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**Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 19th June 2017 in Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

**Councillors present:**

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chairman) Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Eileen Carew Cllr. Brian Singer

Cllr. Jill Mills Cllr. Peter Howe

**In attendance:**

Mrs Anne Dale – County Councillor

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

2 members of the public were present

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.35 pm.

# 17/51 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Malcolm Reid.

17/52 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Dunhill declared an interest in Item 9 - Cricket Club redevelopment, as his team used the ground.

17/53 **Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 8th May and 24th May 2017**

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting and of the Extraordinary Council meeting were a true record and duly signed off by Cllr. Dunhill (Proposed: Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllrs. McKenzie and Mills respectively).

17/54 **Matters arising**

1. *Minute 17/34 – Standing Orders/ Financial Regulations*

It was noted that a response was still awaited from NALC and the matter would be deferred to a future meeting.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Minute 17/36(ii) – Marchburn Lane Bridge repairs*

Cllr Dunhill reported that a meeting with Marchburn Lane residents to discuss the repairs was to be held on Thursday 22nd June.

1. *Minute 17/37 – Bus shelters*

The Clerk reported that the new bus shelters would be installed the week commencing Monday 10th July.

1. *Minute17/40 – Safety Mirror for The Nick*

Cllr. Dale had contacted the landowner re positioning a safety mirror opposite the Nick and was awaiting written confirmation that there was no objection.

**ACTION: ADa**

1. *Minute 17/41 – Insurance*

It was noted that the Insurance queries had been raised with Came & Company and further clarification on the matter was awaited.

1. Minute 17/49 – Repairs to riverbank

Cllr. Dunhill reported that work to repair the riverbank had begun. A number of trees had been pollarded to reduce the weight on the riverbank and work to underpin it would commence shortly.

17/55 **Trees**

It was noted that the Clerk had authorised work to make safe a tree which had fallen by the Tennis Club pavilion. This was ratified by the councillors.

As requested, the Clerk had obtained quotes for tree work to be undertaken at two locations in the village where land ownership could not be established.

1. Land opposite Whiteside Bank from Dere Hollow to the entrance to the new development opposite the Old Tavern. Trees were overhanging the pavement making it difficult for pedestrians to use it.
2. Trees opposite the School. There were three oaks with large branches overhanging the road. It was proposed that these be reduced by 50%. NB: the trees form part of the Oaklands TPO.

Additionally, the PC considered a quote for the removal of two further trees by the Tennis Club house which were leaning and were now exposed following removal of trees for the Marchburn Lane development.

The tree surgeon had also flagged a tree which he considered should be dead wooded in Marchburn Woods and which had been missed from the initial priority list.

Quotes for all the work were considered and accepted albeit the tree in Marchburn Woods which Cllr. Dunhill agreed to inspect first and would authorise if he felt it necessary. [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. McKenzie/Singer].

**ACTION: CH**

17/56 **The Spinney**

At the last PC meeting it was agreed to make the entrance to the Spinney safer as per the plans proposed by the County Council. A price had been negotiated with NCC for the Highways element of the work which offered savings if the modifications were undertaken at the same time as other work proposed by Cllr. Dale as part of her 20 mph scheme. It was deemed that the County Council was the most appropriate body to carry out this work and it was unanimously agreed to suspend standing orders and consider only one quote, which was approved [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer]. Other quotes for modifications to the fencing and gate would be considered at the September PC meeting.

**ACTION: CH**

17/57 **Repairs to Weir**

It was noted that one of the stones at the weir had been pushed out of position due to a storm last year. Two quotes to have it moved back into position were received. After consideration, the lower quote submitted by S B Tree Services was accepted. [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer].

**ACTION: CH**

17/58 **Riding Mill Play & Regeneration Group**

Cllr. Dunhill and the Clerk reported on the fundraising progress of the Play & Regeneration Group.

Currently, £31,000 had been raised which included £10,000 from the Big Lottery and £6940 from NCC S106 Housing Fund. Other generous contributions had been received from the Riding Grange Fund, Councillor Dale, Osbit and other local businesses, together with residents’ contributions to a crowd funding initiative. The outcome of other funding applications should be known by the end of July. The Group also hoped to apply to the Community Chest once the fund opened later in the year. The hope was to start installing the equipment after the summer school holidays and the Group was hopeful that this could be achieved.

It was reported that the PC held funds in Reserves for Play Park improvements. It was unanimously agreed that £5000 should be made available initially with other funds used later in the project if there was a need. [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, Seconded Cllr. Howe].

17/59 **New Sports Pavilion**

Cllr. Singer reported that planning permission for the new pavilion had been obtained and that the Sports Club was busy preparing grant applications with the help of Kathie Keady from Active Northumberland. The football coaching sessions were going well with an additional coach involved which meant the age range could be extended. A team from Prudhoe had been interested in hiring the field but this had unfortunately fallen through. Hiring the pitch for next season should be a priority in order to generate some income and it was suggested that the Club ask Active Northumberland to advertise it.

**ACTION: CH/Clive Page**

17/60 **Invasive Plants**

A knotweed plant had been spotted in the cordoned-off section on Millfield Road. Also, the Mare’s Tail plants on Marchburn Lane continued to be a problem and were damaging the road. A quote had been received from a specialist firm to treat both areas. It was unanimously agreed to appoint the contractor [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, Seconded Cllr. Howe].

Cllr. Carew asked that the knotweed plant on the A695 near Riding Grange be checked to ensure that there was no new growth. Cllr. Dale offered to raise this with the appropriate officer at the County Council.

**ACTION: CH/ADa**

17/61 **Finance**

1. Monthly accounts
2. *The following payments were authorised* [Proposed Cllr. McKenzie/Seconded Cllr. Howe]:

Sandy Bank Residents’ Association – contribution to Nick insurance £334.00

Thornton Firkin – Cricket Pavilion – QS fee £150.00

RM Village Hall Trust – Yearly grant £2500.00

Let’s Get Growing – S137 donation £60.00

Stuart Burns – Tree works area C £2360.00

Came & Company – yearly insurance £1855.19

Stuart Burns – make safe fallen tree £240.00

Catherine Harrison – May salary + home allowance £432.68

Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (Postage - £16.68, Cable

ties - £1.60, Plastic wallets £4.99) £23.27

St James PCC –part printing costs of Parish News to include yearly reports £92.00

NWG Business – water charges for cricket pavilion £11.80

Val & Alan Thompson – plants for entrance planters £35.48

Malcolm Reid – reimbursement for hose connectors for edible garden £11.98

Rob Archer – installation of fence where tree and hedge removed, Millfield Road £105.00

Homevend (June 17 Invoice 81) £80.00

*The following receipts were noted:*

Northumberland County Council – rent to use Old Playground for buses £50.00

Big Lottery Fund – Grant for Play Park redevelopment £10,000.00

1. *Budget report*

The budget reports were received but there were no issues to note.

1. Review of Standing Orders & Direct Debits

It was noted that the Council currently paid the handyman, Homevend, by Standing Order each month. The water for the Sports Club was paid via Direct Debit. No other payments were made by these means. Authorisation to continue to make the payments by these means was unanimously agreed [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer].

17/62 **Handyman**

It was noted that the Handyman had washed the mirrors, weeded the leylandii area by the MUGA court and cleaned the play park apparatus and surrounding soft surfaces. This accounted for his June payment.

17/63 **Planning**

 It was reported that:

1. the following planning application was under consideration by NCC:

17/01508/FUL – 15 Station Close. 1st floor extension. PC – no objection.

1. that the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and granted permission:

17/01031/FUL – 1 The Bungalow, Broomhaugh. New dwelling

17/01043/FUL – Cranford, Millfield Road. Extension

17/01085/FUL – Riding Mill Cricket Club. New pavilion

1. that the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and refused permission:

17/01196/FUL – South Close, Sandy Bank. New dwelling and triple garage.

17/01197/FUL – South Close, Sandy Bank. New dwelling and double garage.

1. that an appeal against a planning decision relating to West Cottage, Shepherds Dene had been dismissed.

17/64 **Correspondence**

A letter from Mrs Rowntree had been received regarding the insurance of Marchburn Lane bridge and Millfield Road bridge. A reply had been sent.

17/65 **Minor Matters**

1. *Memory Café*

At the annual Parish Meeting there had been a discussion about whether there was any interest in offering a monthly Memory café similar to the one run in Corbridge which supported those with dementia and their carers. It was recognised that the volunteers who help run the Lunch Club and the Foyer Café already offer a great deal of time to these activities and couldn’t be expected to take on more. It was however agreed that an article in the Parish newsletter asking for interested volunteers to come forward would be appropriate. Cllr. McKenzie offered to gauge reaction views and opinions in the church community and wider.

**ACTION: CH/DM**

1. *Newsletter*

The Clerk outlined plans for this year’s newsletter and councillors agreed to write various articles. It was hoped the newsletter would be printed by late July.

**ACTION: ALL**

1. *World War One Roll of Honour*

It was noted that restoration of the panel would be completed shortly. It was agreed that the panel should be installed once returned although it would not be rededicated until November 2018. There was still a question of where this should be and it was agreed that Cllrs. McKenzie and Singer should liaise with the Church Wardens and Mrs Pryor to agree a location.

**ACTION: DM/BS**

1. *Interpretation Board for the Spinney*

The Clerk had obtained quotes for an interpretation board at the Spinney. Councillors considered it a good idea and therefore would consider formally the quotes at the next meeting. Cllr. Howe offered to liaise with Mr & Mrs Charman re the text and offered to convert their graphics into a PDF file that could be submitted to the sign maker.

**ACTION: CH/PH**

1. *Gateways*

It was reported that the plants used at the gateways had suffered due to lack of water and damage by rabbits. It was suggested that future planting should concentrate on bulbs and possibly wildflower seeds. This was unanimously agreed. Val & Alan Thompson had offered to maintain the planters if the PC paid for the plants. This was gladly accepted and the PC offered its thanks to them.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *East Tynedale Forum*

A letter had been received from the Chair of the East Tynedale Forum re future funding of the Forum and validation of its role. The PC agreed that the Forum for the most part served a useful purpose and that it would be prepared to pay a contribution to its running costs (suggested donation £30).

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Condition of Slaley Road*

Cllr. Carew reported that there were a number of pot holes on the first section of Slaley Road together with springs in the road which were causing it to crumble. It was agreed to refer this to Cllr. Dale.

**ACTION: CH/ADa**

17/66 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 11th September 2017. Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm