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**Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13th February 2017 in Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

**Councillors present:**

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chairman) Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Brian Singer Cllr. Eileen Carew

Cllr. Jill Mills Cllr. Peter Howe

**In attendance:**

Mrs Anne Dale – County Councillor

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

Public (3): Mr G Baur (pre-meeting questions only), Mr C Page and Mrs L Stephenson.

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.40 pm.

17/01 **Apologies**

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

17/02 **Declaration of Interests**

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

Cllr. Singer declared an interest in Item 9c – Allotment rent review as he was an allotment holder.

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

17/03 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2016**

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. Singer).

17/04 **Matters arising**

1. *Minute 16/105(i) - Speed Signs*

Cllr. Dale reported on a meeting she had held with members of the Parish Council, School Governors, the Vicar and parents at the school, to discuss a 20 mph limit being introduced permanently from Whiteside Bank to Meadow Park. All were supportive and it was hoped that the scheme would be introduced within the next few months together with the installation of granite rumble strips near the Spinney and the School.

Work on a scheme to introduce a 20 mph limit on the Main Road at school times was currently being developed by County Council Highway Officers and Cllr. Dale would report back in due course.

The Clerk reported that Swarco had confirmed that the current speed activated signs could be adapted to flash at either 20 or 30 mph.

1. *Minute 16/105(ii) – Street lighting review*

Cllr. Dunhill reported that he had completed the survey of all street lighting in the village and this had been sent to the County Council. He had noted all street lights that were not currently working and a request had been made for these to be fixed as soon as possible. A couple of areas had been identified as possibly needing more street lights and a response from the County Council as to whether this was possible was awaited.

1. *Minute 16/105(iii) – Dog Fouling at the sports field and around the village*

The Clerk reported that there had been one incident of dog fouling at the sports field reported to her but otherwise the problem seemed to have been resolved for now. There had been dog fouling in other areas of the village and these had been highlighted in pink chalk paint which appeared to have again resolved the problem.

1. Minute 16/108 – Bus shelters by the Wellington and Riding Grange

The officer from the County Council would be making a visit shortly to discuss the positioning of bus shelters in the village.

**ACTION: ADa**

In the pre-meeting discussion, a resident had asked that consideration be given to moving the eastbound bus stop at Riding Grange further into the village as he felt it was dangerous in its current location as the path was so narrow. Again, the officer from the Council would be asked for his views.

1. Minute 16/110 – Safety mirrors

It was noted that the new safety mirror had been installed for residents exiting Sandy Bank. The mirror which had mistakenly been taken down near the junction for Wentworth Grange on the Main Road had also been re-erected. Cllr. Mills felt that it was too low and asked whether it could be raised higher. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

**ACTION: CH**

17/05 **Cricket Club redevelopment**

Mr Page reported that plans for an extension and refurbishment of the current pavilion were being considered. This appeared to be a much cheaper option. He was working with Sport England to secure funding and was considering breaking down the project into two phases – phase 1: a new pavilion, phase 2 (a couple of years later): an electricity connection. He was also looking into whether it was possible to secure charitable status for the Club.

A local architect had drawn up new plans for the refurbishment and extension of the pavilion which he would also submit for planning permission. The Parish Council was asked to release £1000 from the remaining grant it had awarded to cover his fees. This was proposed by Cllr. Singer, seconded by Cllr. McKenzie and unanimously agreed (Cllr. Dunhill abstained).

**ACTION: CH**

It was noted that £250 from Tynedale Lions had been secured for the Football Club to buy portable goalposts suitable for mini-league football. Mr Page offered to match this sum from Cricket Club reserves to enable two goalposts to be purchased.

**ACTION: CH**

17/06 **Marchburn Lane Bridge**

A quote from BT Bell had been received to project manage the repair work to Marchburn Lane bridge and the weir footbridge. It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders and only consider this one quote which was unanimously accepted (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Howe). Reason for suspending Standing Orders: the bridge would need to be re-surveyed by any new company undertaking this work which would be an additional expense.

**ACTION: CH**

17/07 **Survey of river bank by double tennis courts**

Professor Malcolm Newson of the Tyne Rivers Trust had been asked to survey the riverbank near the double tennis courts. The bank was being badly eroded and he suggested repairs should be undertaken to prevent further damage. Trees shortly to be felled in Marchburn Woods could be used to shore up the bank side. It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations in the report and seek quotes for the repair work (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. McKenzie).

**ACTION: CH**

17/08 **General Village Maintenance**

Various issues of overhanging branches and hedges were discussed as well as the poor state of the footpaths in two locations in the village. Cllr. Dale agreed to pass on the concerns to the County Council and would report back.

**ACTION: ADa**

17/09 **Finance**

1. Monthly accounts
2. *The following payments were authorised*: (Proposed Cllr. Singer/Seconded Cllr. Howe):

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

Northumberland CVA –S137 donation £60.00

St James PCC – room hire £70.00

Catherine Harrison – December salary + home allowance £418.58

Playdale Playgrounds Ltd – equipment needed for repairs £76.68

Stephen Rutherford – bus shelter cleaning (Direct Debit) £30.00

T Bell Horticultural Services – marking out of football pitch £180.00

SD Building Services – erection of safety mirrors £80.00

Office Depot – Ink, envelopes, doc wallets, usb stick, paper £73.86 (inc. VAT £12.31)

Catherine Harrison – January salary + home allowance £418.58

Catherine Harrison – reimbursement (postage £24.29, Security lock £7,

Grit scoop £4.99) £36.28

Homevend (January 17 Invoice 76) £80.00

Homevend (February 17 Invoice 77) £80.00

Brian Thompson – Landscaping work and materials £573.00

Jewsons – handyman materials £16.08 (inc. VAT £2.68)

VONNE – North East funding guide £32.50

The following receipts were noted:

Triodos - interest reserve account £9.35

Broomley & Stocksfield PC – refund for speed activated sign maintenance £278.10

RM Allotment Association – 4th quarter rent £46.75

1. *Budget report*

It was noted that there was a minor overspend on the General Administration budget. The Loans and Donations budget showed an overspend too but this was because a grant had been given to the Cricket Club which had been taken from the Reserves. The Capital Expenditure budget had largely been unspent as projects to install a new bus shelter and extra speed activated signs had been delayed. These projects would hopefully be undertaken next financial year.

b) *Riding Mill Tennis Club*

A requested was received from the Tennis Club asking for a grant of £110 to purchase a mechanical brush to help clear the courts of moss. This was unanimously approved (Proposed: Cllr. Mills, seconded Cllr. Carew).

**ACTION: CH**

c) *Riding Mill Allotment Association – rent review*

A paper was received calculating the rent for 2017/18 in accordance with the method laid out in the lease. This was approved and it was agreed to raise the rent to £47.50 per quarter, a rise of £0.75.

**ACTION: CH**

d) *Clerk’s Monthly Home Allowance*

Cllr. Reid had asked that consideration be given to raising the Clerk’s home allowance from £10 to £20 per month as he had reviewed her monthly costs and felt that the current allowance was too low. This suggestion was unanimously agreed (Proposed Cllr. McKenzie, seconded Cllr. Singer).

**ACTION: CH**

17/10 **Handyman**

It was noted that the Handyman had swept out the bus shelters and cleaned the visibility mirrors. He had also cut back verges by the double tennis courts in Millfield Road and by the Play Park and Spinney. In addition, he had cut back trees around the bus shelters at Broomhaugh. This accounted for his January and February payments.

17/11 **Planning**

It was reported that:

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

* 16/0296/PRUTPO: 3 St James Close – tree work. PC – no objection;
* 16/04658/FELTPO: Glenbrook, Oaklands – tree work. PC – no objection;
* 17/00074/FELTPO: 3 Meadow Park – tree work. PC – no objection;
* 17/00222/FUL: Marchburn, Marchburn Lane – conversion of double garage into maisonette/small dwelling. PC – no objection.

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

* 16/03709/VARYCO: Wirral House – extension;
* 16/04118/FUL: Land east of Dower Green. Detached house;
* 16/04202/TPO: Brookside, Millfield Road – tree works;
* 16/0410/FUL: Land west of High Shilford – Telecommunication installation.

1. the following planning application had been withdrawn:

16/0413/FUL: 1 The Bungalow, Broomhaugh.

1. an appeal against refusal had been lodged against application 16/02621/FUL – West Cottage, Shepherds Dene – kitchen extension.

17/12 **Correspondence**

1. Local residents’ objection to turning the seat at Beauclerc. It was agreed that as no one had requested the seat to be turned, and the nearby resident had issues with the proposal, the Council should leave the seat in its current position.
2. Garden fires – Cllr. Dale had dealt with this issue and informed the County’s Environmental Enforcement team.
3. St James PCC had written expressing issues with children exiting the Spinney. It was agreed that the letter should be passed to Cllr. Reid and considered by the working group he leads. The group was also asked to look at parking issues in the Old Playground which were considered a safety hazard.

**ACTION: MR**

17/13 **Minor Matters**

1. *Annual Parish Meeting*

It was agreed to hold the annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 11th May. Possible topics to cover were speed calming measures in the village, the Speedwatch scheme, developments at the Cricket Club and Play Park, and the work of the Tyne Rivers Trust.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Litter Pick*

It was agreed to hold the annual Litter Pick on Saturday 18th March. The Clerk would advertise details in the Parish News.

**ACTION: CH**

1. *Works at Broomhaugh roundabout*

Cllr. Dale reported on the works at Broomhaugh roundabout. It was noted that these works were funded out of the County Council’s Local Transport Plan which is funded by Government. The Government specifies a certain amount for cycleway improvement in the County each year. There had been three recent accidents at the roundabout where cyclists have been injured and for this reason the work had been identified as a priority. The works were now complete.

17/14 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 13th March 2017. Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm