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**Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 4th July 2016 in the Supper Room, Parish Hall, Riding Mill.

**Councillors present:**

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chairman) Cllr. Jill Mills

Cllr. Brian Singer Cllr. Eileen Carew

Cllr. David McKenzie

**In attendance:**

Mrs Anne Dale – County Councillor (pre-meeting questions only)

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

Public (2): Mrs J Rowntree and Mrs L Stephenson.

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.38 pm.

16/51 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Malcolm Reid and Mrs Pam Pryor, Chair of the VHT.

16/52 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Dunhill declared an interest in Item 5 – Cricket Club as his team used the ground.

No other disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests on matters to be considered at the meeting were given.

16/53 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2016**

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th May were a true record and duly signed off by Cllr. Dunhill (Proposed: Cllr. Singer/Seconded Cllr. Carew).

16/54 **Matters arising**

1. *Minute 16/41 – Landscaping by the ramp/Edible Riding Mill*

Cllr. Dunhill reported that following complaints about the use of laurel shrubs near the edible garden it was proposed that the bushes be relocated to the new gateway entrance (Ref: Item 16/57). It was suggested that 3/4 Photinia shrubs and 1 Arbutus Unedo (Strawberry Tree) should be planted in their place. This was agreed by a majority decision (For: Cllrs. Dunhill, Singer and McKenzie, Against: Cllrs. Mills and Carew).

A sign denoting the edible garden was to be erected and Councillors chose their preferred design.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Minute 16/41(ii) – The Spinney.*

It was confirmed that the Officer from the County Council had visited the Spinney and would draw up designs and provide costs for a new entrance hopefully in time for the September meeting.

A sign at the entrance to the Spinney had been installed. A number of favourable comments had been received and people had indicated that they had visited the area for the first time.

1. *Minute 16/41(iii) – Play Park.*

Cllr. Dunhill reported that most of the repair work highlighted in the quarterly inspection reports had been undertaken. The spring on the gate had broken and the new part recently obtained from Playdale would be fitted as soon as possible. The yearly RoSPA report had been received. No issues of concern were reported.

Moles continued to be an issue and the Clerk was asked to contact the pest controller.

Cllr. Carew raised concerns about the grass cutting. The Clerk was asked to ensure the contractor kept to his weekly schedule. Collecting the grass cuttings was also discussed and the Clerk should enquire if this was an option.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Minute 16/41(iv) – Introduction of 20 mph speed limit at school times.*

Deferred to next meeting.

**ACTION: CH/ADa**

1. *Minute 16/42 – Flood Management.*

Cllr. Dunhill reported that one resident had come forward and offered to join the working group that would prepare a flood management plan. No one had responded to the request to be a Flood Warden. He proposed convening a meeting in September to progress the plan.

**ACTION: AD**

1. *Minute 16/49(i) – Roadside selling*.

Deferred to next meeting.

**ACTION: CH/ADa**

1. *Minute 16/49(iii) – Dog waste bins/Safety mirrors*.

The Clerk had confirmed with NCC that they would empty the two new dog bins if the PC bought and installed them. Two options for bins were considered and it was unanimously agreed to install two red plastic bins (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill/Seconded Cllr. Singer).

**ACTION: CH**

The safety mirror on Station Close assisting drivers exiting Sandy Bank had been reported as misted. It was unanimously agreed to replace with a like for like sized mirror (Proposed Cllr. Singer/Seconded: Cllr Mills).

**ACTION: CH**

16/55 **Cricket Club – Appointment of firm to undertake feasibility study**

It was reported that in order for the Cricket Club to progress with its plans for a new pavilion and to meet funding application deadlines, the PC had considered quotes from four firms to undertake a feasibility study. The firm, Howarth Litchfield Partnership, had been appointed having submitted the lowest quote. It was unanimously agreed to ratify this decision (Proposed: Cllr. Singer/Seconded Cllr. Mills).

Cllr. Singer reported that it was hoped that a number of children’s teams might use the pitch and he asked that the PC consider marking out a junior size pitch as well as a full size pitch. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote.

**ACTION: CH**

Trevor Bell, who maintained the cricket field, had confirmed a price of £40 per cut of the football field. The PC had at an earlier meeting agreed to fund the maintenance of the football field for the first year.

16/56 **Marchburn Lane road bridge / Weir footbridge**

The inspection reports for the bridges were received and it was noted that work to maintain the bridges would be required. Cllr Dunhill proposed that BT Bell should be asked to provide a specification for the work required so that quotes could be sought and discussed at a future meeting.

This was seconded by Cllr. McKenzie and unanimously agreed.

**ACTION: CH**

16/57 **Gateway Entrance**

A quote for work to landscape the area adjacent to the new gateway entrance had been received. The cost would be approximately £830 including labour, materials and plants. If gardening volunteers could be found to help with the work then the price could be reduced. NCC would need to give permission for the landscaping work as it was on their highway. It was proposed to accept the quote subject to permission from NCC. (Proposed Cllr. Singer/Seconded Cllr. Carew).

The Clerk had been unable to establish whether it was possible to use mains electricity from the street lighting columns to power vehicle activated signs. It was agreed to ask Cllr. Dale to raise the matter with the relevant officers at NCC.

**ACTION: CH/ADa**

At the recent annual Parish Meeting residents had raised issues about the frequency of grass cutting along the A695 to the A68 roundabout. NCC could only guarantee to cut the grass once a year which was felt to be insufficient. Permission was sought and obtained from NCC to allow the PC to pay a contractor to make additional cuts at a cost of £40 per cut. Cllr. Dunhill therefore proposed that the PC arrange for 5 or 6 additional cuts per year. This was seconded by Cllr. Singer and unanimously approved.

**ACTION: CH**

16/58 **Invasive Plants**

It was noted that knotweed plants had been spotted by residents in the area cordoned off by the double tennis courts. A specialist firm had been appointed to deal with this ongoing problem. In the pre-meeting discussion, Mrs Stephenson had reported issues with lorries failing to spot the weight and width restrictions and using her drive to turn round. She hoped that the area cordoned off would be removed as soon as possible to alleviate this problem. The Clerk reported that all advice received indicated that the area should be cordoned off long-term and that removing the soil was not an option because of the extremely high costs involved.

It was also noted that Mare’s Tail plants were still a problem in Marchburn Lane and the firm appointed last year was continuing to treat them.

16/59 **Local Transport Plan Programme 2017-18**

It was reported that the PC had recently been asked to submit its three transport and road safety priorities to NCC for possible inclusion in the 2017-18 Local Transport Plan Programme. As the closing date for submissions had been brought forward to 31st August which was before the next PC meeting, it was proposed that Cllr. Dunhill and the Clerk should put together some ideas and circulate to councillors for them to rank.

**ACTION: AD/CH**

16/60 **Review of current Policy Documents**

The following policy documents were received and unanimously approved without amendment:

* Complaints Policy
* Vexatious Communications Policy

It was also agreed that the Policy documents should be reviewed again in two years.

(Proposed Cllr. Singer/Seconded Cllr. Mills).

16/61 **Finance / Insurance**

1. *Monthly accounts*

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

RM Village Hall Trust – yearly donation £2500.00

Homevend – repairs to Play Park £45.00

Jewson Ltd – handyman supplies £5.64 (inc £0.94 VAT)

TW Smith Fencing – repairs to Weir footbridge £67.92 (inc £11.32 VAT)

NALC – yearly subscription £218.86

Catherine Harrison – May salary + £10 home allowance £403.01

Sustain Landscape Ltd – ground works Football Field £1571.04 (inc £261.84 VAT)

Northumbrian Water – cricket pavilion water £20.36 (paid by Direct Debit)

Robert Reynolds - Play Park repairs £60.00

Robin Watson Sign & Design – Spinney sign £216.00 (inc £36 VAT)

Playdale – new spring for Play Park gate £62.40 (inc £10.40 VAT)

Office Depot – ink cartridges £57.06 (inc £9.51 VAT)

BT Bell – bridge surveys £2220 (inc £370 VAT)

Catherine Harrison – June salary + £10 home allowance £403.01

Catherine Harrison – reimbursement (Marker pens for edible garden) £10.04

Malcolm Reid – reimbursement of materials for edible garden £11.99

St James Church PCC – additional pages in Parish News £92.00

St James Church PCC – room hire £60.00

**Standing Orders:**

Homevend (June 16 Invoice 69) £80.00

Homevend (July 16 Invoice 70) £80.00

 The following receipts were noted:

 Interest - current account £10.33

RM Cricket Club – yearly rent £25.00

Refund via Ward Hadaway of District Valuer fees re Bokul £1348.30

RM Tennis Club – yearly rent £25.00

RM Allotment Association – quarterly rent £46.75

RM Cricket club – contribution towards mole catcher fees £62.50

 (ii) *Budget report*

A report showing overall budget spending for the financial year was received. There were no matters of concern to note.

16/62 **Handyman**

It was reported that the Handyman had weeded the area where the Leylandii shrubs had been planted by the single tennis court, cleaned the mirrors and cleaned moss off the play park surfaces. He had removed moss and weeded the bridges in Millfield Road, Marchburn Lane and by the weir and had also cut back overhanging trees in these areas. This accounted for his June and July payments.

A discussion was held as to whether the Handyman should wash the bus shelters. It was felt that this would be difficult without the proper equipment and the Clerk was asked to obtain quotes from window cleaning firms. One local firm had been approached but their quote was considered to be too high.

**ACTION: CH**

16/63 **Consultations**

The following consultations were noted and it was agreed to respond as detailed below (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill/Seconded Cllr. Singer):

1. Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Pre-submission draft – proposed major modifications.

“There are 2 problems facing the revised Core Strategy relating to onshore wind energy:

Firstly the Core Strategy is planned to remain in force a lot longer than any ministerial statement of a particular government. It therefore needs to be balanced to accommodate change. As climate change bites, attitudes towards wind farms may well change. It would be wrong for the Core Strategy not to be able to reflect this. This leaves a problem with **Policy 66 ii and iii, onshore wind energy. Ideally they should be replaced by: "ii This should also comply with current Ministerial Statement(s)**

Secondly policy 65 11.80 C. It has been argued and lobbied for by the Northumberland and Newcastle society that Northumberland County Council should not engage in any local planning to identify areas suitable for wind farms but this should be left only to neighbourhood plans. In practice this would mean virtually eliminating all possibility of new wind turbines in Northumberland for the duration of the Core Strategy. As parish councillors we have explored the possibility of conducting neighbourhood plans, soon realised that they entail an immense amount of energy and time to be found by unpaid volunteers, and are mostly not a realistic possibility. So **in our view Policy 65 11.80 should remain**”.

There were no other issues the PC wished to comment upon.

A response was required by Wednesday 27th July;

**ACTION: CH**

1. NCC – Proposal on Alternative Household Waste Recovery Centre Opening Times.

No comment.

16/64 **Planning**

 It was reported:

1. that the following planning applications were under consideration by NCC:

16/01687/FUL – Bowmont, Whiteside Bank. Demolition of garage, new car port and single storey rear extension. PC – no objection;

16/01914/FUL – Wirral House, Sandy Bank. 2 storey garage extension. PC – no objection, minor comments raised;

16/02005/FUL – Land north west of Grove Field, Sandy Bank. Erection of 1.5 storey dwelling and separate garage (revised from earlier withdrawn application). PC – objection (Infringement of building line);

16/01974/FUL – Land south of Tudor Mount, Church Lane. Subdivision of garden and erection of 1.5 storey dwelling (Revision of approved application 16/00075/FUL). Application subsequently withdrawn.

1602125/FELTPO – The Vicarage, Oaklands. Removal of various trees. PC – no objection

1. that the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and granted permission:

16/00940/FUL – 3 Burnside, Mill Close. 2 storey extension

16/01473/FUL – Westril House, Long Rigg. 2 storey and single storey extension

16/65 **Correspondence**

1. Mr B Young re covenant release. A response had been sent.
2. Mr D Henderson re damage to Millfield Road and Marchburn Lane by large construction lorries. It was agreed to review any damage once the building work was completed in Marchburn Lane.

**ACTION: AD/CH**

16/66 **Minor Matters**

 *(i)* *Newsletter*

A draft of the newsletter was received which was to be printed by mid-July. Councillors agreed to help with its distribution.

**ACTION: ALL**

*(ii)* *Closure of railway bridge in Hexham*

It was felt that there had been an increase in lorries coming through the village but that the main traffic flow seemed to be through Corbridge. No particular concerns were identified.

1. *Needs of children and young people in Riding Mill*

Cllr. McKenzie asked the PC to consider convening an informal group to meet to consider the needs of children and young people in the village. Initially he proposed to talk to the various groups who work with children e.g. Church, VHT and club representatives to see what they saw as the perceived needs. This was felt to be a good idea and Cllr. McKenzie was asked to report back after his initial discussions.

**ACTION: DM**

16/67 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 12th September 2016. Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 9.04 pm