

Minutes of the Meeting of Brompton Town Council held in the Methodist Church, Brompton on Tuesday 15th July 2025

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

There were 7 members of the public present at the meeting including NYC Councillor Steve Watson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carter and Potter.

Councillor Langthorne declared an interest in Accounts regarding cheque payments.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR.

Since the last Council meeting the vacancies were advertised in the two School newsletters and in the Darlington and Stockton Times.

NYC have advised that the required number of residents to call an election (10) for Sam Rolphs vacant position have not materialised so we will deal with that vacancy by co-option as well.

It is planned to interview those persons interested in becoming a Councillor during August with any appointments being confirmed at the September Council meeting.

3. MINUTES.

AGREED – That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 17th June, 2025 having been having been previously circulated be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STEPHEN WATSON

Councillor Watson reported that the frame had been removed and the low cable had been gathered up and put up at a height.

As regards issues at the development Councillor Watson was to meet with the Director of Persimmon Homes on the day after the current Council meeting regarding the play area, the graffiti and the long term plan for allotments.

The matter of the 20mph speed limit would involve a walk round with the new NYC Cabinet member and Councillor Watson would be pressing for this matter to proceed through Council. However the officer dealing with the matter had been away ill.

As regards the matter of the footpath into Walkers field Councillor Watson said that he shared residents concerns with officers not processing the matter; however he would be meeting with NYC Director on the day after the current Council meeting to raise issues of not having been able to get a response from NYC officers on the matter.

Councillor Watson was also following up the possibility of a contribution being made towards the costs of the repair/replacement of the footbridge.

The Chairman reported that she had visited the site of the footpath on the previous evening and was disappointed to see how overgrown it was and that the fence was also damaged. The land belonged to Broadacres Housing who needed to be asked to tidy the site up as it was a disgrace.

The original bridge had been removed some years ago and the replacement bridge was now closed. The overgrowth had also meant that the footpath had also disappeared and the original fencing had all gone.

Reference was also made to the broken fence along the side of the railway line.

Councillor Watson stated that there was a need for the NYC Director to visit the site and map out what currently exists and what doesn't exist at the moment.

There was also a quantity of rubbish that Broadacres Housing needed to remove from the site that was blocking access to the bridge.

The Chairman commented that it would be a pity to lose the original footpath and the bridge.

She added that Brompton Council would offer to make a contribution towards the costs of a new bridge if that resulted in getting the bridge replaced more quickly.

The local NYC footpath volunteer had reported the matter to NYC on several occasions over the years and residents had cut back the route several times with a resident present at the meeting said that he had cut back overgrowth with secateurs in the last year.

The overgrowth meant that the footpath was no longer there and the fence needed to be reinstated. The Vice-Chairman added that some years previously there had been a gate into the field.

Councillor Watson said that he should get a good response from Broadacres Housing as they were keen on community involvement and that one of the reasons for the overgrowth could be the fact that they had probably changed their contractor.

A resident said that people were using the railway line to get across.

A Councillor also pointed out that the bridge was not to be repaired but was scheduled for replacement.

A member of the public said that he doubted that the structure of the bridge was rotten and the Chairman clarified that the bridge belonged to North Yorkshire Council adding that Brompton Council had identified works that needed to be carried out to the footpath and which they would follow through.

On a separate matter the Chairman asked Councillor Watson that having had Lead Lane resurfaced very recently was Lead Lane on the list to be part of the 20mph speed limit? Councillor Watson confirmed that Lead Lane would be within the 20mph zone and that in due course there would be a need to carry out enforcement and also to further encourage Mr Spence to use his alternative route.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Chairman commented that Mrs Slater's BRG pay equipment safety report did not seem to be as bad as may have been expected.

6. LOCAL CRIME REPORT + INSTANCES OF VANDALISM.

Statistics taken from	01/06/2025 to 30/06/2025
Crime Type	
Anti-Social Behaviour	2 Reports
Anti-Social Personal	1 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)	2 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	0 Reports
Total	5 Reports

Multi Agency Partnership - Meeting held on 8th July 2025

The report of this meeting appears in the Monthly Update.

7. MATTERS ARISING.

(i) New Benches in the Churchyard.

The PCC had asked the Council if it had any observations about the positioning of two new seats in the Churchyard. The PCC was subsequently informed that the Council would not accept any future maintenance responsibility for the benches and reserved the right to remove them under Health and Safety if they fell into disrepair in accordance with Council's insurance.

(ii) Dog Fouling on The Green.

Following information received from a resident the matter had been referred to North Yorkshire Council.

(iii) Cutting of Hedge on Stokesley Road.

It was reported that North Yorkshire Council had advised that it would escalate this with the landowner involved and if there was no progress it the hedge was not cut it would refer the matter to it's Legal Team for potential enforcement action.

(iv) Cutting of Hedge Alongside Northallerton Road at The Close.

The hedge was scheduled to be cut in the third week of July as it had been done last year.

(v) Battle of The Standard Memorial Plaque.

The PCC had advised Councillor Carter as follows –

I am in the process of completing the faculty application for the Standard Memorial Plaque.

We would like to place the plaque on the wall in the church porch .

You mentioned Brompton Council would provide an explanation plate in an appropriate materiel. Also, you mentioned you may mount the plaque on a wooden base. Could you let me have more detail about the explanation plate i.e. size, wording, material. Also the size of the wooden base.

(vi) Pavement Repair – Water End.

A resident had again raised an issue from two years ago with regard to the responsibility for the maintenance of a small section of pavement at the north east end of Water End.

NYC Highways had advised the resident that BTC was responsible the pavement but this was not the case. This is another instance similar to the one at the foot of Cockpit Hill which last year where such short sections of footpath are not shown on any Deeds following land transfers very many years ago. The resident has been advised to seek the advice of a Solicitor.

(vii) Adult Outdoor Gym Equipment.

Concerns about the current condition of the adult gym equipment in the Recreation Ground have been referred to Playequip.

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

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had looked at the footpath and bridge to the rear of The Orchards and had noted an issue with the fence along the railway where it was missing or broken in places.

9. REPORTS – INCLUDING REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS –

(i) Finance Group.

The Finance Group met on the 12th July.

Play Equipment - Climbing Frame at Water End.

AGREED - That the climbing frame at Water End be replaced in the current financial year by a modern similar climbing frame and that the Clerk obtain quotations for this play equipment for the September meeting of the Finance Group.

Climbing Frame in the Recreation Ground.

AGREED - That this be re-erected as soon as is possible.

Cemetery Gravestone Inspections.

AGREED - That the Clerk carry out the safety inspection of the headstones in the Cemetery as soon as is possible in advance of any changes that Insurers may introduce restricting such in-house inspections following the death of a child in a Cemetery in Lancashire this month.

Dog Bins.

RECOMMENDED - That two dog bins be purchased in the current financial year, one to be placed at Water End and, subject to NYC confirming that it would empty the bin, the other be placed on the Right of Way behind The Green Tree Inn.

Lead Lane - Signs.

RECOMMENDED - That the request from a resident, as appearing on the current Council meeting agenda, for improved road signing on Lead Lane following the recent re-surfacing works be supported.

Tree Works

AGREED - That the Clerk ascertain from Hillside Tree Surgeons what tree works remain to be carried out during the course of the current financial year.

Extension of Fence at Wildlife Area.

AGREED - That Hillside Tree Surgeons be asked when they can carry out this work - the quotation for which has previously been approved.

New Street Light.

AGREED - That the Clerk ask NYC when they intend to install the new street light on Northallerton Road just passed the Rugby Club.

Council's Email Address.

Noted - That the Council will be required to use it's clerk@bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk email address from the municipal year 2026/27 and that the Clerk and Mr J Robinson work towards this.

Village Walk-round.

RECOMMENDED - That the Village Walk-round be held on Tuesday 19th August commencing at 6.30pm at the Rugby Club and that the persons who have expressed an interest in the Council's co-opted vacancies be also invited to be present.

Date of September Council meeting.

RECOMMENDED - That the September meeting of the Council be changed to Tuesday 9th September.

Finance Group - Next Meeting.

AGREED - To be held on Monday 1st September at 4.00pm

AGREED – That the decisions and recommendations of the Finance Group as set out above be approved.

(ii) Highways/ Road Safety Working Group.

No meeting held.

(iii) Joint Pedestrian/Cycling Working Group.

No meeting held.

(iv) New Estates Working Group.

No meeting held.

10. PLANNING MATTERS.

(i) Decisions.

ZB25/00477/FUL – Erection of agricultural building to cover 2 silage clamps at Lowfieds Farm, Fullicar Lane – GRANTED.

ZB25/00811/FUL - Conversion of existing garage into habitable living space - 16 Breakspeare Garth – GRANTED.

(ii) Applications.

None received to date.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT.

Income

J Blenkiron Funeral Directors (Burial fee)	1,240.00
Dale of Thirsk (Memorial fee)	60.00

Payments –

CE+ CE Walker (May grasscutting)	1,826.40
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Fletcher Pest Control (Allotments site)	73.20
Brompton Methodist Church (Room hire)	168.00
Tyne & Wear Play (Safety inspections)	450.00
T P Jones (Quarterly payroll)	59.40
P Atkin (Salary)	444.28
HMRC (PAYE)	111.00
P Atkin (Expenses)	36.70
North Yorkshire Council (Annual Service Level Agreement)	652.80
Hillside Tree Surgeons (Various works)	850.00
Mr D Langthorne	230.00
YDS Limited (Trailer Hire)	177.60
NYCC Yorwaste (Advance Charges) Direct Debit	30.36

Unity Trust Bank at 3rd July 2025 –

Current Account - £24,122.47

Deposit Account - £61,352.20

Barclays Bank at 3rd June 2025

Business Premium Account - £128,547.49

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

It was reported that the External Auditors had acknowledged receipt of the Council's Annual Financial Return (AGAR) which was now in a queuing system awaiting processing.

12. CLOSURE OF BRIDGE/FOOTPATH AT REAR OF THE ORCHARDS TO WALKERS FIELDS.

Information received from North Yorkshire Council -

Residents can email any enquiries to paths@northyorks.gov.uk with the reference number 70364 and for the attention of Sarah McDonald.

It might be prudent to coordinate queries and have one person from the parish email for updates? Rather than Sarah being inundated with requests for info and having to spend time saying the same thing to numerous people... there won't be a lot to say at the moment anyway – the bridge is now on the list for complete replacement due to the extensive rot in beams so won't be opening again until that happens. Whether that will be within this financial year I'm not sure.

See discussion in the meeting above under Report of Councillor Steve Watson.

13. ANNUAL PLAY INSPECTION SAFETY REPORTS.

Annual Safety Report Circulated to Councillors.

The matters raised included -

Climbing Frame at Water End – non-compliance of safety surfacing and whether due to its age it would be replaced.

Basket Swing at the Recreation Ground – defective fitting – now rectified.

Surfacing under the outdoor adult gym equipment needs reinstating.

Signage at the Recreation Ground needs replacing.

14. HIGHWAY MATTERS - Including Notification of Road Closures + Date of Site Visit re Resurfacing of Fullicar Lane + Highway Signing Lead Lane.

Road Closure.

A road closure took place between the 2nd and the 7th July on Lead Lane for resurfacing works.

Resurfacing of Fullicar Lane.

To arrange a date to meet the NYC Highways Engineer following the receipt of the following -

North Yorkshire council are intending to undertake a resurfacing scheme on Fullicar Lane, Brompton in the Financial year 2026/27. At this stage we are in the design phase, however I would appreciate either talking on the phone or a site visit to discuss the interaction both with the village green (in particular at the ford to the east of the site) as well as how best we can undertake the works while minimising the disruption to locals.

Like I say, ideally we can do this on a site walk over so as to avoid misunderstandings/mis communications.

Highway Signing Lead Lane.

A resident had asked if it would be possible to have new highways signs at each end of Lead Lane for 30mph and a “pedestrians” sign.

AGREED – That NYC Highways be urged to provide such signs to protect both pedestrians and the new carriageway surface along Lead Lane.

15. GREENS INSPECTION + WILD LIFE AREA.

The new fencing alongside northern boundary of the wildlife area had been slightly shortened following a car accident by an adjoining landowner is accessing her field so as to give her more maneuverability and her need to get a farmers grass cutting machine into the field.

Hillside Tree Surgeons had been asked to complete the fencing alongside the Recreation Ground as soon as they are able to.

16. CORRESPONDENCE.

(i) Street Light at Hilton Green.

Complaint received that NYC was moving a streetlight which had been in front of a property on Hilton Green for 40 years to a new position which would be nearer to the bedroom window. Resident informed that BTC was unable to direct NYC about the positioning of street lights

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Date of the next Meeting

AGREED – That the next meeting be held in the Methodist Church at 7.15pm on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

(ii) Date of Annual Village Walk-Round

AGREED – That this be held on Tuesday 19th August commencing at 6.30pm at the Rugby Club.

(iii) Bench near Pay Aea at Water End.

This had been removed by the Vice-Chairman for repair. There was also a need to look at the Wildlife Area to see if another bench need to be relocated to there.

(iv) Gully Emptying.

It was reported that some gully emptying had taken place along Northallerton Road but not all had been done. The Clerk undertook to ask the reason why.

(v) Bus Shelter.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he was at present cleaning out the bus shelter but both the litter bin and the cigarette bin needed to be replaced.

18. BURIAL MATTERS.

The Council was currently awaiting the inspections in the Churchyard by Mr France.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm