**Broughton Parish Council**

Minutes of the meeting of Broughton Parish Council held in Little Broughton Village Hall on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 19:00.

**Present:** Mrs M Bradley (In the Chair) Mrs Sue Hannah, Mr Steve Hannah, Mrs Alison Carruthers, Mrs Claire Winter, Mr Bill Smith, Mrs Joanne Sewell, Ms Becx Carter, A/BC Cllr N Cockburn, Inspector Rachel Gale

**Apologies:** Mrs J Hobden, Mr C Jackson, A/BC Cllr J Farebrother

With 7 Councillors present the meeting was quorate to continue.

**143/19 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and noted from the above.

**144/19 Chairman’s Announcements**

Cllr M Bradley made a number of announcements:

*Joint Planning Meeting-* This was held in late July and will be tabled for full discussion in October 2019. The notes and supporting documentation have been circulated to all Broughton Parish Councillors (and other local Parishes who attended the meeting). There are pros and cons to all approaches, and if a Neighbourhood Plan were pursued it would be a significant amount of work and it would be costly, however there are both grants & professional support available.

*Millennium Gardens-*This has been pruned & thinned by Councillors but complaints are still being received from one local resident. This is on the agenda further down.

*Phone Box-* Cllr M Bradley followed up on a possible lead for conversions of phone boxes, but on further research it was confirmed the funding is only available for phone boxes that are still currently active.

*Coldgill Fencing Tender-* This has now been let and is being monitored by Cllr J Hobden. The work is proceeding well.

*British Legion Closure-*Cllr M Bradley noted to those present that it has recently been publicised that the British Legion in Great Broughton has now ceased trading and is being sold. **Resolved** by all present that the sale of the British Legion is outwith any form of Broughton Parish Parish Council responsibility or legal duty and if any local residents require further information on this matter they would need to pursue the matter privately.

**Action: Clerk to respond to a query raised by a local resident and share the anonymised query with all Councillors for information.**

*Post Office-* It was noted that the Post Office van is now coming to Great Broughton on a Thursday afternoon.

**145/19 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interest**

None

**147/19 Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2019**

All members of the council had received a copy of the minutes.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting by the Chair Cllr Mary Bradley

**Action: Clerk to upload the completed minutes to the website.**

**148/19 Inspector Rachel Gale Cumbria Police**

Inspector Rachel Gale attended to answer questions raised by the Parish Council relating to Anti-Social Behaviour in the parish.

Inspector Gale confirmed she had checked the logs since Mid July and most of them are agricultural (animals straying on to roads) or vegetation related (fallen tree branches), however in July (Carnival weekend) a dispersal order was placed on the Parish relating to a gathering of young people and adults. However the dispersal order was never ‘used’. On the night in question three calls were received and the Police attended and one person was arrested for breach of peace.

A dispersal order allows the police to enforce people leaving the defined area and not returning. The order would be in place for 48 hours. A dispersal order is granted on an Inspectors Authority. It is designed as a short term way to combat an issue.

Q: Is there anything that can be done to ban individuals for a longer period than 48 hours?

A: There are ways that this can be done, one of which is via the prevent & deter panel which would look to form acceptable behaviour contracts a condition of which can be that an individual doesn’t enter a certain place. If an individual breaches a condition of an acceptable behaviour contract then the police could look at an injunction. However the levels of Anti-Social Behaviour within the Broughton Parish are no where near the threshold required for this action at this stage.

A Councillor who witnessed the behaviour on Carnival Weekend confirmed that it was a very large group present and calling 101 was not working, due to the level of intimidation and threat members of the public had to resort to calling 999. Once the initial arrest was made the group continued on.

Concern was noted by all present that members of the public are not reporting issues of anti-social behaviour for two reasons, one they feel threatened and secondly that the 101 phone number is almost never answered, and enquiries sent to the 101email address are never answered. Inspector Gale noted that they do try and allocate additional resources to the 101 call answering at known peak times.

Inspector Gale noted that the 101 call answering is a known issue that she will raise concerns again.

**Action: Inspector Gale to raise concerns regarding 101 call answering with the relevant authorities.**

Inspector Gale asked for help from the Parish Council on how to encourage people to report issues, as officer time is allocated based on the greatest need and without the reports on the system Broughton Parish doesn’t get prioritised highly.

Q: A Councillor noted that she had reported anti-social behaviour in her garden to the 101 number but that she was informed by the call handler that it wasn’t a crime.

A: Inspector Gale confirmed that trespass is not a criminal matter it is a civil one, but that the call handler should have taken the caller through an Anti-Social Behaviour checklist.

Fundamentally Inspector Gale confirmed that if reports are not received she can’t justify allocation of resources to the area. Reports can be made via the 101 phone number, 101emails@cumbria.police.uk , or via the Allerdale Focus group on Facebook. Additionally the contact details for all the local officers can be found on the website and can be contacted directly about general issues ( [https://www.cumbria.police.uk/Your-Area/West/Allerdale-District/Allerdale-Rural/Allerdale-Rural.aspx#](https://www.cumbria.police.uk/Your-Area/West/Allerdale-District/Allerdale-Rural/Allerdale-Rural.aspx) ). Inspector Gale noted that reports of crimes shouldn’t be made directly to officers as they need to go via the 101 system so they can be recorded with a crime number.

Q: Should persons that report issues via the 101emails@cumbria.police.uk receive an automatic acknowledgement so that they at least know the email has been received?

A: Inspector Gale confirmed she thought they should, but noted that reports round the table from two people noted that automatic responses had not been received.

**Action: Inspector Gale to confirm if a response should/should not be received to the Parish Clerk who will share the information with all councillors.**

All present strongly represented to Inspector Gale that the Parish Council have been reporting issues of Anti-Social Behaviour to the police for two plus + years, including concerns about young people being dropped into the parish by parents to gather and cause issues. The level of the behaviour and the violence associated with it is increasing (in particular relating to the Baptist Church Vandalism, and the Carnival) yet to the residents of the parish it appears the Police are taking no action and are not interested in any reports.

Inspector Gale rebutted this by confirming that with relation to the Baptist Church the Crime Scene Investigation Unit attended and found DNA at the site but that it was not on the Police Database when searched. Inspector Gale confirmed that the DNA would be sorted on the police files and a match could be made at a later date. Additionally the Police increased patrols in the area. However the case was closed as at that stage there was insufficient evidence.

Cllrs present noted that the letter sent confirming the case was closed was dismissive in tone and has only exacerbated local concerns regarding the lack of police interest in the area. Inspector Gale noted this comment as received.

It was suggested that a possible way of building trust in the Police would be to have some case studies that demonstrate where 101 has been followed up leading to some action.

**Action: Inspector Gale to provide some case studies for publication in forthcoming Broughton Parish Newsletters**.

Broughton Parish Council requested additional visible officers on foot within the Parish at peak times to reassure members of the public (Friday & Saturday nights). The Parish Council acknowledged the issue of resources.

Inspector Gale confirmed that if sufficient reports were received then Great & Little Broughton would be added to the anti-social behaviour plan which would trigger increased resources.

Q: Do the police go into schools/colleges etc to educate & discuss issues such as this?

A: Yes the police have mini police schemes & a police cadet scheme additionally they also regularly attend primary schools.

**Action: Inspector Gale to provide publicity material on 101 to the Clerk for distribution to try and ecnoaurge reports.**

Q: What is the Allerdale Local Focus Hub and how does it work?

A: This has been running out of Allerdale House now for a number of months and involves all agencies (Housing Providers, Cumbria Youth Alliance, Cumbria Police, Social Services, Cumbria Fire, Licensing etc) sitting in one place to enable a multi agency response to be provided to issues that are referred to the Hub. As well as dealing with referrals into the unit the Hub also works on longer term projects e.g. Knife Crime (as a preventative measure rather than a response to a crime).

All present thanked Inspector Rachel Gale for attending.

**Action: Clerk to send a formal thanks to Inspector Rachel Gale.**

**149/19 Public Participation**

None

**150/19 Applications for Co-option**

None received

**151/19 Update on matters arising from previous meetings**

1. Youth Shelter/Outdoor Recreation Project

Those involved in the working group on this matter noted the strong need to work with local young people (Years 6 & 7) to identify what they want in terms of youth provision as it is that generation who would benefit from any project that the Parish Council took forward. Once it is clearly defined what facilities young people are looking for then a project can commence to review the land options for siting any such facility.

It was noted that the football pitch is no longer used for a football club.

**Action: Youth Shelter working group to prepare a Survey Monkey study with a view to the web address for this being circulated to all as part of the next Broughton Newsletter.**

**Action: Cllr C Winter to contact Broughton School & the Youth Club to canvas opinion on what facilities young people would like.**

1. Phone Box

It was noted that no representation had been received either in support or objection to the idea of removing or not the Phone Box outside the Post Office.

1. Joint Planning Meeting Feedback

**Resolved** by all present that this be deferred to the October 2019 meeting.

**Action: Councillors to read the notes & supporting documentation prior to the October 2019 meeting to enable a discussion to take place.**

**152/19 Clerks Report**

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerks report and its contents be noted as received.

**153/19 Play-area**

It was noted by the Clerk that once again the Padlock on the double gate has been removed once again.

**Action: Clerk to continue pursuing this issue with the maintenance contractors.**

**154/19 Reports from Visiting Councillors & on other meetings attended**

*Waste Collection:* A/BC Cllr N Cockburn confirmed that Allerdale Borough Council have decided that waste collection will be taken back in house via a wholely owned arms length company. Further information will be circulated in due course.

**155/19 Allotments**

1. *Plot 28 & Plot 8 Size Reduction*

The Clerk confirmed that requests had been received from the tenants of both the aforementioned plots requesting to reduce the size of their plots as of the 1st October 2019.

The Tenant of Plot 28 has provided a map and has agreed to move his own boundary fence back. The tenant of Plot 8 has provided no details on which area he wishes to keep/return.

The Clerk confirmed that the proposals have been considered via email by the Allotment Working Group with no concerns raised as long as both tenants clear the area of the plot they are not using before returning it to the Council.

**Resolved** by all present that the Tenant of Plot 28 be given consent to move his boundary fence back as per his map as long as the area being returned is cleared prior to its return to the Councils possession.

**Action: Clerk to convey this decision in writing to the Tenant**

**Action: Clerk to request that both the reduce size plot and the area returned to the Council are measured as soon as possible.**

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk write to the tenant of Plot 8 for more details on the area being returned. The Parish Council have no issues with plot sizes being reduced as long as they are done logically and don’t leave areas inaccessible or only return the poor land.

**Action: Clerk to write to the tenant and agenda for a future appropriate meeting.**

**Action: Clerk to convene a meeting of the Allotment Working Group meeting in October (date to be agreed with Cllr M Bradley)**

It was noted that with the return of these parts of the plots there will be a significant amount of plots available on the Coldgill Site.

1. *WRAS compliance and non-return valves.*

Cllr M Bradley noted that the plumber that the Council had been using for WRAS repairs had suggested that an allotment holder or handy person could be trained to do the necessary repairs thereby reducing costs.

The Clerk confirmed that until formal confirmation has been received from WaterPlus/United Utilities regarding if there is a ‘master’ non return valve in the meter work had to continue to be undertaken by a registered & WRAS compliant plumber.

The Clerk confirmed that a complaint is open with the Consumer Council for Water regarding the time it is taking to get a response to this concern.

**Action: Clerk to continue working on this matter with the relevant bodies.**

1. *Advertising of vacant plots*

**Resolved** by all present that the allotment waiting list adverts to be updated monthly with the number of plots available on each site.

**Action: Clerk/Cllr Bradley & Cllr Hobden to continue work on this.**

**156/19 Parish Maintenance & Highways Matters**

*Millennium Gardens-* **Resolved** by all present that all Councillors to go and trim 1 full bag off millennium gardens over the coming weeks to make the site tidy prior to winter.

**Action: Clerk to list the area of Millenium Gardens for consideration as part of the review of the grass cutting tender for 2020.**

It was noted that possible consideration should be given to the removal of all grasses on the site to prevent further complaints from the local resident.

*Bus Shelter-* It was noted that the Bus Shelter on Main Street is falling into a state of disrepair and is likely to need repaired/removed.

**Action: Clerk to Contact CCC and establish if they have any one who surveys bus shelters structurally and to ask them to survey this one.**

**Action: Clerk to liaise with Sue Hannah over this work, and if CCC can’t survey the shelter a formal structural survey to be ordered to look at how best to repair/make safe the structure.**

*Broughton Dump/Riva Homes Site-* It was noted with concern that vehicles fully loaded with top soil are running through the villages to access Brigham and not following the longer route.

**Action: Clerk to report this as an issue of planning compliance to ABC.**

**157/19 Correspondence**

None

**158/19 Planning Applications & Consultations**

**Ref: HOU/2019/0184**

Location: Ridgeway, 8 Camerton Road, Great Broughton

Cockermouth: Erection of Log Cabin

**Resolved** by all present that Broughton Parish Council have no comments or objections relating to this proposal

**Action: Clerk to submit these comments.**

**159/19 Planning Decisions**

**Resolved** by all present that the below decisions be noted as received

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| FUL/2019/0141 | Plot 3 & 4 Moor Road, Great Broughton | Erection of 2 no dwellings further to outline consent 2/2018/0346 | Approved |
| FUL/2019/0142 | Plot 2 Moor Road, Great Broughton | Erection of detached dwelling further to outline consent 2/2018/0346 | Approved |
| OUT/2019/0010 | Plot 5 Moor Road, Great Broughton | Outline application for erection of a detached single storey dwelling & garage | Outline Application Approved  |
| HOUS/2019/0127 | 9 Ghyll Bank, Little Broughton | Two Storey side extension, porch to front & rear terrace | Approved |
| HOU/2019/0116 | 6 Camerton Road, Great Broughton | Proposed extension and alterations | Refused |

**160/19 Finances, Accounts & Governance**

1. Payment of Accounts

**Resolved** by all present that the below accounts be paid with cheques signed by 2 authorised signatories

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **Reason** | **Amount** |
| *Becx Carter* | *Salary (via SO)* | *£564.68* |
| HMRC | PAYE (August) | £141.20 |
| PKF  | Audit Fee | £240 |
| HMRC | PAYE (Sept) | £141.20 |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £113.96 |
| Jackson Hetherington | Grass Cutting | £283.34 |

**Action: Clerk to pay these accounts.**

**Action: Clerk to speak with the Grass Cutting contractor regarding the longer gaps than there should be between cuts.**

1. *Approval of monthly bank reconciliation & spend against budget report*

**Resolved** by all present that these be signed as a true & accurate.

1. *Notice of Conclusion of External Audit*

The Clerk informed those present that the external audit for Broughton Parish Council Y/E 31st March 2019 had been received back as an unqualified audit.

**Resolved** by all present that this be noted as received and thanks be noted to the Clerk for her hard work in achieving a clear audit.

1. *Training Needs Clerk*

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk be authorised to attend two training courses (Neighbourhood Planning & Tree Management), and that Cllr M Bradley be booked on the Neighbourhood Planning Training Course.

**Action: Clerk to book these training courses.**

**161/19 Councillor Matters**

None

**162/19 Date & Time of Next meeting.**

**Resolved** by all present that the next meeting date be set as 15th October 2019

**Action: Clerk to distribute grass cutting tender to all with papers for the October 2019 meeting**

**Action: Clerk to note apologies of Cllr Winter for the October 2019 meeting.**

Signed……………………………………………. (Chair) Dated………………………………………………..