



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 18th June 2018 in Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

Councillors present:

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

Cllr. David McKenzie
Cllr. Brian Singer

In attendance:

Mrs Anne Dale – County Councillor
Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

3 members of the public were present (one member was present for pre-questions only).

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.42 pm.

18/58 **Apologies for Absence**

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

18/59 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Dunhill declared an interest in Item 5(v): Sports Club

18/60 **Delegation of responsibilities to individual councillors**

Following Cllr. Howe's resignation it was agreed to reallocate his responsibilities as follows:

Planning Sub-Committee – Cllrs. Dunhill, Singer & Mills

Accounts – Cllr. Mills

Edible Riding Mill/Spinney/Environmental issues – Cllrs. McKenzie, and Dunhill (Cllr. Carew – Spinney only)

RM Play & Regeneration Group – Cllrs. Dunhill and McKenzie

Marchburn Lane Residents' Association representative – Cllr. Dunhill

18/61 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 17th May 2018**

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).

18/62 **Matters Arising**

(i) *Minute 18/44(i) – Relocation of the bus stop sign*

This issue was still outstanding but the PC had been assured it would be repositioned when the new 20 mph scheme was introduced.

(ii) *Minute 18/44(iv) – Play Park*

Cllr. Dunhill reported that all works at the play park had been completed and the play park official opening held. There were some minor issues raised in the post-installation inspection which Playdale had been asked to review. One of the rope net climbers was broken and the Clerk had obtained a price for its renewal. Playdale had agreed to complete any remedial actions at the same time as fitting the new net.

ACTION: CH

The Clerk reported that the final costs for the work at the play park had been £41,554. The PC had contributed £7265 (17.5%); the rest had been raised via grants and donations.

- (iii) *Minute 18/46 – Street light Marchburn Lane*
Cllr. Dunhill explained how the PC had agreed at its last meeting to install a light in Marchburn Lane following a request at a residents' meeting last year. Since the PC meeting, it had been reported that not all residents were now in favour of the light. Cllr. Dunhill had asked that the Marchburn Lane Residents' Association canvass the views of residents and report back to the September meeting. The Council would only proceed if the majority of residents wanted the light otherwise the funding would be reallocated to other projects in the village.
- (iv) *Minute 18/47 – Repairs to the Old Playground*
The Clerk reported that the contractor had been appointed and works to the Old Playground would be undertaken during the school holidays to minimise disruption.
- (v) *Minute 18/53 (d) – Annual grant to the Sports Club*
Cllr. Singer reported that he had reviewed the grass cutting regime at the football field and it had been agreed to increase the cuts to weekly as pre-season training would begin shortly. He would be attending a meeting of the Sports Club committee on 28th June and would liaise with the cricket and football representatives to ensure all needs were being met. The football league had queried the size of the pitch for adult matches and asked for it to be increased. When first marked out the PC had been advised that a certain amount of land needed to be left behind each goal. It was now proposed to move one set of goalposts to lengthen the pitch. A quote had been received for the work. Cllr. Singer was asked to determine if this was absolutely necessary. If it was, it was agreed that the PC would offer to meet half of the costs (proposed Cllr. Singer, seconded Cllr. McKenzie).

ACTION: BS

It was also noted that a group of young men were informally using the field twice a week which the PC had no issue with, however, they were leaving behind rubbish and playing music which was disturbing nearby residents. Cllr. Singer and Mark Robinson, the football coach, had agreed to speak to them.

ACTION: BS

- (vi) *Minute 18/56 – War Memorial Cleaning*
Cllr. Singer reported that he had briefly surveyed the memorial which was covered in moss, algae and lichen. The structure was Grade II listed so any cleaning would require listed building consent. The best method of cleaning the stone was low pressure steam cleaning. The Clerk had obtained a quote from a local company and was awaiting one from a national specialist company. Further information would be circulated to councillors as it became available.

ACTION: CH

18/63 County Councillor Report

Councillor Dale reported on the following issues:

- (i) Street lighting – all issues in Riding Mill had been resolved;
- (ii) Introduction of 20 mph speed limit – the final draft of the scheme had been released. ADa was dealing with two complaints re aspects of the scheme and these had been referred to the Chief Executive of NCC;
- (iii) Fallen tree in Church Lane – the tree had now been removed;
- (iv) Advertising signs – ADa reported that unauthorised signs had now been removed;
- (v) School buses turning on Whiteside Bank – ADa reported that a complaint had been received from a resident about school buses using the private cul-de-sac Whiteside Bank to reverse and turn round. This occurred when cars were parked inconsiderately in the Old Playground

- preventing the buses from having sufficient space in which to enter and exit the area. Officers at NCC were reviewing the situation and looking at alternative arrangements;
- (vi) Rights of Way – ADa had received some complaints of overgrown footpaths and had arranged for them to be cut back;
 - (vii) Potholes – these were being dealt with as and when they were reported to her;
 - (viii) Flood defences – ADa reported that she had obtained an update on flood modelling from an Environment Agency officer and read from his letter as follows:

“In the December 2015 flood event (Storm Desmond) three properties flooded in Stocksfield and five properties in Riding Mill flooded. In both locations these properties flooded from a combination of surface water, inundation of the drainage system, and flooding from the Stocksfield and Riding Mill burns (fluvial) exacerbated by the backing-up of the River Tyne.

In 2016 we commissioned the Tyne Recovery Study which recommended updating our existing models for the River Tyne in several locations, and consequently we received some funding to improve our fluvial modelling at Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, Ovingham, Prudhoe and Bywell.

Given the complex interactions between the drainage network, the watercourses and surface water at Riding Mill and Stocksfield, different models are required to understand the flooding mechanism and it is proposed to develop integrated models which address multiple sources of flood risk, which will be done through the Northumbrian Integrated Drainage Partnership (NIDP).

To do this we need to secure funding. We have secured some funding for this at Stocksfield and are currently working with our partners in NWL and NCC to develop the scope for this model. At Riding Mill, we were able to get a limited amount of funding last financial year which was used to carry out some survey work on the River Tyne. This will be used to develop the integrated model at this location if and when we secure additional funds. We are continuing to work closely with Northumberland County Council and Northumbrian Water to explore options to progress this”.

18/64 **Millfield Road Bridge Inspection Report**

Cllr. Dunhill reported that BT Bell had completed their re-inspection of Millfield Road Bridge. They had recommended some maintenance be undertaken and quotes for this work would be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: CH

18/65 **Fish Easement at the Weir**

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Tyne Rivers Trust and they had provided the following statement as to why the work was necessary: “The work was planned because the leap at the downstream end of the structure is currently greater than we would like, and is potentially prohibitive to migration of some fish (especially smaller individuals). That being said, surveys from this year suggest it has been successful, so it could probably be considered an improvement, rather than a fix”. The PC was asked to provide just over a quarter of the costs (£1900) and the rest would be met by the Environment Agency although TRT had not heard back as to whether its bid for funding had been successful.

It was unanimously agreed that the PC should contribute the requested amount if the Tyne Rivers Trust was successful in securing the additional funds from the Environment Agency (proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer).

ACTION: CH

18/66 **Handyman contract**

A copy of the draft “Handyman” Contract was received for discussion. Two additional items were added to the list of required work following which the contract was agreed (proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer). Tenders would be considered at the September meeting.

ACTION: CH

18/67 **Review of current Policy Document**

The following policy documents were reapproved unchanged:

- Complaints Policy (proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Mills)
- Vexatious Communications Policy (proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Singer)

18/68 **General Village Maintenance**

There were no new issues to note although councillors discussed their unhappiness with the service provided from NCC in respect of gully and street cleaning. NCC seemed to react only to complaints so although some gully clearance had been done on a section of the main road other sections had been neglected. Lack of street cleaning meant that gullies instantly refilled when cleared. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Glen Sanderson, Cabinet member for Environment and Local Services, to record the PC's concerns.

ACTION: CH

18/69 **Finance / Insurance**

a) **Monthly accounts**

(i) *The following payments were authorised* (Proposed Cllr. McKenzie/Seconded Cllr. Carew):

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership – yearly subscription	£10.00
Seymour Gardens and Trees – treatment of Mare's Tail and work in edible garden	£69.00
BT Bell – inspection report Millfield Road bridge	£1188.00 (inc. VAT 198.00)
Hannah Thorpe – play park official opening costs	£22.00
Martin Steward (Neetfleet) – play park maintenance £30, safety inspection £85, fit new equipment £190	£305.00
St James PCC – cost of extra pages in Parish News	£90.00
NALC – yearly subscription	£226.58
SD Building Services – new signs fitted play park and Spinney	£145.00
T Bell Horticultural Services – grass cutting	£450.00
Village Hall Trust – yearly donation	£2500.00
Village Hall Trust – donation to cover water and electricity used	£50.00
Catherine Harrison – May pay and £20 home allowance	£454.67
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (Play Park opening £118.50, plant for edible garden £4)	£122.50

The following receipts were noted:

Resident donation toward Play Park redevelopment	£100.00
RM Sports Club – rent 2017 & 2018	£50.00
RM Sports Club – reimbursement of planning fees	£117.00

(ii) **Budget report**

The budget reports were received. The insurance budget showed an overspend due to continuing to insure the cricket pavilion. The cost of this would be reclaimed from the grant budget.

18/70 **Planning**

It was noted that there were no new planning applications to consider, nor decisions to report.

18/71 **Correspondence**

- Mr N Turner re resurfacing work in Marchburn Lane, works to Marchburn Lane bridge and the proposed new street light. Cllr. Dunhill had responded to Mr Turner's queries. See also Minute 18/62(iii);
- Mrs S Soulsby – possible repainting of the MUGA court. The Clerk had responded to Mrs Soulsby noting the PC's only requirement was that the Tennis Club should keep the courts in good repair. The PC hoped that the Tennis Club would liaise with nearby residents if it was considering painting the court blue but any queries should be addressed to them;

- (iii) Mr R Archer – possible seat by the double tennis courts. Comments noted and discussed prior to the meeting where it was reported that the PC had no current plans to add any seating to the grassed area adjacent to the courts.

18/72 **Minor Matters**

- (i) Newsletter

The Clerk would shortly start to prepare the yearly newsletter. Cllr. Carew suggested including a short history of Beauclerc. It was also agreed to include an update about the Scout group and Pre-School.

ACTION: CH

18/73 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 10th September 2018.
Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 8.46 pm