



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Church Cottage, Church Lane, on Monday 12th June 2023.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Christine Howe (Chair)
Cllr. David Irwin
Cllr. Brian Singer
Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Jill Mills
Cllr. Andy Dunhill
Cllr. Eileen Carew
Cllr. Stephen Lightley

In attendance:

County Councillor Anne Dale (until Minute 23/88)
Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk
3 members of the public were present.

Cllr. Howe opened the meeting at 7.39 pm.

23/78 **Apologies for Absence** None

23/79 **Declaration of Interests** Cllrs. Irwin and Lightley declared an interest in item 7 – the Tennis Club, as they were both members.

23/80 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 15th May 2023** It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting were a true record and were duly signed off by Cllr. Howe (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Dunhill).

23/81 **Matters Arising**

- (i) *Minute 23/60 – Delegation of Responsibilities.* It was confirmed that Cllr. Lightley had agreed to serve on the Riding Mill Play & Regeneration Group;
- (ii) *Minute 23/63(i) – Defibrillator Provision in the Parish.*
The Clerk confirmed that there had been a delay installing the defibrillator at the sports pavilion but the Community Heartbeat Trust hoped to process the application shortly. She also confirmed that two residents had raised funds for a defibrillator on Sandy Bank and proposed to site it on a pavement area owned by the Parish Council. A post needed to be fitted but there were multiple utility cables nearby and she had asked them to find a company to do this work that held the relevant insurance and a street works licence. Alternatively, she had suggested that the County Council might be prepared to do this work and had contacted Cllr. Dale on their behalf;
- (iii) *Minute 23/63(ii) – Dene Terrace project.*
It was noted that the landscaping work had been completed and that the planter and groundcover plants would be installed later in the week. The Clerk would provide a breakdown of the costs at the next meeting;
- (iv) *Minute 23/66 – Weir Footbridge replacement.*
The Clerk confirmed that the contractor would like to defer the start date until mid-August because of various work commitments and staff holidays. A storage site still needed to be found although some potential sites had been identified.

ACTION: CLERK

ACTION: CLERK

(v) *Minute 23/67 – Play Park update.*

It was reported that the Play Park update was progressing well. The new springers had been installed and the handyman was currently half way through changing the wooden platforms on the climbers. The yearly play park inspection had taken place recently. There were one or two issues to note and the report would be formally considered at the July meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

23/82 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Dale reported on the following issues:

- (i) *Road markings* – Cllr. Dale confirmed that the missing road junction markings which had been reported at the previous meeting had been reinstalled;
- (ii) *Ash tree dieback* – Cllr. Dale reported that a resident had noted ash dieback on the trees on the approach to the station. The area belonged to the County Council and the tree officer had assessed the trees but planned to visit again later in the summer in order to monitor how quickly the dieback was progressing. Some branches needed to be removed but if the disease was progressing rapidly it might be more cost effective to remove the trees entirely. Cllr. Carew reported that she thought that there was an ash tree at Riding Grange also suffering from dieback. It was agreed that the Clerk would take a photo and send it to Cllr. Dale who would refer it to the appropriate officer;
- (iii) *Hanging branch on Church Lane* – Cllr. Dale had reported this issue and it had been removed within a few days.

ACTION: CLERK/ADa

23/83 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Howe confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan was now with the independent examiner for review. A number of comments had been received during the last consultation stage and the Parish Council had responded to these. All the information was available to view on the County Council's website (<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Neighbourhood-Planning/Neighbourhood-Plans.aspx> - search under Broomhaugh & Riding). It was hoped that the current stage might be completed within 6 weeks and that the referendum for adopting the Plan might be held in September. Cllr. Howe also confirmed that a meeting with Rob Murfin, the Director of Housing and Planning, had been scheduled for the end of June to discuss the housing element of the plan which had had to be removed.

23/84 Tennis Club

It was reported that the Tennis Club had resubmitted its application for Tweener floodlights at the double tennis courts. The Parish Council had requested an extension to the three-week consultation period and would submit a response after the July meeting at which it would consider the planning sub-group's recommendations.

In the pre-meeting question session, a resident had requested permission to install a night camera on the amenity land by the courts to see what wildlife was present. Permission was granted for this for a maximum of three nights and the resident was asked to clearly display a sign to say that a recording was being made.

23/85 Northumberland Electoral Review

The Clerk confirmed that she had circulated an email to residents explaining the proposed boundary changes and that she had included an article in the July Parish News and on the website. No comments had, as yet, been received from residents. Cllr. Singer explained that he believed the Parish Council should oppose the changes as he felt that Riding Mill had more in common with the Stocksfield ward. The Stocksfield Ward contained the settlements of Mickley and Riding Mill which when added together equalled the number of electors in Stocksfield. He felt that Riding Mill would be lost within the Corbridge ward and could be overlooked.

It was agreed that the Clerk would confirm the electoral figures for each ward for Cllr. Singer who would then draft a response which would be circulated to other councillors for approval.

ACTION: BS/CLERK

23/86 Heritage Trail sign

The Clerk reported that there had been an incident at the Parish Hall during which the heritage trail sign had been badly damaged. She had obtained a quote for a replacement panel but had given the person responsible for damaging the sign the opportunity to arrange for it to be repaired locally. It was agreed that if the repairs had not been completed within the next two weeks, then she must inform the police and a claim made on the Parish Council's insurance.

ACTION: CLERK

23/87 Climate Change

Cllr McKenzie highlighted that EDF Energy was offering a discount on air source heat pumps. Whilst this might be a good offer, councillors felt that it was only useful for new homes.

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the Climate Change team at the County Council. They hoped to review the suggested EV charging point locations in Riding Mill at a forthcoming meeting and would provide feedback following this discussion.

23/88 Finance

(a) Monthly Accounts

(i) Payments/Receipts

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

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| RM Scouts – grant to help fund Coronation event | £130.46 |
| BHIB Ltd – yearly insurance | £1,214.51 |
| NCC – reimbursement of Clerk's May salary | £1,006.37 (inc. VAT £2.50) |
| Nest Pension – pension contribution for May | £30.69 |
| Gordon Ellis and Co. – new self-watering planter | £559.70 (inc. VAT £93.28) |
| Neetfleet – repairs to play park – new roof panels | £500.00 |
| RM VHT – room hire for APM and Coronation Lunch | £120.00 |
| Niall Kennedy – landscaping area by Dene Terrace | £1,365.00 |
| Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses | £52.15 (inc. VAT £4.33) |
| Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (paid in arrears to cover May) | £240.00 |

The following receipts were noted:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Northumberland CC – contribution for buses using Old Playground | £50.00 |
| Northumberland CC – Cllr. Dale – contribution to new play equipment | £2,000.00 |
| RM Tennis Club – yearly rent | £25.00 |

(ii) Budget reports

The Clerk provided an overview of budget spending. No issues were identified and the reports were received and approved (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. McKenzie).

(b) Insurance

At the previous meeting, the Clerk had been asked to source alternative insurance quotes as the quote offered by the current insurer included a large increase. An approach to a company recommended by NALC had secured a quote with a saving of approximately 50%. The information had been circulated by email and councillors had agreed to accept the quote, entering into a 3-year long term insurance agreement with Aviva. It was unanimously agreed to ratify this decision (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Irwin).

23/89 General Village Maintenance

(i) Handyman - The Clerk confirmed that the handyman had swept pavements and cut back foliage along footpaths. In addition to his monthly duties, he was busy repairing the play park as outlined in Minute

23/81(v). Cllr. Carew asked if he could tidy the pavements at the west end of the village as they were covered with stones.

ACTION: CLERK

(ii) *Trees* – The Clerk reported that she had inspected the trees with the tree surgeon and then again with Cllr. Dunhill. Ash tree dieback had worsened considerably. She presented a report which listed the work recommended in last year's tree survey together with a location plan of badly affected ash trees which were close to roads, bridges or rights of way. It was agreed that she should get a quote for this work and that as much as possible should be undertaken this year. There were no grants available from the government to help with the costs of removing the trees although, if specialist machinery was needed, then financial help might be provided. Due to the number of trees to be removed, the Clerk would check if a felling licence was required and if so would make an application. It was also agreed that the Clerk should inform the Marchburn Lane Residents' Association of the trees which would probably need to be removed.

ACTION: CLERK

(iii) *Repairs to wall of The Old Orchard* – it was noted that the wall had been repaired at the Old Orchard as apparently it had been considered unsafe and had been demolished before it fell down and then rebuilt.

(iv) *Repairs to Gas Sub-station at the Allotment* – It was noted that Northern Gas Networks had repaired the sub-station by removing the broken fencing and re-roofing the structure and it now appeared in much better order.

23/90 **Planning**

(a) *Planning applications*

It was reported that:

- (i) the following planning application was under consideration by NCC:
 - 23/01399/LBC – 2 Hollin Hill Terrace. Repairs to roof. PC – no objection;
 - 23.01713/FUL – Mossfennan, Sandy Bank. Removal of existing carport and construction of a single storey side extension. PC – no objection;
 - 23/01947/FUL – Tennis Club, Millfield Road. Installation of tweener floodlights to fencing on north and south side.
- (ii) No planning application had been granted permission by NCC in the previous month.

23/91 **Correspondence**

None to note.

23/92 **Minor Matters**

- (i) *Welcome Letter for new residents*
Cllr. Irwin had drafted a welcome letter which the Clerk had then added to. Councillors felt that it was a good idea and made some suggestions of other information to include.

ACTION: CLERK

- (ii) *Balsam Bashing*
The Clerk confirmed that the Tyne Rivers Trust would be holding a volunteer balsam bashing session on Friday 7th July. Anyone wishing to take part should meet at the Old Playground at 10 am.

- (iii) *Northumberland in Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood*
The Clerk had entered the Garden Invaders group at the Parish Hall into the It's Your Neighbourhood awards held by Northumberland in Bloom. It was non-competitive although a judge would come and assess the garden and might make suggestions for improvements. It was hoped that an award would recognise the hard work of this dedicated group of gardeners and might encourage more residents to participate.

(iv) *Old Playground*

Cllr. Dunhill noted a deterioration in a section of the surface of the Old Playground and suggested that it was monitored closely.

ACTION: CLERK/AD

(v) *New access points on road to Riding Hills*

Cllrs. Carew and Mills noted some changes to driveways and field entrances near Riding Hills. One change was actually within Corbridge parish but the other alteration would be checked to make sure there was planning permission in place.

ACTION: CLERK

(vi) *Area by MUGA court*

Cllr. Howe suggested that the next area for redevelopment might be the garden area by the MUGA court which was now barely used. It was agreed that residents should be asked for their views and ideas in the next newsletter. One possible suggestion was to install an outdoor table tennis table if the fence was removed.

ACTION: CLERK

23/93 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council should be held on Monday 10th July 2023.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm