

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church,
Brompton on Tuesday 18th February 2025**

PRESENT – Councillors Mr R Carter, Mr J Hazelwood, Mr M Langthorne (in the Chair), Mrs K Mann and Mrs A Robinson .

There were six members of the public present at the meeting, including NYC Councillor Steve Watson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ms S Rolph, Mrs E Kelly and Mrs Shiel Dods.

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that as insufficient electors asked NYC to call an election this would now be dealt with in due course by way of Co-option.

2. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 21st January, 2025 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 North Yorkshire Council had decided to increase its Precept by 4.99%, the maximum permitted, for the financial year 2025/26.

It had been hoped to increase the Precept by 4% however with the change of Government the Rural Services Grant that was received from Central Government had dropped by £17m -£20m.

A sum of £3,900.00 was to be received from Councillor Watsons NYC Locality Budget for a VAS sign on North Moor Road which was to be placed on a lamppost on the left hand side of the bridge and also periodically on a lamppost on the other side of the road on the approach to the School. Whilst the sign would not operate permanently as it had been found that this was less effective it would be on all of the school term time.

It was hoped that Persimmon would also contribute towards the VAS sign with such monies coming direct to Brompton Town Council.

No responses had yet been received from Taylor Wimpey to various matters therefore Councillor Watson had hand delivered a letter on the previous day for the attention of the Managing Director.

There had been some confusion as regards the allotments at the sports field by the Solicitors acting for NYC and Northallerton Town Council but the matter was now progressing.

Councillor Watson reported that the three local NYC Councillors would be at the Library between 10am and 12noon on the third Saturday of each month to which residents could discuss any concerns with them in person.

As regards the walk-out of 12 NYC Councillors at the Council meeting on the previous Friday over time not having been allocated to discuss items Councillor Watson said that they had waited until 3.45pm before doing that and that he regarded the walk-out as a political stunt.

Speed recording devices were currently deployed on roads in the village as part of the Councils case for a 20mph speed limit.

Parking Control Officers would be in the village the day after the Council meeting to look at the parking situation at the BRG car park.

In answer to a question by a member of the public Councillor Watson explained why there were no 30mph signs on the lampposts on North Moor Road as these would not comply with national regulations and could lead to prosecutions for speeding being unsuccessful.

Whilst there had been no progress about the cycle path barrier issue Councillor Watson was to call in a planning application regarding a footpath on Yafforth Road which would link through to the cycle path.

Councillor Watson also undertook to look at the parked vehicles in the bus stop areas and to ask NYC if all the Bus Stop markings could be reinstated on the highway. He also undertook to ask for road markings at the Water End road junction to indicate Give Way.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

(1) A number of residents expressed concerns about the current works being carried out in the Cemetery and the effect of the works graves.

The Vice-Chairman had met with two of the residents in the Cemetery and had explained the situation. The concerns were in respect of the soil and stone that had been placed on the graves.

It was explained that in the very wet weather during this winter many graves had sunk under water therefore the drainage works were stated as a matter of urgency. The graves would be topped up with soil and reseeded before the grasscutting season.

There was also a need to reduce the height of some graves to level them out as this affected the grasscutting.

There was another five days of works to be carried out however if the whole works had not been carried out at one time the works could have taken three years to do.

It was also pointed out that the track marks from the digger would fully recover once the grass started to grow.

It was acknowledged that a notice should have been put up at the Cemetery gate notifying people that works were taking place.

There was also a need to remove all Christmas wreaths before grasscutting commenced as in the past the grasscutters had chopped up those that had remained on graves which had made a terrible mess.

5. LOCAL CRIME REPORT + INSTANCES OF VANDALISM.

Statistics taken from	01/01/2025 to 31/01/2025
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	3 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	1 Reports
Total	4 Reports
Arson	0 Reports
Burglary Dwelling	0 Reports
Burglary Commercial/Other	0 Reports
Criminal Damage	0 Reports
Theft (inc. Theft from Shop)	2 Reports
Violence against the person	3 Report

Other crimes inc. Drugs	0 Reports
Hate Crime	0 Reports
Robbery	0 Reports
Fraud	1 Reports
Auto Crime/ SMV	0 Reports
Total	10 Reports

The question was asked at the last Council meeting if the Police were still patrolling the village reassuring residents following recent serious incidents.

This was subsequently received from the Police -

Officers were patrolling Brompton last Monday when a black Astra was being driven around and which from local knowledge was known to have no insurance.

The vehicle couldn't be located locally but it was known that the occupant had friends in Thirsk and the car was stopped in Thirsk and seized.

The Clerk reported that three suspects had pleaded not guilty at York Court on the 17th February to the charges in respect of stabbing instances at Danes Crest Estate last month and had been remanded in custody pending trial.

Community Safety Hub Meeting – 11th February 2025

The report of this meeting appears in the Monthly Update.

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

(i) Post Box – Northallerton Road.

Received from Royal Mail –

The proposed location for a box to be installed is on the corner of Hilton Close/Northallerton Road, Brompton, DL6 2QH. However, this is currently with Royal Mail for approval. If the location is approved a CAT scan will be carried out along with utility searches and relevant consents. Providing the location is approved and there are no issues with this area, we will proceed in arranging the installation in this area.

The box that was removed would not be reinstalled at the new location as this was a wall box removed from a brick wall. The style of box that would be installed is a pedestal lamp box.

(ii) Battle of the Standard Plaque.

The Clerk reported that endeavours were being made to ensure that the Battle of The Standard plaque is in safe keeping following the closure of Northallerton Hub in the High Street.

(iii) Yorkshire Water Works.

Works had begun in the last week of January on Northallerton Road, Brompton to line 600mm of combined sewer network to reduce the number of discharges into Terry Gutter.

The project was in two parts and was expected to be completed in the Spring and will help reduce the impact of groundwater infiltration into the network.

(iv) Northallerton Food Festival.

At the special meeting held on the 30th January it had been agreed to put together a small project group hosted by Northallerton Town Council to look at the best way forward.

There would be no Food Festival this year.

The Clerk reported that Brompton Carnival was in danger of not being held this year as the Committee had advertised that this would be the case unless volunteers and new committee members came forward. The event had been running for 112 years.

- (v) Meeting with the BRG.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Clerk had met with the three Trustees of the BRG on the 28th January. Further details as to how the BRG intended to move forward were awaited.

- (vi) High Winds – Fallen Branches.

After the storms and high winds at the end of January the tree contractors carried out a trawl of the village to collect fallen branches, the two largest being at Water End, uprooted trees were also dealt with – these tree works amounted to £2,900.00.

- (vii) Website.

Following comments made at the last Council meeting the Burial Board pages on the website had been rewritten.

- (viii) NYC Locality Budget – Offer to Grant.

An offer of a grant of £3,900.00 had been made by NYC from Councillor Watsons Locality Budget towards the purchase and installation of a VAS sign for North Moor Road

AGREED – That the acceptance form be signed by two Councillors.

- (ix) Overgrown Hedge – 78 Northallerton Road.

NYC Highways had been asked to investigate again as people are having to walk on the grass to get round it however the hedge had now been substantially cut back.

- (x) Blocked Gullies – North Side of Northallerton Road between De Bruce and North Moor Road

NYC Highways had been asked to investigate. A Councillor commented that the gullies were being cleaned out on the previous day,

It was also said that the road sweeper was merely spreading and compacting the mud on Northallerton Road and Councillor Watson undertook to take this up at his next meeting with NY Highways.

- (xi) Blockages in The Beck

Blockages in the beck behind The Orchards had been reported to the Environment Agency who had sent out a team to clear the blockage caused by a quantity of fallen branches.

A large tree in the beck near the Council's car park had also been removed and the Environment Agency's work team had been working along the length of the beck.

- (x) Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

The Clerk reported that he had responded to an NYC survey regarding future sports provision indicating that there was a distinct lack of pitches for playing and training for hockey in the immediate area.

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

None reported to the meeting, the Vice-Chairman having spent much of his time working in the Cemetery.

8. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Working Group.

The Finance Group met on the 6th February.

Grasscutting Tender

RECOMMENDED - That the tender received from CE+CM Walker for the 2025 grasscutting season be accepted in the sum of £913.20 per cut.

The tender is an increase of 5.84% on the 2024 grasscutting season increasing the twice monthly cut from £1,626.40 to £1,725.60.

Highway Verge Cutting

Agreed - That the Clerk claim the sum of £184.40 from North Yorkshire Council for 2025 for the highway verge cutting carried out by Walkers.

New Play Equipment

RECOMMENDED - That the tender received from Streetscape for the provision of a two bay junior swing unit and free standing 2.1m platform slide in the Recreation Ground and new replacement like for like swings at Water End including safety surfacing in the total sum of £19,730.00 +VAT be accepted.

Tenders were also received from Proludic and Playscheme in the sums of £37,671.06 and £32,848,00 respectively but both quotes included a multi play unit for the Recreation Ground rather than a platform slide.

New Street Light - Northallerton Road

RECOMMENDED - That the estimate received from North Yorkshire Council for the provision on a new street light on Northallerton Road past the Rugby Club for a total one time cost of £2,475.00 +VAT be accepted.

Councillors Email Addresses

Having considered the quotation received from North Yorkshire Council ICT in the sum of £1,807.71 +VAT and annual recurring charges it was agreed that this matter be deferred until a successor Clerk is sought in due course, anticipated to be December 2026.

BRG Requirements.

RECOMMENDED - That further information be obtained from the BRG before the outcomes of the meeting held on the 28th January are further considered.

Salt Bins - New Estates

Agreed - That enquiries be made as to whether the developers will allow new salt bins to be placed on the new estates and if so NYC be asked if these could be placed next to the existing dog bins on the new estates.

Future Play Equipment Safety Inspections

RECOMMENDED - That the Council revert to using Tyne & Wear Play Ltd for its annual play equipment inspections.

Leaky Dams Maintenance

Agreed - That the Clerk urge Coxon Bros to clear away all brash etc from the leaky dams before the end of the current financial year.

2025/26 Budget

The Finance Group also made a provisional assessment of the Councils budget for 2025/26 which will be confirmed in March.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 12th March at 4.00pm

AGEED – That the recommendations of the Finance Group as set out above be approved.

(ii) Road Safety and Highways Group.

No meeting held.

(xii) Pedestrian/Cycling Strategy Joint Working Group.

No meeting held.

(xiii) Wildlife Area Working Group.

No meeting held.

(xiv) New Estates Working Group.

No meeting held.

8. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

None received.

(ii) Applications.

None received.

(iii) Local Plan Update.

Sites that have been submitted for development as part of the Local Plan -

Various parcels of land in the vicinity of Strikes Garden Centre.

Land north of Cotswold Street

Land to the east of Stokesley Road north of Thorntree Road

Strip of land off Stokesley Road leading through to Mill Hill Drive

Three parcels of land opposite Brompton CP School and Weavers Pavilion.

Land opposite the entrance to Standard Way on Darlington Road.

Councillor Watson commented that there would be another call for sites in six months time in view of the fact that the Government had doubled the build quota for housing.

(iv) Planning Appeal.

An appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of 4 dwellings in OS Field 7722, Lead Lane had been submitted to the Secretary of State.

(v) Enforcement Action – I Cockpit Hill.

The Local Planning Authority has issued the owners of 1 Cockpit Hill, Brompton with a Planning Enforcement Notice under Section 171A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The breach of planning control is the installation of roof mounted solar panels to the front elevation of the property. The owners do have the right of appeal against the enforcement notice and should lodge an appeal to the Planning Inspector by the 13 March 2025. If no appeal is lodged by this date the notice becomes active.

Once the notice is active the owner is required to remove the roof mounted solar panels from the front elevation of the property by the 13 June 2025.

A Councillor commented that on the one hand the Government was promoting the use of solar panels but the planners were not allowing them. The Clerk pointed out that the case in hand was in the Conservation Area and it could have been the case that in the past the Planning Authority had refused such consents.

(vi) Potential Gypsy Site.

The Clerk reported that he had responded to a survey from NYC indicating that he was not able to identify any land in the Parish that would be suitable for a gypsy site.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Income

Nil

Payments –

Sam Turners & Sons (Machinery repairs etc)	418.90
Fletcher Pest Control (Allotments)	81.60
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Tree works Including storm damage)	4,565.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	20.25
P Atkin (Salary)	444.08
HMRC (PAYE)	111.20
YDS Limited (Trailer +Digger Hire etc)	1,596.30
Mr D Langthorne (Works at Cemetery)	1,104.00
Barnes Associates (Tree inspection at Water End)	792.00
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) Direct Debit	29.33

Unity Trust Bank at 31st January 2025 –

Current Account - £22,653.50.

Deposit Account - £60,613.50

Barclays Bank at 3rd December 2024

Business Premium Account (1) - £131,919.74

Business Premium Account (2) - £631.88

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

The Bank Reconciliation appears at the end of this Update

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures

Cycle Barrier, Northallerton Road

Received from NYC Highways –

I can confirm that the Highway Authority were not consulted by Hambleton District Council, and should the District Council have provided permission for the banner, it was not their place to provide permission on a Highway Authority asset. Once again for the reasons outlined in my previous email, I ask the Parish Council to remove the banner, should this not happen, I will instruct our Highways Officer to remove this banner within 7 days of this email.

With regards to the claim that the bus stop is not in use, I have contacted our passenger transport team to confirm that this is used by the 72 service and the operator Hodgson's have never raised any concerns with regards to the bus stop size.

With reference to your remark about the pedestrian guardrail forcing pedestrians into the bus stop, my previous email stated that this is a designated cycleway and explained that whilst I accepted that pedestrians may be using the cycleway more than cyclists. This does not change the fact that this path has designated cycleway rights and the guardrail exists to encourage cyclists to dismount.

Given your comments regarding the piecemeal nature of the Cycleway, I have contacted our Active travel team for comment, as if there was any chance of improving the cycleway or removing the cycleway rights, it would be their budget which would need to cover this.

The response is as follows:

'The current cycleway that stretches along Northallerton Road including the guardrail has been in existence for over 15 years and has not been changed in this time frame despite the major changes with the introduction of North Moor Road. However, Brompton to Northallerton (along Northallerton Road) was identified as a priority corridor within the Northallerton Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) in 2020.

As this stretch of carriageway (Brompton to Northallerton) is a high priority in the LCWIP, officers have placed the scheme onto a list of major schemes that are subject to sifting for future funding opportunities in order to improve the walking and cycling facilities along this corridor. Although there are no funds at present to make compliant changes to this section of carriageway, should funding become available for North Yorkshire Council to design and deliver safe and compliant infrastructure in line with current guidance (LTN 1/20) officers will look at the status of the path, width of the path and street furniture (including guard rails) in order to make improvements in both safety and convenience for all users'.

I have now had chance to speak with a Council Officer who had involvement in this cycleway scheme when it was originally implemented. I am told the reason why the barriers were installed following complaints from a nearby resident about speeding cyclists and risk of an accident as they continued on the footpath. The barriers were subsequently installed approximately 2 months after the cycleway was installed.

With regard to a situation where a barrier has been installed to avoid the conflict between pedestrians and Cyclists would be at the end of Willow Beck Road on the corner of Walter Thompsons yard.

12. GRASSCUTTING TENDER – 2025 GRASSCUTTING SEASON.

See under Finance Group report above.

13. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA – To consider the Report by MAB Environment & Ecology Ltd

Response to MAB Ecology Report from the Wildlife Working Group

In order to estimate our costs for the upcoming financial year -2025, we have worked through the recommendations from the MAB report produced April 2024.

We produced a table of works, which we are following, this helps keeps us on track for when work needs doing by-i.e planting work and will help us project our budget needs.

We have responded to the bullet points we wish to amend.

The remainder of the report we agree with and are working with:

4.1.1

We are reluctant to dig up all the daffodil bulbs that collectively have been planted over the years.

If Spanish bluebell appears to be spreading rapidly (currently little evidence of) we will dig up the bulbs.

Native bulbs were sourced and will continue to be sourced.

Alder seedlings will be dug up and re planted by the beck side- digger may be required for the larger ones.

4.1.2

Annual Management regime

In general, we feel given the nature of the site- a rich floodplain, it is better for us to focus on increasing the numbers of small areas that we can remove turf from, bulb plant up and wildflower seed sow/plug sow, rather than mowing and removing the 'arisings' clippings every year from the Whole site- this is an expensive and labour intensive job, (few volunteers turned out for the raking last year other than myself and Emily's family)

We suggest we will ringfence the main middle area that can be accessed by a sit and ride mower/mini tractor with a bailer . Larger areas around the edges will be left uncut/ rotated for a high trim- this increase diversity of plants and insect habitats.

We were unable to find someone to tractor cut and bale last year. This year we have longer to source.

The paths haven't been cut for 2 years now and are well defined by foot traffic. If we feel there needs to be a cut we will organise for that to be done.

Hand pulling of the majority of dock will continue.

4.1.4

Plug plants and seeds will be bought and planted in March. We will ask Brompton Primary School to be involved with planting these.

4.2.3

Provide a small scrape / wetland area to encourage different species

We have decided to delay doing this until log pile has been created and new corridor has been planted. There are concerns if the users using the area would want a wet area.

4.2.4

Bird/animal/ habitat boxes- free timber has been supplied to Men's Shed's for them to start work on kit boxes which as previously happened, we will take to Brompton School for the children to put together DT then we will either site with them. Labour maybe required to put boxes in trees.

4.2.5

Logs have been collected by Sam and the work to put them onsite has begun. Please ask tree surgeons to add any logs to the area.

4.3.2

Shrub/tree planting eastern boundary

We will do this bit by bit each year it has suggested planting in groups of 3 monitoring space available to new shrubs and the survival of old.

	Spring 2025	Spring 2026	Spring 2027
Gelder Rose x3	3		
Rowans x3		3	
Buckthorn x3			3
Field Maple x2		2	
Hazel x6		3	3
Holly x6	3		3
Dog Wood x6	3		3

4.51

In October 2024 Children from Brompton Primary School planed a selection of native spring bulbs in two areas. One being at the entrance to the wildlife area. Signs of the bulbs are to soon to show. However we plan to plant some cornflower seeds here in March to add to the colour and beauty of the area. Colour when entering the wildlife area will set a great first impression of the site.

Budget- 2025-2026

Month	Job to be carried out	Where	Cost per 1	Total cost
February	Instal Bird and animal boxes	Labour will be required to put up bird boxes in trees when boxes are available. ASAP to encourage birds to use them this year		50.00
March	Corn flower seeds to be planted.	https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/search/?s=annual+cornflower+mix 250g to cover 75m2		24.00
	Gelder rose x3	https://www.hedgesdirect.co.uk/gelder-rose-hedging-viburnum-opulus#ct	£2.29	6.87

	Holly x3	https://www.hedgesdirect.co.uk/english-holly-hedging-ilex-aquifolium	£6.89	20.67
	Dog wood x3	https://www.hedgesdirect.co.uk/vivid-red-dogwood-hedging-cornus-alba-sibirica	2.59	7.77
	Plug plant knapweed	https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/knapweed-common-centaurea-nigra-plant.html	Pack of 10	£18.00
	Plug plant cranesbill	https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/cranesbill-meadow-geranium-pratense-plant.html	Pack of 10	£18.00
	Plug plant meadow saxifrage	https://www.cumbriawildflowers.co.uk/habitats/meadowsaxifrages-axifragagranulataplugplants	10	12.50
	Contribution to mens shed	Contribution to mens shed for constructing bird and mammal boxes.		100.00
July	Tractor and grass cutting (after 15 th July)			250
September	Monitor bulb growth and plant where needed.	https://www.bostonseeds.com/products/bs-woodland-wildflower-bulb-collection.html Price TBC as unavailable until September but approx. price.		80.00
Annual	Tree works	Throughout the year tree maintenance		300
			Total	887.81

We would like to request the sum of 900.00 to be budgeted 2005/6 for the Wildlife area.

Additional Resource- Nature Viewing Screen with incorporated Bug Hotel

Bug

Continue to build a log pile in the far corner of the green- contact tree surgeon to add to.

Tree tag QR Code nature trail- College students(a project started years ago and flopped after the DT teaching left. Will revive)

AGREED – That the above plan for the Wildlife Area be approved.

14. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Trees on Church View.

A complaint had been received that the trees near the Church under which a van was regularly parked were public health risk due to bird droppings on the vehicle. The tree contractors had been asked to see if the trees could be cutback but there was no guarantee that the birds would stop nesting in those trees. The Tree Survey Report did not indicate any works being necessary to the trees.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of the Next Meeting

AGREED – That the next meeting of the Council be held in The Methodist Church at 7.15pm on Tuesday 18th March 2025.

(ii) Council's Car Park.

In answer to a question the Vice-Chairman outlined the works still to be carried out at the car park so that parked cars would not be affected by any flooding.

A Councillor pointed to the increased use of the car park as a result of vehicles from BS Autos being parked around the village.

16. BURIAL MATTERS.

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm