payments –</u>	
CE + CM Walker (May grasscutting)	1,725.60
Fletcher Pest Control (Pest control at the allotments)	158.40
HMRC (PAYE).	107.40
P Atkin (Salary).	429.18
Sam Turners and Sons (Scythe, Cement, Stihl oil etc)	112.28
Mrs M L Hague (Internal Audit)	90.00
Mr D Langthorne (Works at Recreation Ground, Allotments, car park etc)	500.00
YDS Ltd (Trailer hire, digger + generator)	180.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	24.35
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges)	29.33 *
** Paid out of Meeting –	
Net World Sports (Goalposts etc for BRG)	4,400.00

Bank Balances

Barclays Bank – at 3rd June –

Business Premium Ac't (i) - £627.18

Business Premium Ac't (ii) - £130,938.56

Unity Trust Bank at 31st May 2024 –

Current Account - £98,528.28

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

12. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT.

Circulated to all Councillors.

There were no issues of concern raised in the report.

13. AGAR – ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURN – YEAR END 31 MARCH 2024.

The Clerk read the details of the Annual Financial Return and the reason for variances.

AGREED – That the Annual Financial Return for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2024 be approved as follows for submission to the External Auditors –

	31 st March 2023	31 st March 2024
Balances brought forward	£35,212	£200,142
Precept	£62,000	£68,000
Total Receipts	£162,826	£14,551
Staff Costs	£5,831	£6,463
Loans	0	0
All Other Payments	£54,065	£115,110
Balances carried forward	£200,142	£161,120
Total Value of Cash	£200,142	£161,120
Fixed Assets	£75,500	£103,952
Total Borrowings	0	0

14. HIGHWAY MATTERS.

Road Closure

PLANNED ROAD RESTRICTION NOTIFICATION - SW-57906-Brompton Lane & Station Rd Brompton

Location: Brompton Lane & Station Road, Brompton CP, Brompton

Description of works: Works on behalf of Network Rail at the level crossing (23:00-07:00 only)

The Restriction will be in place for a period of 8 hours between 7th September 2024 and 8th September 2024

Local Bus Services

The local Northallerton town bus services 74A and 74B are being cut from this week from five round trips a day to three on weekdays and on Saturdays from six to four.

The weekday service was six per weekday before Covid - therefore at a time when we are supposed to be encouraging use of public transport services local buses are being in effect halved.

In addition the town service frequency will be reduced by starting later and finishing earlier.

This is apparently to fund a limited bus service to North Moor Road.

Three bus services a day along North Moor Road probably won't achieve what was intended in encouraging people to use the bus.

NTC Councillors attended the meeting of the NYC Richmondshire Area Constituency Committee held at County Hall On the 17th June.

This was in order to raise questions under the Public Questions session about why local bus services have all been reduced and what has happened to the £500,000 for new bus services.

However they were refused permission to raise the questions as it was contended that it would be inappropriate during the purdah period.

Councillor Steve Watson said at the meeting of Northallerton Town Council that he was very unhappy about this decision not to take the questions especially as during the meeting as part of the agenda the Committee then went on to discuss Stokesley bus services.

15. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

A scythe had been purchased to help in maintaining the area.

16. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Grasscutting.

Several complaints raised by residents were forwarded to the Council from North Yorkshire Council. However all complaints were within the Northallerton Town Council boundary.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

(i) Date of the next Meeting

AGREED - That the Clerk circulate Councillors to ascertain their availability for the next meeting of the Council between 15th July and 2nd August.

(ii) Date of Annual Village Walk Round.

AGREED – That The Clerk to circulate Councillors for dates during August.

(iii) Annual Cemetery Visit.

AGREED - That the annual Cemetery visit be made during early September.

(iv) Oak Bridge Primary School.

Councillor Rolph reported that she had spoken with the Deputy Head at the new Primary School who had said that the school was very keen to become part of the community.

(v) Recreation Ground.

It was reported that a piece of wood paling was missing from the fence at the Recreation Ground and the Vice-Chairman reported that he had some fencing that could be used for the repair.

(vi) Overgrown Hedge Northallerton Road

It was reported that once again the hedge south of The Close was obstructing the footpath so that pedestrians had to walk into the road. AGREED - That the matter be reported to NY Highways.

18. BURIAL MATTERS

NYC Bereavement Survey

The Clerk had discovered that this questionnaire had been intended to be circulated to Scarborough and Harrogate areas only.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

