



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018 in Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chairman)
Cllr. Brian Singer
Cllr. Eileen Carew
Cllr. Jill Mills

Cllr. Malcolm Reid
Cllr. David McKenzie
Cllr. Peter Howe (present until item 18/11)

In attendance:

Mrs Anne Dale – County Councillor
Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk
Two members of the public were present

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.34 pm.

18/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Pam Pryor, Chair of the Village Hall Trust.

18/02 Declaration of Interests

Cllr. Singer declared an interest in 11(c) – Allotment Association rent review, as he was a member of the Allotment Association.

18/03 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 11th December 2017

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th December were a true record and duly signed off by Cllr. Dunhill (Proposed: Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer).

18/04 Matters arising

(i) Minutes 17/111(i) - Relocation of bus stop sign

This matter was still unresolved and Cllr. Dale would again liaise with the relevant officer at the County Council.

ACTION: ADa

(ii) Minute 17/111(vi) – Millfield Road turning area.

Mr Archer and Mrs Stephenson confirmed that they had spoken to nearby residents in Millfield Road and everyone was supportive of warning signs being installed. They presented some ideas and it was agreed that councillors should meet on site to review the designs and size of the signs. Once final designs were agreed, the Clerk would write to the residents to outline the proposals and ask for confirmation of their approval.

ACTION: AD/RA/LS/CH

(iii) Minute 17/113 – Bridges' Sinking Fund

The Clerk reported that she had identified an organisation which offered a suitable account but the minimum initial investment was £25,000. Gilts or Corporate Bonds were another possibility but she suggested specialist advice should be sought first from a financial advisor. Cllr. Reid proposed that any investments were deemed ethical and should exclude investment in fossil fuels. This was seconded by Cllr. Singer and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CH

18/05 **County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Dale commented on the following issues:

1. New street lighting – there were still ongoing problems but she hoped that these would be resolved shortly once she had held a site visit with the County Council;
2. 20 mph school speed zone – these plans were progressing and the final draft would be circulated soon;
3. Water leaks – she was liaising with NWL, BT and the County Council over various leaks and problems with gullies. Water flow from the Slaley Road had caused ice on the junction with the A695. She would ask NCC to install a grit bin at this location for road users and residents to use when necessary;
4. Gas smell at west end of village – she was aware of the problem and would liaise with Northern Gas Networks;
5. Footpath matters – she continued to highlight issues to Tim Fish, the area officer for footpaths, particularly the state of the stepping stones at Broomhaugh. The officer was currently in discussion with Network Rail over the possibility of reinstating the footpath to Corbridge;
6. Various countywide issues were discussed.

18/06 **Future of schooling in Tynedale**

Cllr. Dale reported that the County Council had commenced a consultation on education in the west of Northumberland. There were two main issues being considered - Bright Tribe had withdrawn from running Haydon Bridge High School and the Hadrian Learning Trust (Queen Elizabeth High School and Hexham Middle School) wished to become two-tier i.e. offer education for ages 11-18. The two issues were becoming muddled and complicated as the Local Education Authority does not have the power over an academy trust. The first stage of the consultation had involved school heads and governors. A second stage of consultation would allow parents and other interested bodies to respond. A vast amount of material had been submitted in response to the first stage and Cllr. Dale questioned whether this could be assimilated before the launch of the second stage. She was also concerned that any decision taken would be political rather than in the best interest of education. She suggested the PC should consider writing to Andy Johnson, Director of Education at the County Council or Wayne Daley, County Councillor with responsibility for Children's Services. The implications for a two-tier system were the possible closure of middle and first schools throughout the area.

18/07 **Play Park**

It was reported that the Play Park had re-opened for school half-term. A post-installation inspection by RoSPA had been done which had raised a couple of issues. A written report was awaited before any further action would be taken.

There was still further work to be done, namely the installation of a swing seat suitable for a disabled child and paths linking the equipment to improve accessibility. The Play & Regeneration Group had raised most of the funds for this and the outcome of further funding bids were expected shortly. The PC held further funds in the Reserves for the Play Park redevelopment and Cllr. Dunhill asked that any shortfall in funding be taken from these Reserves so that the work could be completed before the summer. Cllr. McKenzie seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: CH

It was noted that the Council's insurer had been informed and the policy adjusted accordingly to include the new equipment.

18/08 **Old Playground**

It was reported that a small area of the Old Playground was starting to break up and it was thought that it might be caused by a spring below the surface. A quote for exploration and repair was received. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with the work as it was deemed urgent although the decision would need to be ratified at the next meeting [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Howe].

ACTION: CH

18/09 **Tyne Rivers Trust**

It was reported that the Tyne Rivers Trust had suggested improvements to the fish pass at the Weir. Most of the funding could be obtained from the Environment Agency if the PC agreed to make a contribution. The PC was supportive of the idea but would like further details. It was agreed that Cllr. Howe would meet representatives of the Tyne Rivers Trust to discuss and clarify the costs.

ACTION: PH/CH

18/10 **General Village Maintenance**

Various issues were discussed including:

1. Tree works – trees and shrubs had been cut back along the Main Road by the Wellington towards Broomhaugh. The County Council had agreed to cut back trees on land opposite the speed camera and Cllr. Dale would remind the relevant officer. A large oak tree opposite Broomhaugh First School had fallen in early January. There was another tree of concern and as the land was unregistered the Clerk had applied to have the tree felled. It was subject to a Tree Preservation Order and the outcome of the application would be known in March.

ACTION: ADa/CH

2. Dog fouling – the issue of dog fouling appeared to have got worse since Christmas with reports of incidences at Broomhaugh, the woods by the Station, the station platforms and Church Lane. Cllr. Dale offered to ask the dog warden to increase his patrols in the area and mention of this should be made in the Parish News.

ACTION: ADa/CH

3. Footpaths – Cllr. Carew raised concerns about the standard of the footpaths as the west end of the village. Following a water leak near the Manor House some paths had been swept but others still needed to be cleaned.

ACTION: ADa

4. Edible Garden – the new gardener had tidied the area and the councillors noted the high standard of his work. A recent working group had insured all the plants were labelled and the area well-mulched.

Other maintenance matters had been covered in Cllr. Dale's report.

18/11 **Monthly Accounts**

(i) *Monthly accounts*

The following payments were authorised [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill/Seconded Cllr. Singer]:

Bank charges – Unity Trust Bank	£18.00
Tynedale Hospice at Home – S137 donation	£60.00
Community Action Northumberland – S137 donation	£60.00
Sport Tynedale – S137 donation	£60.00
Citizens Advice Northumberland – S137 donation	£60.00
Age UK Ltd – S137 Donation	£60.00
Great North Air Ambulance – S137 donation	£60.00
The Stephen Carey Fund – S137 donation	£60.00
The Children's Foundation – S137 donation	£60.00
Core Music – S137 donation	£60.00
RM Scouts – S137 donation	£60.00
SD Building Services – repair of bus shelter window	£42.00
St James PCC – room hire	£40.00
Catherine Harrison – December salary + home allowance	£446.16
ME Stewart/Neetfleet – play park inspection and repairs	£100.00
Office Depot – ink cartridges	£78.29 (inc. VAT £13.05)
Seymour Gardens – garden services	£132.00
Catherine Harrison – January salary + home allowance	£446.16
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement (£9.25 copy of death certificate, £7.56 safety signs)	£16.81
RM Allotment Association – insurance contribution 2018-02-09	£83.64

Stuart Burns Tree Works (removal of snapped tree by tennis courts, Repair at weir, removal of dead wood tree , Removal of overhanging vegetation on Main Road)	£850.00
Homevend (January Invoice 88)	£80.00

The following receipts were noted:

HMRC – VAT refund	£12256.26
S106 grant – Play Park	£6940.00
Allotment Association	£47.50
Triodos (quarterly interest – Reserve account)	£5.45

(ii) *Budget report*

The budget report showed a considerable overspend this year due to the work to the Play Park, repairs to Marchburn Lane bridge and the Weir footbridge and the restoration of the Memorial Panel. A significant proportion of these costs had been met by grants or from funds held in the PC's Reserves. Other spending was in line with expectations.

b) *S137 Requests for Funding*

It was unanimously agreed to make a £60 donation to Riding Mill Pre-School (Proposed Cllr. McKenzie, seconded Cllr. Singer].

c) *Allotment Association Rent Review*

A paper was received calculating the rent for 2018/19 in accordance with the method laid out in the lease. This was approved and it was agreed to raise the rent to £48.88/quarter. [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. McKenzie]. Cllr. Mills agreed to review the lease re the insurance contribution.

ACTION: CH/JM

18/12 **Handyman**

It was reported that the Handyman had tidied/strimmed the path beside the edible garden and MUGA court. He had also cleaned and varnished the apparatus in the Play Park. This accounted for his January payment.

The Clerk reported that Mr Johnson, the handyman, had indicated that he wished to resign forthwith due to other work commitments. The Clerk was asked to write a formal letter of thanks. It was agreed that this was an opportunity to review the schedule of works and the Clerk and Cllr. Dunhill would draft a new document for consideration before offering the contract out to tender.

ACTION: CH/AD

18/13 **Planning**

It was reported that:

(i) the following planning application were under consideration by NCC:

- 18/00246/FUL – Spellbound (formerly Greenlea), Whiteside Bank. 4 single storey roof extensions and new vehicular access. PC – no objection.
- 18/00414/FUL – Land SW of Scotchwell House, Broomhaugh. Single detached dwelling.

(ii) the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and granted permission:

- 17/04481/VARYCO – Westril House, Long Rigg, Variation of conditions. PC – no objection;
- 17/04478/FUL – Parish Hall, Millfield Road. Demolition of existing timber outbuildings and erection of new garage. PC – no objection.

18/14 **Consultations**

It was agreed that no response was required to the following consultations:

- Consultation on the future funding for Voluntary and Community Sector support services from 2019;
- Consultation - Car Parking Studies for Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham and Berwick.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Dunhill, Mills and Reid would draft a response to a query from NALC re a consultation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

ACTION: AD/JM/MR

18/15 Correspondence

- (i) Correspondence re dog fouling was noted.
- (ii) A request by Mrs Stephenson to install a bollard outside her house on Millfield Road was considered and approved, in principle, on the grounds of road safety subject to Mrs Stephenson discussing the design with other neighbours and obtaining written confirmation that they had no objection [Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer].

ACTION: LS

18/16 Minor Matters

(i) Annual Parish Meeting

It was suggested that the annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 17th May. Suggestions of who to invite as the main speaker were sought.

ACTION: CH

(ii) Litter Pick

It was agreed to hold the annual village litter pick on Saturday 24th March. The Clerk would circulate details.

ACTION: CH

(iii) Speed checks

Cllr. Singer explained that there was only him and one other volunteer trained to do speed checks in the local area and it was difficult to find convenient times for them both. He would, however, try to do another speed check in Riding Mill as soon as possible. The position would be helped if more people came forward to volunteer.

(iv) WW1 Commemoration

The Clerk outlined some of the plans proposed for the commemoration of WW1 in November. The PC was pleased to support the event and suggested that the organisers should contact the Council if they required any funding to help with staging.

(v) Sports Club – revised planning application

The Sports Club needed to submit a revised planning application for the new pavilion. If the PC submitted the application, the fee would be reduced by 50% which the Sports Club would refund. It was agreed to offer to submit the application on their behalf.

ACTION: CH

(vi) Estate agents' signs

The PC had been notified that two estate agents had positioned signs which either interfered with the footpath or obscured a traffic safety mirror. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask for the boards to be moved.

ACTION: CH

(vii) Screening of Mrs Soulsby's house from the ramp

It was noted that Mrs Soulsby had requested the PC to purchase larger plants to help restrict the view into her house from the ramp by the Play Park. The Council had bought Photinia plants which should grow 20-40 cm/year. The plants appeared healthy with new growth and it was therefore suggested that new plants were unnecessary although regular watering would be helpful.

ACTION: CH

18/17 Date of Future Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 12th March 2018.
Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 10.25 pm