

## Monthly Update – September 2024

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

No apologies have been received.

Councillor Langthorne to declare an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2024.

**RECOMMENDED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 16th July, 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

To report to the meeting.

### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The meeting will be opened for a maximum of 10 minutes for Members of the public who wish to speak regarding items **within the remit of the Council.**

### 5. LOCAL CRIME REPORT.

Statistics taken from	01/08/2024 to 31/08/2024
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	0 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	2 Reports – neighbour dispute/counter accusation 1 Reports
Total	3 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	1 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	2 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	2 Reports
Violence against the person	3 Reports
Other crimes inc. Drugs	3 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	0 Reports
Auto Crime / SMV	3 Reports
Total	14 Reports

### Independent Police Advisory Group

Notes below from the meeting of the local Independent Police Advisory Group held on the 18th July 2024 attended by the Clerk.

NYC has decided not to renew the Public Space Protection Order for Richmond Falls.

Whilst there have once again for another year been public order issues no one has rang in to report them.

However several people have said that they have tried to report it but can't get through to the Control Centre.

There are now several other ways of reporting crimes other than via the telephone to the Control Room.

There are several campaigns currently advertising vacancies for both Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers.

Special Constables have the same uniform and powers as PCs and work alongside them on patrol working a minimum of 16 hours a month and receive full training.

Police Volunteers work as many hours as they want to and help with virtually everything to support Police Staff members.

There is also a big campaign on-going in schools for Police Cadets.

The Yorkshire Show saw a lot of young people asking about how they could join the Police.

As regards Local Policing there has been a significant number of offences in the Stokesley/Great Ayton area especially regarding the theft of quad bikes and rural crime. This is therefore a Divisional and Force priority.

Several arrests have been made and Court dates are pending.

In Northallerton ASB is prolific around Barkers Arcade but the persons are known.

The attempted murder in Zetland Street was a targeted attack and there is no reason for concern to the wider public, the matter having arisen from a previous dispute.

Northallerton is currently rated the safest town in the Country with no current problems as regards violent offences.

Concerns have been raised with regard to drug dealing in a layby outside the school at Easingwold on evenings but again it is uncertain whether this has actually been reported to the Police.

Generally in the early evenings the Police tend to be dealing with domestic violence instances but cannabis dealing will be dealt with if anyone is free as early evening time is when staffing levels are very low.

The Richmond Rural Task Force has a lot of 4 x 4 vehicles that are put to good use, especially when events such as at Reeth and Grinton are taking place.

Crime tends to be very low in Richmondshire and good results have been achieved recently for example with the shutting down of a very large cannabis farm in Hawes.

Although little was done as regards speeding vehicles until last year, in the month to July 2,400 drivers in Richmondshire have been caught for speeding with over 500 vehicles being seized since October 2023 either not being taxed or MOTd or being used in crime.

Last December 100 motorists were stopped for possible driving under the influence of drink but only 4 failed the breathalyser and were taken to Court.

Since October 2023 50 motorists have been fined for offences outside schools and a considerable amount of driver education has taken place.

Northallerton is busier than Richmondshire which gives little time to investigate untaxed vehicles and speeding.

Untaxed vehicles are reported to the Control Room who refer the matter to the DVLA.

As regards a vehicle not having a current MOT the vehicle has to be stopped whilst being driven or the registration number recorded so that it can be picked up in the future by the automatic cameras which are triggered by the vehicle.

Drug use is not an arrestable offence for under 18's who are considered to be children. Although drugs are illegal Police Custody won't accept under 18's and the Government's instruction is to adopt a softly softly approach.

However such drug use is still worth reporting.

Overcrowding in prisons has no effect on arrest rates as the Police do not decide who goes to prison.

The Chief Constable has said that the Police don't care if the prisons are full as these people still need to be arrested and it is for the Courts to make any further decision.

As regards staffing levels in Richmondshire there should be 15 PCSOs and 5 PCs.

The current figures are 9 PCSOs and 5 PCs + 2 Sergeants

Current Northallerton position not reported.

The new Mayor will make future decisions about Police staffing levels.

The Richmondshire situation will become very stretched when the thousands of new proposed houses and the Designer Centre are built.

There is a need for more Police on the front line as the Firearms and Traffic units tend to gravitate to York.

As regards Hate Crimes -

Between January and March there were 245 in North Yorkshire - 8 in Richmondshire and 22 in Hambleton - the majority being racial.

In Northallerton most instances involved one person.

7 hate crimes on Thirsk involved only one victim.

All have decreased since March.

The Chief Constable is currently reviewing Neighbourhood Policing so that the local Teams deliver both the National and the Force expectations. The Chief Constable and the new Mayor will be looking at this in September.

Community Messaging widely circulated has asked recipients what they consider to be the top five priorities they expect from Community Policing from the list of 12 tasks that were circulated.

(iii) Heavy Agricultural Vehicle Movements.

Received from a Councillor -

*I have just had an altercation with one of the tractor drivers. I was cycling up Corber Hill towards Northallerton when a tractor and trailer coming from Northallerton came passed at speed barely giving me any room. Just over the brow of the hill another tractor and trailer approached at speed so I waved for him to slow down. He clearly took offence stopped and got off his tractor and subjected me to verbal abuse ..... As far as the driver was concerned he was doing 28 miles per hour so it was alright. He clearly made no allowance for the road conditions and the concept of giving a cyclist 2 metres of clearance was beyond his comprehension as was any consideration for the fact that he was driving the equivalent of a 15 tonne articulated lorry. The only upside to the incident was that the driver understands speed limits so if a 20 mile limit is applied he might observe it but somehow I have my doubts. Based on my limited experience today it can only be a matter of time before one of these tractors kill someone or does some serious damage. Our only option is to put pressure on the Police to take some action before it is too late.*

Response from North Yorkshire Police -

I have passed it on to one of our traffic officers who work in the road safety partnership who is going to have a look and get in contact

I will endeavour to get one of the PCSO's out with a speed gun.

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

### (i) Matters Relating to the BRG + Brompton Juniors Football Club.

Letter sent to correspondents –

#### Complaint Regarding Issues Arising Between BJFC and Brompton Recreation Group.

*Thank you for the outline of the issues that you have experienced in respect of the Brompton Recreation Group and the continuation of football at the football fields off Station Road.*

*The Council can appreciate why you have raised these concerns.*

*You have indicated several matters that have been of concern to you and Brompton Town Councillors have had sight of these.*

*I have been asked to clarify the position as regards the Council.*

*If there are matters that are football related in any way that have been in contention with the Brompton Recreation Group then these need to be reported to the North Riding Football Association as the appropriate body to deal with such matters.*

*Matters regarding the running of the facilities at the site including Weavers Pavilion would need to be referred to the Charity Commission as the Brompton Recreation Group is a registered Charity and has to abide by the rules set by the Charity Commission.*

*The issues raised which relate to a breakdown in the relationship between the Football Club and the Brompton Recreation Group are not something that the Council can get involved in.*

*Finally matters that are of concern regarding such as threatening behaviour or actions that have made members of the public feel unsafe would need to be reported to the Police so that the allegations can be properly investigated.*

### (ii) Annual Village Walk-Round.

Due to lack to numbers the walk-round scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> September was cancelled.

It has been suggested that best time to re-arrange would be early April when both walks and a visit to the Cemetery can take place. This would also fit in with the Annual Parish Assembly if there is anything to report.

### (iii) Local Boundary Commission Review.

The Clerk attended the on line meeting Local Boundary Commission Briefing on line on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

The Electoral Review are to consider the electoral arrangements for the new North Yorkshire Unitary Authority as regards its number of Councillors, the electoral Divisions, the boundaries of the Divisions and the names for the Divisions and the number of Councillors for each.

The review looks at Electoral inequalities and is also an automatic review every 12 to 14 years. Reviews can also be carried out at the request of a Local Authority or after a structural change as in the case of North Yorkshire Council as the arrangements adopted for the 2022 Elections were only interim arrangements.

The process takes four phases -

Phase 1 - Councillor numbers - are the numbers of Councillors correct in order to deliver effective Government for the people of North Yorkshire?

Phase 2 - Formal consultation on Division arrangements - the best arrangement of the Divisions to reflect local interests.

Phase 3 - Final recommendations to Parliament.

Phase 4 - Implementation - for the 2027 elections.

The division arrangements consultation begins in October - there will be two opportunities to give views on where the Division boundaries should go and what they should be called.

From 1 October to 9th December views can be submitted as regards where local Divisions should go or alternatively for the whole of North Yorkshire.

After that all submissions and evidence is reviewed to lead to Draft Recommendations.

Consultation will then take place on the draft Recommendations from April to June 2025.

The final recommendations will be published in September and these cannot be changed after that date.

Occasionally there will be a third round of consultation to test suggestions but that would only relate to one or two areas.

By law there are a number of matters that must be considered -

1. Electoral Equality - however this must reflect the local communities and numbers are not exact.
2. Divisions must be proposed so as to keep localities together.

Electoral equality -

In a perfect world all Councillors would represent the same number of electors - however localities change due to for example new house builds, a University bringing a high number of new electors or perhaps people leaving one particular community to move into another one.

Therefore the Commission is working with NYC as regards the electoral forecasts for five years.

Community Identities -

Shaped by amenities and services - shops, schools, sports facilities etc

Convenient and Effective Local Government -

The ability for the making of effective decisions and the involvement of Councillors in those decisions and in their scrutiny + the names of the Divisions having a meaning to the people.

The Commission cannot create or abolish a Parish, or extend the boundaries of a Parish. However it can create Parish Wards.

There will also be no merging of small Parishes as the Boundary Commission has no powers to do that, although NYC could look at through a Community Governance Review after 2017.

There are no political considerations and Parliamentary boundaries cannot be considered, nor can Post Codes or addresses be changed.

Neither can the boundaries of North Yorkshire Council as they adjoin other Local Authorities boundaries be altered.

In due course an Order will be laid before both Houses of Parliament for 40 days - and this can only be approved or objected to - it cannot be amended.

Implementation will take place prior to the 2027 Election.

Consultation will take place involving stakeholders, local and social media, flyers and posters and community briefings.

Due to the population numbers of the large towns - Harrogate and Scarborough are likely to have split divisions.

The Commission has no power to amalgamate Parishes, although NYC could do that after the current review has taken place through a Governance Review.

NYC can look at Boundary changes for Parishes after the current Review has taken place.

Geographical criteria is taken into account especially as in North Yorkshire some of the rural divisions are very large, however this needs to be balanced against the three statutory criteria (see above).

As far as possible communities will not be divided other than in the large urban areas.

NYC has requested single Councillor Divisions but may have to move away from that if the electoral numbers are not approximately equal. There is only one two Member Division currently in North Yorkshire.

The workload of NY Councillors is taken into consideration together with a number of other factors.

There is nothing on the Local Boundary Commission web site about Councillor numbers at present as the dialogue is currently between the LBC and NYC. After that it will be publicised on the web site although numbers may vary as matters proceed to achieve a better Division pattern overall.

NYC will make its decision at a meeting in December after which it will be publicised.

Finally it was mentioned that Parishes feel that they have no contact with NYC unlike what they had when the District Councils existed.

It was left that that was a dialogue for the Parishes and NYC and was not something that the LBC could get involved in.

(iv) Uncut Hedges + Trees

(a) Stokesley Road.

Response from NY Highways -

*One of our Highway Officers inspected this site yesterday and advises me that whilst on site he cut back the majority of vegetation overhanging the footpath. He will revisit the site later this week to complete the work.*

*According to the information available to us this hedge is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner to maintain. With this in mind we will arrange for letters to be sent to all relevant properties asking them to take action to cut back the hedge to prevent it overhanging the footpath.*

(b) Swaledale Row, Northallerton Road

Referred to NY Highways.

(c) Rugby Club

Have been trimmed back.

- (v) Time of Council Meetings.

As the time of the monthly Council meetings was agreed for a trial period to 6 months Councillors were consulted as to whether they wanted to continue to meet at 7.15pm or whether they wanted to revert to a start time of 7.000pm. The majority were in favour of continuing with the 7.15pm start time.

- (vi) Methodist Church Roof.

Once again last week youngsters were on the roof of the Methodist Church. This was reported to the Police and to the Church.

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

To be reported to the meeting.

## 8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

- (i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group met on the 16<sup>th</sup>September.

### **Middleton Whittaker Charity Monies.**

No progress having been made on the matter and an impasse having been reached it is **RECOMMENDED - That the Clerk refer the matter to the Financial Services Ombudsman.**

### **Defibrillators**

The Clerk has been liaising with the people from Thirsk who maintain the defibrillators in Northallerton.

All four have been registered on The Circuit which is the national data base for defibrillators.

However late in the the discussions Northallerton Restarting Hearts have confirmed that they are still checking the defibrillators In Brompton and will be speaking to the Clerk about the current position and have also confirmed that all inspections are up to date.

The access code is required for the defibrillator at The Shop so that it can be checked by the Council weekly.

### **Allotments - Pest Control**

The Finance Group is concerned at the costs of regular pest control at the allotments site which effectively reduces the annual rent received from the Allotments Group by a quarter. **RECOMMENDED - That the Council consider whether the pest control services should in future be paid by the Allotments Group.**

### **Sweeping**

The Clerk asked that the sweeping around the Church area be transferred to Mr D Langthornes village caretaking tasks. However the Finance Group considered that this was not perhaps a task for the Council to continue with. **RECOMMENDED - That the view of the Council be obtained.**

### **Junior Swings and Slide in the Recreation Ground.**

An initial quotation has been received as an indication of the costs of providing junior swings and a slide in the Recreation Ground in 2025/26. In due course three tenders will need to be obtained. However the

Finance Group is minded to prefer the option of a slide on a mound similar to that in Romanby Leisure Park especially as this has been virtually maintenance free for over 30 years.

### **Budget Review**

At its next meeting in October the Finance Group will review the budget for the remainder of the current financial year.

**Could Councillors please advise of any small projects not already in the budget that they would like to see included for implementation before the end of March 2025.**

It was agreed that the fencing of the side of the Wildlife Area adjacent to Fullicar Lane take place in the current financial year.

### **Interest on CIL Monies**

**RECOMMENDED - That the Finance Group look into projects that could take place by utilising the interest obtained from the CIL monies.**

(ii) Road Safety and Highways Group.

No meeting held.

(iii) Pedestrian/Cycling Strategy Joint Working Group.

No meeting held.

(iv) Wildlife Area Working Group.

No meeting held.

(vii) New Estates Working Group.

No meeting held.

## **9. PLANNING MATTERS**

(i) Decisions.

ZB24/01370/CAT - Application for works to trees in Conservation Area - Land To The Rear of Brompton Auto Spares Garage Lead Lane – Granted

Councillors were consulted on this planning application during the recess.

ZB24/01531/CAT - Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area – 54 Water End - Granted

(ii) Applications.

**Councillors views are requested on the following planning applications -**

ZB24/01711/CAT - Felling of diseased cherry tree and replaced with new flowering tree closer to house, Sunnyside Water End

ZB24/01753/TPO - Application for works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order, 5 Water End

ZB24/01683/CAT - Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area – 5 Water End

ZB24/01576/MRC - Application for variation of condition 7 (approved plans) for application 16/00811/FUL as revised drawing SCH1716 (proposed floor plans and



elevations)Condition Number(s): 7 (Approved Plans)Conditions(s) Removal:To allow for substitution of approved plans (see covering letter)To alter condition to refer to the revised drawings submitted with the application - SCH1716 - 1 (Proposed Floor Plans and Elevations, Street House Farm Deighton Lane

ZB24/01653/TPO - Application for works to a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (1999/09 T54), The Coach House 5 Yeoman Court

ZB24/01773/FUL - Proposed Alterations and Extension to Existing Dwelling including Replacement Garage - Redhill Cottage, Brompton Lane

(iii) Planning Appeals.

Planning Appeal decision - Appeal allowed - rear of 65 Northallerton Road - Planning Inspectorate APP/U2750/D/24/3345076: 65 Northallerton Road, DL6 2QA

An appeal has also been lodged against the refusal to grant planning permission – Land Adjacent to 53 Water End,

#### 10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

##### Income

Northern Powergrid (Annual Wayleaves payments)	348.55
Brompton Allotments Group (Annual rent + water butts)	1,620.11

##### Payments –

CE + CM Walker (May grasscutting)	2,588.40
Fletcher Pest Control (Allotments)	73.20
HMRC (PAYE).	107.40
P Atkin (Salary)	429.18
Sam Turner & Sons (Paints, cutting discs etc)	102.80
P Atkin (Expenses)	38.93
J Robinson (6 months Accounting Services)	826.00
Mr D Langthorne	****
YDS Ltd	****
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) Direct Debit*	29.33

##### Paid out of meeting during August –

CE+CM Walker (July Grasscutting)	1,725.60
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Works at car park and tree works)	2,395.89
Fletcher Pest Control (Pest control at allotments)	72.00
Sam Turner & Sons (Gate Latch etc)	31.49

P Atkin (Salary)	429.38
HMRC (PAYE)	107.40
Mrs C Huang (Sweeping – June – July)	45.00
Mr D Langthorne (Works at the allotments + at the car park)	628.38
YDS Ltd (Trailer, digger hire + wood treatment materials)	174.00
*NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) Direct Debit*	43.99

### Bank Balances

#### Barclays Bank –

Business Premium Ac't (i) – £131,428.42

Business Premium Ac't (ii) – £629.52

#### Unity Trust Bank at 30th June 2024 –

Current Account - £36,064.32

Deposit Account - £30,027.12

**RECOMMENDED – That the accounts listed above be approved for payment.**

#### 11. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures

PLANNED ROAD RESTRICTION NOTIFICATION - SW-KL6622425WK27LONGLANE-Long Lane, Brompton

Location: Long Lane, Brompton CP, Brompton

Description of works: Level crossing barrier testing works on behalf of Network Rail (22:00-06:00 only)

The Restriction will be in place for a period of 8 hours between 28th September 2024 and 29th September 2024

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL  
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 - PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER

PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS. 10.19/8, 10.19/22 & 10.19/26 MOOR HOUSE & MOOR HOUSE FARM, BROMPTON DIVERSION ORDER 2024

The above Diversion Order has recently been sealed by North Yorkshire Council

#### Reinstatement of Public Footpath

I took the cross country route back from my visit to the BRG grounds and used the footpath from Station Road (Back Lane?) to Lodge Lane. The first field over the stile from Station Road has been harrowed post crop and the footpath has not been reinstated please can it be reported.

Reported to NY Highways

#### 12. CYCLE HOOPS.

Received from a resident -

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for allowing me to address you directly. I understand from Paul Atkin that my original proposal for cycle hoops in central Brompton was met with support at the May 2024 meeting which prompted a request to Paul to source quotes for the hoops. I understand that since this time, support for the proposal as altered. I was surprised at this change given the very valid reasons I initially presented, which Members initially supported and which haven't changed, but nonetheless wanted to reflect on them again for your further consideration.

The requirement for this new cycle infrastructure can be split into existing and future need. I will reflect on the existing need that we have witnessed first. We live on Church View which provides an unobstructed view of the village green directly to the east of St Thomas' Church yard. Over the last 11 years we have observed numerous occasions (and particularly throughout this summer) when cyclists stop on the green and have to either prop their bike against the church wall (obstructing the path), prop their bike against the two central benches on the green (which sometimes are in use by non-cyclists and are unavailable), or lay their bike on the grass.

Often the individuals are cyclists wishing to explore the tranquillity of the centre of Brompton and stop for while to explore the heritage of the church and conservation area, or pay a visit to the village shop (the latter which also does not benefit from any cycle parking).

I accept that the cycle parking wouldn't ordinarily be used by Brompton residents, but instead by visitors to the village. The benefit of the cycle parking would be that it would prolong the visit length of visitors to the village or when promoting the village facilities make it easy for the village to be accessed by a range of modes of transport, giving the potential to increase visitor numbers to the village, sustaining its cultural facilities and local economy.

In terms of the future need, the provision of cycling infrastructure is proven to encourage individuals to cycle more by making their journey easier. For example, by providing an identifiable and easy location to secure their bicycle they are more likely to consider cycling as opposed to other forms of transport. Indeed a survey by Cycling UK has confirmed that strong support exists for cycling infrastructure in the UK and that 77% of individuals were in favour of improved cycling infrastructure, given the opportunities for all that it would deliver.

I would therefore highlight that the need is not just about individuals who are already finding Brompton to have a lack of cycle parking, but those who don't cycle currently as it's not made easy for them to use their bike as an alternative transport means. From this perspective it is a 'chicken and egg' situation. Returning to the existing need that occurs, I can only speak about what we have regularly observed over a long period of time.

Certainly in an age where sustainability and climate change are of utmost importance, providing the infrastructure to allow all individuals to have a choice as to how they easily access an area is crucial, and this extends as much to vehicle parking and public transport as it should to cycle parking.

I am mindful that the Council's budget is under constant pressure and requests such as mine have to be balanced as to whether or not they would benefit the community, and whether there is simply the surplus to deliver such infrastructure. For the local community, I can only see benefits that would occur following the installation of the hoops. From a financial perspective, I am happy to assist with the cost of the purchase of the hoops if the Council are happy to cover the cost of their installation.

As you can clearly tell, I am passionate about increasing the public's opportunity to be able to cycle, in Brompton and further afield, due to the 6 proven benefits that Cycling UK identified that it can have, specifically that it assists businesses and community facilities (in our case, the potential interaction

with Brompton Convenience Store and the Village Inn, the appreciation of the Conservation Area, and interaction with the historic artefacts at St Thomas Church); it can help reduce congestion (in our case where there is already a need for safer streets quite rightly evidenced by the Council's '20 is Plenty' Campaign); it represents excellent value for money through reducing the burden on the road infrastructure and NHS; it will attract even more people to use them, once installed; and finally, it helps to combat climate change and the UK's aim to reach net zero.

I would welcome your re-consideration of the cycle hoops that I previously suggested whose location in planning, aesthetic, accessibility and logistical terms can only be for the good of our community. Thank you for your time.

Andrew Cunningham - **Councillors are asked to consider the way forward.**

### 13. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

(a) Concerns by a resident that the Council needs to pull out ragwort from the wildlife area as it was a legal requirement to do so and it was adversely affecting nearby agricultural land.

Councillors were consulted and were of the view that the ragwort did not need removing as there were no grazing animals on the land and such a woody nightshade, foxgloves, yew, holly, ivy, hemlock and many more were not removed.

The resident has indicated that he will be attending the Council meeting to speak on the matter.

(b) Received from a resident –

*Morning, being a new resident now of nearly a year at Water End Brompton , I need to understand why the green is not cleared of the grass on the edges of the beck? The grass/weeds are so high now that it spoils the whole outlook of the beautiful green that we have. This isn't the case for example at Snape so what is the difference? I wouldn't be surprised if someone in the area cuts it themselves. It's a mess please can we tidy it up?*

The same response was sent to the resident as has been sent to other similar complainants.

### 14. CORRESPONDENCE - Not appearing elsewhere on the agenda

(i) Flower Beds in the Churchyard.

Received from the PCC -

*Following on from your email of 14th February 2024 regarding the proposed flower beds either side of the entrance to the church we are also looking to improve the surface of the small area directly behind and in line with the left hand (if facing the main entrance) flower bed through the application of a bark top surface, still leaving access for the lawn mowers to the western side of the church. Before we progressed further with this idea we wanted to check that the Town Council would be happy with this small addition to the flower bed project?*

Councillors agreed that this would be a good project and the PCC was advised accordingly.

(ii) Christmas Tree.

Received from the PCC -

*Can I ask if Brompton Town Council are willing to organise the purchase and delivery of the Christmas Tree. The BARNES explorer Scouts are available on Saturday 30 November to erect and decorate the tree if this is a convenient date.*

PCC advised that this is already in hand.

(iii) Use of Church Green.

*Could I also ask the Town Council if we can use the Church Green near the Lych Gate for the singing around the Christmas Tree on Sunday 15 December at 5 pm.*

Permission granted as in previous years.

(iv) Fieldfare, Little Lane.

Received from a resident -

*I don't know if the councillors or the residents of Brompton- especially those living round the green- are aware but Fieldfare is now closed and the intention is for it to be boarded up. I live next door and went around this morning and it, and the grounds are already looking derelict and overgrown. I am very concerned about the undesirable attention a large unoccupied area like this will attract. This I feel has been done without any communication with residents or council members and I suspect many residents in Brompton will share my concerns. I would greatly appreciate your response.*

Resident informed that this was not an issue within the remit of Brompton Council.

#### 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of the next Meeting – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### 16. BURIAL MATTERS.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk visited the Cemetery.

Grasscutting is the best it has ever been - helped by moving flower vases, urns etc to in line with their respective headstones.

Four headstones that are loose on the plinths to be refixed - all quite simple repairs.

The difference between headstones requiring attention and those needing to be monitored was explained.

One small headstone that has laid inside another kerbed grave for quite a time to be resited to its correct position.

Very little sign of rabbits this year.

Kerbed graves to be weeded nearer the Autumn. Tidied up only - new gravel not to be laid as this is the responsibility of the relatives if they wish to do so.

Several deep depressions to be filled with soil.

Later in the year the single entrance gate to be removed to be repaired off site including some wood work repair and resolving the long standing issue of the gate catch and bolt which has proved to be a problem and has not been possible to properly repair in situ.

Any holes near the foot of headstones to be filled with concrete.

The top path work to be done later in the year as already agreed.