



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11th February 2019 in Church Cottage, Church Lane, Riding Mill.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Andy Dunhill (Chairman)

Cllr. Christine Howe

Cllr. Eileen Carew

Cllr. Pauline Mulholland

Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Jill Mills

Cllr. Pam Bridges

Cllr. Janet Padgett

In attendance:

County Councillor Anne Dale (until Minute 19/06)

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

1 member of the public was present.

Cllr. Dunhill opened the meeting at 7.35 pm.

19/01 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Brian Singer

19/02 Declaration of Interests

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

Cllr. Padgett informed members of her new role as Chair of the Village Hall Trust and noted that she would declare an interest whenever necessary.

19/03 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10th December 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. Howe).

19/04 Matters Arising

(i) *Minute 18/62(i) – Relocation of bus stop at west end of village.*

It was noted that the bus stop sign had finally been moved to its correct location. Cllr. Dale had written to thank the relevant officers at the County Council;

(ii) *Minute 18/114(i) – Sports Club s106 funding.*

Cllr. Dale reported that the Sports Club had now made an official complaint to the Ombudsman as the County Council had failed to respond to its earlier complaint within the specified timeframe. It was hoped that the Sports Club would utilise the earlier grant shortly;

(iii) *Minute 18/114(ii) – School bus drop off issues.*

No further information had been received from the County Council and the bus continued to drop children off on the main road after school;

(iv) *Minute 18/118 – Play Park Health & Safety – procedures for reporting accidents and incidents*

It was noted that the Clerk had instigated a system for recording any accidents or incidents which were reported to her by users of the Play Park;

- (v) *Minute 18/126(ii) – Tennis Club lease.*
Cllr. Dunhill reported that the lease had been submitted to the Land Registry and final registration acknowledgement was awaited.

19/05 **County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Dale reported on the following issues:

- (i) Pedestrian Crossing. Cllr. Dale was delighted to report that a puffin crossing for the main road had received approval. The design work had already been completed and she was hopeful it would be installed this year;
- (ii) 20 mph. Work was still ongoing but once finalised Cllr. Dale would review all signs and road markings with the relevant officers. It could be that some road signs were now superfluous and should be removed;
- (iii) Mapping project. Cllr. Dale continued to work with Broomhaugh First School on the mapping project which involved encouraging children to record and promote health walks in their local environment whilst finding out about the history of the village;
- (iv) Footpath to the roundabout. Cllr. Dale had met with officers to discuss whether the footpath could be improved. The actual path was slowly being eroded with grass encroaching on either side and she would like to see the earth removed and the path re-Tarmaced if necessary;
- (v) Right of Way to Corbridge along the riverbank. Discussions were taking place with the various landowners and a meeting would be held with the Parish Council when the Footpaths Officer felt it appropriate;
- (vi) Permissive Footpath through Helister's Wood. Cllr. Dale had spoken to the landowner who had confirmed his intention to close the path now that the conservation walk agreement had ended;
- (vii) Gullies. All the gullies in the village had been cleaned. There remained some issues with gullies at the west end of the village which could indicate that there were blockages within the drainage system and she would arrange for this to be investigated by the County Council;
- (viii) Car parking charges. Cllr. Dale was pleased to report that the implementation of car parking charges at Prudhoe Railway Station and Riverside Park had been abandoned and she thanked the Parish Council for supporting her in opposing the charges.

19/06 Delegation of Councillors' Responsibilities

It had previously been agreed that the Chairman could delegate to councillors the Chairman's authority to take decisions, subject to approval at future PC meetings and working in conjunction with the Clerk, in specific areas. The areas of responsibility were reviewed and the following highlighted changes were agreed:

Planning Sub-Committee – Cllrs. Dunhill, Howe, Singer & Mills (3 from 4 would review each planning application)

Legal/FOI/GDPR matters – Cllrs. Mills & **Padgett**

Appraisals – Cllrs. Carew & Singer

VHT representatives – **Cllr. Bridges** (the PC reserved the right to appoint a second representative, as is its right, if it felt it appropriate in the future)

Website monitoring/development – **Cllr. Mulholland**

Handyman/ Amenity matters/ Play park inspection – Cllr. Dunhill

Accounts – Cllrs. Mills and **Howe**

Sport & Recreation – Cllr. Singer

Edible Riding Mill/Spinney – Cllrs. McKenzie and Dunhill

East Tynedale Forum representative – Cllr. McKenzie

RM Play & Regeneration Group – Cllrs. McKenzie and **Mulholland**

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership representative – Cllr. Dunhill

Marchburn Lane Residents' Association representative – Cllr. Dunhill

Footpaths Group – Councillor Dunhill

Children/Youth issues – Cllrs. McKenzie & Mulholland

In addition, it was proposed that a sub-group should be formed to review village maintenance issues and to decide how best to spend the additional resources allocated to enhanced services in next year's budget. It was agreed that Cllrs. Carew, Dunhill and Howe would meet to draw up a list of priorities.

ACTION: EC, AD, CHo, CH

19/07 Riding Mill Play & Regeneration Group

Cllr. McKenzie explained that the Play & Regeneration Group had been reconvened recently to look into reinstating the mill pond in Marchburn Lane. The group would be holding a further meeting with the Tyne Rivers Trust shortly before commencement of a feasibility study. He also outlined a further idea which the group planned to explore - a heritage project recording the history of the village through possible village interpretation boards, development of the website, exhibitions etc. No input was necessary from the Parish Council at this time although the Clerk was providing administrative assistance until the group became better established.

Councillors welcomed the group's ideas. Councillor Padgett suggested that the group look at Stokesley, a town she was familiar with, which had undertaken a similar heritage project as it might provide some useful ideas.

19/08 Play Park Yearly Inspection

Due to issues with last year's annual RoSPA inspection, it was proposed to change inspection company. The Clerk had obtained a quote from another company which was marginally cheaper than prices paid in previous years and it was therefore agreed to appoint The Play Inspection Company (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Mills).

ACTION: CH

19/09 General Village Maintenance

No maintenance issues were noted although Cllr. Carew remained concerned about the footpath adjacent to the main road.

The Clerk confirmed that the tree surgeon had finished all works in Marchburn Woods, by the Play Park and MUGA court and opposite the school. He still had some trees to remove near the burn by the double tennis courts which he would do in the next month.

19/10 Finance / Insurance

(a) *Monthly accounts*

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

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|---|-------------------------|
| Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of Christmas tree and lights | £411.95 |
| Tynedale Hospice at Home – S137 donation | £60.00 |
| Community Action Northumberland – S137 donation | £60.00 |
| Sport Tynedale – S137 donation | £60.00 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau – S137 donation | £100.00 |
| Age UK Northumberland – 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 |
| Core Music, Hexham – S137 donation | £60.00 |
| RM Tennis Club – S137 donation | £150.00 |
| RM Pre-School – S137 donation | £150.00 |
| Catherine Harrison – December salary + home allowance | £468.45 |
| St James PCC – room hire | £40.00 |
| Office Depot – ink cartridges | £56.76 (inc. VAT £9.46) |
| Neetfleet – backlog maintenance | £230.00 |

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|---|--------------------------|
| Bank Charges – quarterly charges | £18.00 |
| RM VHT – room hire | £12.00 |
| David Ballantyne – tree works Marchburn Wood/tennis courts | £820.00 |
| RM Allotment Association – insurance reimbursement | £83.64 |
| Neetfleet – backlog maintenance | £60.00 |
| Catherine Harrison – January salary + home allowance | £468.45 |
| Catherine Harrison- reimbursement (replacement rectifier for Christmas lights £21.82, Land Registry £3, paper cups £6.99) | £31.81 (inc. VAT £3.64) |
| Ward Hadaway – tennis club lease | £1728.00 (inc. VAT £288) |

Regular standing order:

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| Martin Stewart/Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment | £115.00 |
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The following receipts were noted:

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| RM Allotment Association – 4 th quarter rent | £48.88 |
| Triodos Reserve account – interest | £10.34 |

(ii) *Budget report*

As previously noted, the maintenance budget was overspent caused by the unanticipated repairs to the Old Playground's surface and because of the cost of cleaning/restoring the war memorial in the churchyard.

Water leaks at the sports field were discussed. The Clerk was asked to put in writing to the Sports Club that the PC would not pay the additional charges caused by the leaks having borne the cost of the leaks for the last two years. The excess charges would be deducted from the Sports Club yearly grant.

ACTION: CH

b) *Bridges sinking fund*

It was unanimously agreed to open a sinking fund account which would be used when it became necessary to replace Marchburn Lane bridge. This savings account should be held with Unity Trust Bank (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Mills).

ACTION: CH

c) *Riding Mill Allotment Association – Rent review*

A paper was received calculating the rent for 2019/20 in accordance with the method laid out in the lease. This was approved and it was agreed to raise the rent to £50.11/quarter (Proposed Cllr. Padgett, seconded Cllr. Dunhill).

ACTION: CH

19/11 **Handyman**

The handyman had cut back shrubs in and around the Spinney, cleared various footpaths and tidied the Old Playground following removal of the Christmas trees. This accounted for his January payment.

The Handyman reported that the work was taking a day a month rather than the 4-6 hours anticipated. He therefore requested to raise his monthly fee to his day-rate of £160. The standard of his work was felt to be high and his request was unanimously approved (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr. Padgett).

19/12 **Planning**

It was reported that:

- (i) the following planning applications were under consideration by NCC:
 - 18/03877/FUL – Knotts Wood, Main Road. Single storey extension. PC – no objection but comments re surface water drainage;

- 19/00298/299/300/HEGRMN – Hedge removal by pumping station. PC – no objection but would like to see hedgerows replanted on completion of the work;
 - 19/00304/VARYCO – Spellbound, Whiteside Bank. PC – objection to the use of gabions and the alteration to the entrance point to Whiteside Bank.
- (i) that the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and granted permission:
- 18/04429/FUL -33 Station Close. Lean- to front extension. PC – no objection;
 - 18/03752/PRUTPO – Holmfield, Sandy Bank. Tree works;
 - 18/03888/LBC – Thirlwell, Broomhaugh. Replacement of sash windows and changes to internal layout.
- (iii) that the following planning applications had been considered by NCC and refused permission:
- 18/01223/FUL & 18/01224/LBC – Riding Farm.

19/13 Consultations

Northumberland Local Plan Consultation. The document had been reviewed by Cllr. Howe and no major changes had been identified relating to Riding Mill. It was therefore agreed that it was unnecessary for the PC to comment further.

19/14 Correspondence

Mr Neil Turner had written re the repairs to Marchburn Lane Bridge and whether the PC should be financing the reinstatement of the mill pond. The Clerk had responded.

19/15 Minor Matters

(i) *Changes to VHT Management Committee*

The changes to the committee were noted and the new officers welcomed. It was agreed that the PC should write to Rosie Cummings and Pam Pryor following their retirement from the VHT thanking them for all their efforts.

ACTION: CH

(ii) *Annual Parish Meeting*

It was agreed that the APM should be held on Thursday 16th May although the date could be alternated with the parish council meeting due to be held on Monday 13th May. A speaker on a heritage theme might be appropriate and the Clerk was asked to investigate further. Mrs Stephenson offered to approach the Hexham Local History Society to see if they had a list of possible speakers.

ACTION: CH/LS

(iii) *Litter Pick*

It was agreed to hold the annual litter pick on Saturday 23rd March. The Clerk should publicise details.

ACTION: CH

(iv) *Roadside Litter Signs*

Roadside litter signs had been displayed in Stocksfield and their clerk had suggested they be used in Riding Mill too. Councillors felt that the signs might actually encourage rather than discourage littering and did not feel it appropriate to use them.

ACTION: CH

(v) *Permissive footpath through Helister's Wood*

See Cllr. Dale's report – Minute 19/05(vi)

(vi) *Building plot opposite the Old Tavern*

Cllr. Dale would ask NCC to check that the site and the adjoining raised footpath section was stable and safe

ACTION: ADa.

(vii) *Dog Fouling*

This continued to be an issue throughout the village. The Clerk was again asked to highlight the problem in the next Parish News.

ACTION: CH

19/16 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council should be held on Monday 11th March 2019.

Venue: Church Cottage.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm