



# Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Church Cottage, Church Lane, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## Councillors present:

Cllr. Christine Howe (Chair)	Cllr. Jill Mills
Cllr. Andy Dunhill	Cllr. Eileen Carew
Cllr. David McKenzie	Cllr. Pam Bridges
Cllr. David Irwin	

## In attendance:

County Councillor Anne Dale (until Minute 22/127)  
Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk  
2 members of the public were present for the meeting.

Cllr. Howe opened the meeting at 7.32 pm.

## 22/113 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs. Brian Singer and Stephen Lightley.

## 22/114 Declaration of Interests

None

## 22/115 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

## 22/116 Matters Arising

(i) *Minute 22/97(i) – PC withdrawal as Custodian Trustee of the Millennium Hall.*

It was noted that there had been some confusion over this matter at the legal firm and it was hoped that progress would be made on the matter shortly;

(ii) *Minute 22/97(ii) – Allotment lease.*

The Clerk reported that an amended lease had been received although it still required minor alterations;

(iii) *Minute 22/88(ii) – Replacement planters.*

It was noted that the planters were being installed this week;

(iv) *Minute 22/101 – Bridge repairs.*

The Clerk had contacted an officer from the Lead Local Flood Authority who had confirmed that the repairs should not be undertaken between March and June as it was fish spawning season. It was also noted that the salmon spawning season was from late October to February so it seemed likely that the work would have to be arranged for early summer. Two possible contractors had been identified and quotes for the work would be sought shortly;

(v) *Minute 22/102 – Defibrillator provision within the parish.*

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with the North East Ambulance Service and their community responder courses were currently all full so this was not an option. NEAS were aware of the volunteer emergency telephone system (VETS) and whilst this had the potential to be useful, they did have some concerns over someone calling VETS first rather than the ambulance service.

The Clerk was therefore exploring whether it was possible for the ambulance service to contact the VETS number if there was no one present who could be sent for a defibrillator. The article in the newsletter had prompted six people to come forward and offer to help as a community responder – all would prefer the VETS system rather than becoming a NEAS volunteer which was deemed too onerous. The Clerk would continue to explore the options and report back at a future meeting;

**ACTION: CLERK**

(vi) *Minute 22/103 – Youth Initiatives.*

Cllr. McKenzie confirmed that a meeting would be scheduled shortly and he would update the Council in due course;

(vii) *Minute 22/104 – Warm Hub/Cost of Living meeting.*

Cllr. McKenzie confirmed that a meeting of interested parties would be held later in the week and a representative of CAN would be attending to offer advice;

(viii) *Minute 22/108(v) – Tennis Club parking issues.*

It was noted that Cllr. Howe and the Clerk would be meeting with representatives of the Tennis Club the following week.

### 22/117 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Dale reported on the following issues:

- (i) *Repairs to pumping station:* Following an email from a resident, Cllr. Dale had contacted NWL to establish what work had been done to the pumping station near the Wellington. NWL confirmed that a general inspection had been undertaken which had confirmed there were no blockages and a valve had been fitted to prevent a possible backflow at times of flooding;
- (ii) *Ash dieback:* Following an email from a resident, Cllr. Dale had arranged for the ash trees along the approach to the station to be inspected as they were showing signs of dieback and she hoped this would be undertaken within the next week;
- (iii) *Damaged speed activated sign at Broomhaugh:* Cllr. Dale confirmed that the replacement part was on order;
- (iv) *Gypsy and Travellers – Call for sites:* Cllr. Dale had contacted the relevant officers to discuss the site near the Broomhaugh roundabout which was used each year by travellers. She had confirmed that this was an existing negotiated stopping point but that it was outside the search area for Hexham and would therefore not be included as a possible transit site location in the Local Plan;
- (v) *Speeding at Beauclerc:* Cllr. Dale reported that she had discussed speeding issues at Beauclerc with highways officers but had been told that the road would not be considered for a 20-mph speed limit as it was a through route and the road beyond Beauclerc was open countryside which meant it did not meet the criteria. Residents had suggested possible measures which could be introduced which might encourage traffic to slow down such as a gateway entrance, planters and even an honesty library. Cllr. Dale confirmed that she could not fund these initiatives and would therefore forward the request to the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr. Dunhill would review the suggestions with the Clerk.

**ACTION: AD/CLERK**

### 22/118 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Howe confirmed that the draft Plan had been published on the website and that the consultation period would run until Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. A community drop-in event had been held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November which approximately 30 people had attended. Comments from residents and consultees were to be collated by the planning consultant who would assess them for the Steering Group to review at a meeting in mid-December.

### 22/119 Sports Club

The Clerk reported that the Cricket club trustees had held a meeting with the current committee and were offering to act as intermediaries to resolve the outstanding issues between the committee and the parish council. A meeting would therefore be arranged shortly between Cllrs. Lightley and Singer and the trustees. A request to inspect the pavilion building had been ignored by the committee.

#### 22/120 **Play Park Update**

The Clerk presented a paper detailing the possible costs of refurbishing the older pieces of play equipment. The costs of only using one company were prohibitive and she therefore suggested that different companies were used for different elements explaining that where certain items were safety critical i.e., the rope bridge and wall, then these should be purchased from the original manufacturer whilst swings and platforms could likely be purchased from an online playground spares company which would result in some savings. It was agreed that the handyman would fit the items although it was noted that it would take some time due to his other work commitments. The Clerk had made an application for S106 funding, the outcome of which would be known by the end of December. The remaining funds would be met from the Reserves. It had been hoped to replace the old springers but it was agreed that this would be postponed until the total costs of the refurbishment was known. Cllr. Dale could not fund repairs but the Clerk was asked to send her the details of the new equipment and she would see if she had any funds available to assist.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### 22/121 **Antisocial Behaviour**

Cllr. Howe reported that further antisocial behaviour had been experienced in the village, this time directed at a resident. The police had been informed and were pursuing enquiries. The Clerk had also informed the Community Safety Officer who would raise the issues at his next meeting with local police officers.

#### 22/122 **Review of Signage**

Cllrs. Dunhill and Bridges had reviewed signage on the main road and in Church Lane with Cllr. Dale. There were a few superfluous signs and others which needed correction and the Clerk would produce a summary for Cllr. Dale to action with officers. The old speed activated signs were also considered unnecessary since the pedestrian crossing had been installed. The signs only worked intermittently as they were dependent on solar power. Cllr. Dunhill proposed that these signs should be removed too. This was seconded by Cllr. Howe and unanimously agreed.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### 22/123 **Mill Pond Project**

Cllr. Howe confirmed that the pond had been cleared over a year ago and it had been established what water levels could be expected. She suggested in order to apply for any funding, a scheme of work needed to be produced which might include adding a boardwalk or dredging more of the pond area. It was agreed that Cllr. Howe should contact the Tyne Rivers Trust to see who they would recommend to do this. It was noted that there would be further consultation with the residents before any work was decided.

**ACTION: CH**

#### 22/124 **Update from meetings attended by Councillors**

- (i) Tyne Valley Traffic Free Cycle route: Cllr. Irwin reported that he had attended a meeting of parish and town councils to look at creating a cycle route from Haltwhistle to Prudhoe where it could join up with the already existing cycle route to the coast. He had then had a further meeting with Corbridge Parish Council and would meet with Stocksfield Parish Council too. He had circulated a paper outlining various routes and noted that some might be more easily achieved than others. Due to the topography, a traffic free route was unlikely to be possible and all the suggestions would require substantial capital investment. The County Council had made an application for funding for a cycle route from Corbridge to Hexham. The idea was now to have a preferred route agreed between the parishes so that if further funds were identified, the scheme would be ready to proceed;
- (ii) East Tynedale Forum: Cllr. McKenzie reported that the discussions had centred around 20 mph speed limits and traffic calming measures. He also noted that the Council's aim was to clear an area's gullies every 32 months;
- (iii) Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership AGM: Cllr. Dunhill reported that he had attended the meeting via Zoom. The Partnership had done a lot of work to improve the waiting area at Haltwhistle Station and improvements at other stations were ongoing. The Partnership had lots of initiatives to

increase rail passenger numbers but there continued to be the issue of the large number of cancelled trains and poor level of integrated public transport in the North-East. Cllr. Irwin queried why only two bikes were permitted on a train and Cllr. Dunhill agreed to raise this with the Partnership.

**ACTION: AD**

A discussion was also held about the number of cancellations both on the train and buses. Cllr. Dale suggested that any councillor with a particular complaint should write to her and she would contact the bus or train operatives.

**ACTION: ALL**

#### 22/125 **Changes to web address**

It was noted that the Government was encouraging all parish councils to change to a .gov.uk domain address and councillors discussed the implications and costs of having to redirect the ridingmill.org website and to change to new email addresses. After discussion it was decided that no action would be taken and the domain address would remain as ridingmill.org.

#### 22/126 **Climate Change**

There were no particular issues at the moment although Cllr. McKenzie noted the proposed solar farm at Whittonstall which had generated some complaints locally.

*EV Charging Points – Old Playground:* Following distribution of the newsletter which had mentioned possible EV charging points being installed in the Old Playground, two households had written to express their opposition to such a proposal, feeling the charging points would limit the number of spaces available and would cause traffic issues. Councillors noted their concerns but felt that it was justified to float ideas and see what funding was available. The Old Playground was one of the few suitable areas in the village and it was owned by the PC. Whilst most homes in the village had drives and could fit an EV charging point, some had old wiring and could not fit a fast-charging point without installing a new power supply. The addition of fast charging points might therefore be welcomed by residents and visitors alike as they would enable a car to be charged in under 30 minutes. There was further discussion about the merits of installing EV charging points when there was insufficient green energy currently generated.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Cllr. Dale to see what other sites could be identified and if charging points could be connected to lighting columns

The Clerk was also asked to contact the Wellington to see if there was any intention of installing charging points in their car park.

**ACTION: CLERK/ADa**

#### 22/127 **Finance**

(a) *Monthly accounts:*

(i) *Payments/Receipts*

The following payments were authorised (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. McKenzie):

Natural Ability Handyman services – edible garden maintenance	£165.00
T Bell Horticultural Services – parish grass cutting	£455.00
T Bell Horticultural Services – football field grass cutting and marking	£460.00
NCC – reimbursement of Clerk's September salary	£936.90
Robson Print – Yearly newsletter	£528.00
NEST Pension contribution for October	£26.14
Displays UK – hire of display equipment for NP event	£405.60 (inc. VAT £67.60)
Jo-Anne Garrick – NP consultancy fees	£1,500.00
Earth Anchors – 3 recycled plastic planters	£642.00 (inc. VAT £107.00)
NCC – reimbursement of Clerk's October salary	£936.90
In Architecture – A3 printing for NP event	£12.00 (inc. £2.00 VAT)

Royal British Legion - S137 donation to Poppy Appeal	£60.00
Town & Parish Council Websites – hosting fee and email storage fee	£422.00
Neetfleet – additional maintenance (bus shelter roof repair) Play Park inspection	£560.00
David Ballantyne – tree work	£850.00
BT Bell – bridge inspections	£2530.80 (inc. VAT £421.80)
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (A4 paper, archive shredding, stamps)	£49.59 (inc. VAT £5.83)
Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (paid in arrears to cover October)	£240.00

The following receipts were noted:

Triodos - quarterly interest	£9.96
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*(ii) Budget reports*

The budget reports were received and approved (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Dunhill). The Neighbourhood Plan spending was included within the Miscellaneous budget category which distorted the figures but it was noted the all the costs were being met from the Neighbourhood Plan grant.

*(b) Yearly Budget*

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 and a preliminary discussion should be held to consider funding priorities for next year.

*(c) S137 Grants*

- (i)* A donation to the Royal British Legion was approved.
- (ii)* It was noted that funding requests from other bodies would be considered at the December meeting.

*(d) Pay Award*

It was noted that a national pay award for the financial year 2022/23 had recently been agreed and it was confirmed that this should be backdated to April 2022 for the Clerk (proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Carew).

**22/128 General Village Maintenance**

*(i) Handyman*

The Clerk reported that the handyman had strimmed and swept footpaths, trimmed hedges, re-roofed the bus shelter at Broomhaugh, tidied an area on Millfield Road and undertaken a Play Park inspection;

*(ii) Tree work*

The Clerk reported that she had held a further meeting with the arborist who had shown her the priority trees which needed removing, most of which were ash trees that were experiencing dieback. The tree surgeon had commenced this work and had removed a number of trees near the Play Park and MUGA court. The new method of surveying which was based on a tree risk-benefit management strategy meant that the majority of work had been identified and dealt with and that by adopting the suggested method of passive observation and regular active assessment by the tree surgeon, the Parish Council would fulfil the requirements of the Risk Assessment and so meet our insurer's requirements.

**22/129 Planning**

*(a) Planning applications*

- (i)* It was reported that the following planning applications were under consideration by the County Council:
  - 22/03633/FUL - Grey Court – erection of sing-storey, oak-framed conservatory to the side. PC – no objection;
  - 22/03844/FELTPO – 8 Hollin Hill Terrace. Removal of Lawson's Cypress. PC – no objection;

- 22/03573/FUL – Lea Grange. Renovation of storage annex to a one-bedroom annex/store. PC – no objection;
  - 22/03687/LBC – Greenbanks, 7 Hollin Hill Terrace. Removal of existing kitchen, and 2 internal walls. Installation of new kitchen. PC – no objection.
- (ii) It was reported that the following planning application had been refused consent by the County Council:
- 21/02077/FUL – Land south east of the Manor House. Development of 13 dwellings.
- (iii) It was reported that the following planning application had been withdrawn:
- 22/03262/FUL – 8 Hollin Hill Terrace. Small extension to garage

#### 22/130 Correspondence

- *EV Charging Points* – letters considered under Minute 22/126 above;
- *Fires on PC land* – a letter had been received from the Chair of the Outdoor Pre-school concerning whether or not they could use a fire pit in the Spinney. Councillors expressed mixed opinions as it was noted that someone had set fires in Marchburn Woods to burn books and clothing over the summer when it had been extremely dry and this could have been potentially dangerous. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be no fires allowed in Marchburn Woods but that camp fires would be allowed in the Spinney but only with prior permission from the Parish Council. Any user of the Spinney, such as the Scouts or Pre-School, would need to show that they had adequate safety procedures in place and were covered by their own insurance before permission would be granted.

**ACTION: CLERK**

#### 22/131 Minor Matters

- (i) *Christmas Tree* – the Clerk reported that she was sourcing a Christmas tree and suggested that the tree be lit on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December if the date was convenient for the Cubs and Beavers. Cllr. McKenzie agreed to liaise with the Scouts;
- ACTION: DM/CLERK**
- (ii) *War Memorial Correction* – The Clerk reported that the fundraising appeal was going well. A donation from the Royal Engineers was expected and Osbit had also expressed an interest in helping. Approximately £2,000 was needed and it was anticipated that this target would be met by the end of the month;
- (iii) *Area of land by Dene Terrace* – Cllr. Howe noted that requests to improve this area of land continued to be received and she had therefore drawn up a plan to show what could be achieved with the addition of a flower planter, increased paving and suitable ground cover plants. Councillors were supportive of the idea and it was agreed that the plan should be forwarded to the County Council for approval before a costing would be sought;
- ACTION: CH/ADa**
- (iv) *Litter bin at station* – The Clerk reported that she had been unable to obtain written permission from Northern to install a litter bin in the station car park so instead, she had obtained permission from the County Council to install a bin on nearby land which they owned. The bin was on order and should be received by the end of December;
- (v) *Additional Bank Holiday in May to mark Coronation* - It was noted that there would be an additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to mark the King's Coronation. The Parish Council meeting would therefore be postponed until the following Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May.

#### 22/132 Date of Future Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December in Church Cottage, Church Lane.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm