



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th November 2019 at Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chair)

Cllr. Brian Singer

Cllr. Eileen Carew

Cllr. Jill Mills

Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Pam Bridges

Cllr. Christine Howe

Cllr. Pauline Mulholland

In attendance:

County Councillor Anne Dale (until Minute 19/103)

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

Mr Rob Archer – Chairman of Riding Mill Tennis Club (until item 19/97)

Six members of the public were present

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.43 pm.

19/94 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Janet Padgett.

19/95 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Dunhill declared an interest in Item 8: Sports Club;

19/96 **Presentation by Riding Mill Tennis Club**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Archer on the Tennis Club's plans for 2020. These plans had been developed from ideas submitted by members and included: creating a logo for the Club; displaying the logo and possibly a sponsor on a screening net to obscure the walkway; installing a sign at the entrance to the double courts on Millfield Road, creating a covered social area by the club house for use when hosting barbecues; replacing the tarmac surface before the bridge with block paving; installing floodlights on the double courts.

A consultation with Tennis Club members had been carried out and 19 of the 21 who had responded were supportive of the ideas. The new structure and floodlights would require substantial funds to be raised and were long-term projects. Planning requirements needed to be established.

Councillors were generally supportive of the ideas but agreed that before commenting further they would like the Tennis Club to consult with neighbours from surrounding properties or preferably with the whole village, after first establishing what planning permission would be required.

ACTION: TENNIS CLUB

19/97 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2019**

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting were a true record and duly signed off by Cllr. Dunhill (proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. McKenzie).

19/98 **Matters Arising**

- (i) *Minutes 19/75(i) – Repairs to Millfield Road Bridge.*
The Clerk confirmed that due to the poor weather, the contractors had yet to paint a small section of the bridge. However, all structural work had been completed which BT Bell had inspected and approved. The contractor would return to complete the work when a suitable period of dry weather could be found;
- (ii) *Minute 19/75(v) – Water leak on Main Road.*
Cllr Dale was working with NWL and the County Council to address the two water leaks on the main road. The latest leak by the Mill House would be dealt with as soon as the traffic lights were removed by Northern Powergrid. Once this was completed, hopefully the County Council would then be able to deal with the leak on the bank which would require new drainage to be laid;
- (iii) *Minute 19/76- externally accessible toilet at Parish Hall.*
It was noted that Cllr. Mulholland had spoken to the manager of the Wellington and he had kindly agreed that users of the Play Park could use the toilets at the Wellington and was happy for a sign to be displayed indicating this;
- ACTION: CH**
- (iv) *Minute 19/79 – Play Park repairs.*
The Clerk reported that the urgent repairs at the Play Park had recently been completed. Some minor issues still had to be addressed and would be done during a period of dry weather;
- (v) *Minute 19/80 – Enhanced Services.*
The Clerk reported that she had received a price from the County Council to undertake pavement cleaning. The County Council wished to test the suitability of their equipment and would respond shortly;
- (vi) *Minute 19/84 – Local Transport Plan.*
The Clerk confirmed that the following priorities had been submitted to be considered for next year's LTP:
- Installation of a short section of pavement between Riding Mill and Stocksfield on the A695 to link the current footpaths;
 - Reinstatement of the Right of Way between Riding Mill and Corbridge.

19/99 **County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Dale reported on the following issue:

- (i) *Gullies* – there were a number of blocked gullies throughout the village which Cllr. Dale had reported to the County Council;
- (ii) *20-mph scheme* - the introduction of the 20-mph scheme outside school was running late and Cllr. Dale was liaising with the relevant officer at the County Council;
- (iii) *Street lighting* – this was mostly finished but Cllr. Dale was monitoring the work to ensure that all outstanding issues were dealt with;
- (iv) *Pedestrian crossing* – the scheme was running late and, as with the 20-mph scheme, Cllr. Dale continued to raise this issue with the relevant officers;
- (v) *Environment Agency* – Cllr. Dale noted that the Environment Agency would be undertaking further flood risk assessments in the village shortly;
- (vi) *New sub-station* – Cllr. Dale confirmed that the new electricity sub-station had been granted planning approval;
- (vii) *A68* – Cllr. Dale reported that vegetation along the highway near the High Shilford junction had been cut back to aid visibility.

Councillors discussed ways to support Councillor Dale as it was clear that basic County Council services were under-resourced. A combined approach to the County Council via the East Tynedale Forum was thought the most appropriate way forward.

19/100 Restoration of the former Mill Pond

A report from the Tyne Rivers Trust was received outlining their initial findings and possible options for the reinstatement of the mill pond. It was noted that a public consultation event would be held on Wednesday 13th November for residents to view the options proposed and comments received at this event would feed into the final feasibility report.

19/101 Sports Club

- (i) An update report was received from Cllr. Howe. There had been a poor response to the village survey which was disappointing as the PC would need to show village support if it was to apply for grant funding. An initial outline specification for the work required had been agreed with the Sports Club and currently five local builders planned to quote. Cllr. Dale was working with the Sports Club to prepare a 5-year business plan which would be needed for grant applications.
- (ii) It was noted that a request had been received from Northern Powergrid to grant a wayleave across a small area of land at the sports field to allow the electricity supply to be continued to the chalets and possibly Osbit. The PC noted that it had the right to grant the wayleave, but the power supply had been paid for and belonged to the Sports Club and combined consent would therefore be needed. The Council agreed, in principle, that it would be prepared to grant the wayleave but that it must first have agreement from the Sports Club (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. McKenzie).

19/102 Green Agenda and Climate Change

- (i) Cllr. McKenzie reported that a village meeting to discuss climate change had been convened by representatives of the Church, Village Hall Trust, Parish Council and School. 42 residents had attended including some children as young as 6. Gillian Orrell from Transition Tynedale had led the meeting and a number of recommendations had been put forward. Cllr. McKenzie was now keen to hear from people willing to take forward a particular suggestion, whilst a small steering group would oversee the different projects.
- (ii) A discussion was held as to whether the Parish Council should declare a 'climate emergency' and it considered what commitments it should make to support such a declaration. Cllr. Singer outlined various suggestions - all of which were supported. However, it was suggested that such a declaration should be made by the village climate group and Cllr. McKenzie was asked to raise this at the steering group and report back to the next PC meeting.

ACTION: DM
- (iii) Newcastle's Clean Air consultation - It was agreed that councillors should respond on an individual basis to this consultation <https://www.breathe-cleanair.com/>

ACTION: ALL
- (iv) Local recycling – this item was deferred to a future meeting.

19/103 General Village Maintenance

- (i) *Handyman.* It was noted that the Handyman had cleared leaves from various paths, swept footpaths and cut back branches by the roadside at various locations. He had also cleared leaf debris from drains which were the Parish's responsibility. This accounted for his October and November payments. In addition, he had also undertaken some repairs at the Play Park and stained the planter at the west end of the village.
- (ii) *Footpaths / Rights of Way.* It was noted that a meeting had been held with the County's Footpaths Officer and all footpath queries had been raised with him. It had been suggested that the PC's handyman should maintain some of the footpaths within the village and he was amenable to this but it would be dependent upon the handyman's quote being competitive with the contractors who were currently employed to do this work.

- (iii) *Litter Bins.* The Clerk had contacted the County Council to discuss whether a bin could be placed at the roundabout. Collecting the rubbish at this location could be difficult as their vehicles wouldn't be able to stop on the roundabout and, due to limited staff resources, they preferred household bins to be installed so that normal bin lorries could collect the waste. After further consideration, it was agreed that a bin should not be installed.
- (iv) *Repairs to the fencing along the footpath from Broomhaugh to the Station.* A quote was considered but the Clerk was asked to clarify if all the repairs were necessary as it had been felt that only one small section needed repair.
- (v) *Edible garden/gateways.* A quote to lay additional bark chippings at the gateways and the edible garden was received and approved (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Carew). **ACTION: CH**
- (vi) *Ivy on the wall by Dene Terrace.* It was agreed that the ivy along the wall by Dene Terrace should be trimmed as it was hindering pedestrians using the footpath. (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Carew). **ACTION: CH**

ACTION: CH

19/104 Finance

(a) Monthly accounts

(i) *The following payments were authorised* (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Bridges):

David Ballantyne – tree work	£1350.00
Office Depot – stationery	£110.65 (inc. VAT £18.44)
Playdale Playgrounds – parts for repair of play equipment	£1254.14 (inc. VAT £209.02)
Seymour Gardens – mare's tail treatment / edible garden	£86.00
RM Village Hall Trust – room hire	£12.00
Unity Trust Bank – quarterly bank charges	£18.00
M E Stewart / Neetfleet – play park repairs	£140.00
Catherine Harrison – September salary + back pay	£538.54
T Bell Horticultural Services – grass cutting	£440.00
St James Church PCC – room hire	£40.00
Mr M Bridges – village history books	£16.00
Seymour Gardens – restocking of 7 planters / treatment of mare's tail	£175.00
BT Bell – professional fees re Millfield Road bridge repairs	£504.00 (inc. VAT £84.00)
Town & Parish Council Websites – migration of site and yearly fees	£803.00
Catherine Harrison – October salary + home allowance	£491.89
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement	£83.61
(Stationery - £33.43, postage £3.17, Bike lock £9.11, Reimbursement of cost Related to copying deeds - £37.90)	
Royal British Legion – donation in lieu of payment for wreath	£60.00
Transfer to Bridges sinking fund	£2000.00

Standing Orders/Direct Debits:

Martin Stewart/Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (October)	£160.00
Martin Stewart/Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (November)	£160.00

The following receipts were noted:

Triodos - quarterly interest	£10.36
Northumberland County Council – 2 nd instalment of precept	£21,000.00
RM Allotments' Association – quarterly rent	£50.11
Mrs W Robe – copies of deeds	£37.90

(ii) *Budget report*

The budget report was received and accepted. No issues were identified. It was noted that the Loans and Donations budget appeared to be vastly overspent but this was due to the £12,000 loan given to the Sports Club which had already been repaid.

(b) *Yearly Budget*

- (i) It was agreed to delay reallocating the funds originally earmarked for the installation of the toilet at the Parish Hall until the end of the financial year;
- (ii) It was noted that the yearly budget would be set at next month's meeting. Ideas for capital expenditure projects should be notified to the Clerk in advance. A briefing meeting would be held before the December meeting which the Clerk would arrange.

ACTION: CH

(c) *S137 Grants*

- (i) It was agreed to make a £60 donation to the Royal British Legion to cover the cost of the Remembrance Day wreath.
- (ii) It was noted that funding requests from other bodies would be considered at the December meeting.

ACTION: CH

19/105 Planning

It was reported:

- (i) that there were no new planning applications to note;
- (ii) that the following planning application had been approved by NCC:
19/02821/FUL – Woodside, Sandy Bank. Construction of detached double garage.

19/106 Correspondence

A letter from Mrs Baker of High Shilford Farm had been received raising concerns about the difficulty for walkers crossing over the A68 at this point. Whilst appreciating her concerns, the PC felt it was for the County Council to review and advise on this matter. A suggestion was made to install pedestrian crossing signs similar to the ones by the Wentworth Grange crossing and the Clerk was asked to raise this with Cllr. Dale.

ACTION: CH

19/107 Minor Matters

- (i) *Christmas Tree.* The Clerk reported that the Christmas tree would be illuminated on Sunday 8th December at 4.30 pm. Before this the Film Club had offered to show the children's film 'Nativity' and the Village Hall Trust had offered to arrange refreshments for residents who could start to assemble from 4 pm. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to organise some carol singers and Cllr. Howe would find someone to act as Santa to switch on the lights.

ACTION: CH/CHo

- (ii) *Website transfer.* It was noted that the website had transferred to the new host. The site was now secure and met GDPR requirements. There had been some issues with ridingmill.org emails but hopefully this had been resolved.

- (i) *Foodbank collection point.* It was noted that there was now a collection point for the West Northumberland Foodbank at the Parish Hall.

19/108 Confidential Matters:

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was unanimously agreed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item: the policy relating to the release of covenants,

19/109 Date of Future Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 9th December 2019.
Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 9.49 pm