**Broughton Parish Council**

A meeting of Broughton Parish Council was held at Little Broughton Village Hall on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Sue Wilson (in the Chair), Cllr R Mawdsley, Cllr Steve Hannah, Cllr Richard Gildert, Cllr Mary Bradley, Cllr John Wilson, Cllr Sam Anderson, Cllr Maynall Weir

Attendance: B Carter (Clerk), Alex Fitzgerald (ABC), A/BC Cllr Janet Farebrother, A/BC Cllr Nicky Cockburn

Apologies: Cllr Mark Richardson, Cllr Alison Carruthers

**163/15 Apologies for absence**

Received and noted from the above named persons

**164/15 Minutes of the last meeting (18th August 2015)**

All councillors present were in favour of the minutes of the meeting of the 18th August 2015 being accepted as a true and accurate record subject to the above correction. **Resolved** by all present that the minutes be approved.

The chair signed the minutes accordingly.

**165/15 Chairman’s announcements**

Cllr Sue Hannah informed the meeting that due to the tight timescales a provisional bid had been submitted for the Soddy Gap Ponds area to protect its use for the community.

Cllr M Bradley proposed that the £5000 bid for the Soddy Gap Ponds area be ratified by the council (due to the tight timescales and deadlines) to protect this valuable community asset. The bid is submitted subject to consultation with Broughton Moor Parish Council (in whose area the majority of the land lies) and legal advice regarding the position of buying the land outside of the Parish Council, and any associated liabilities that maybe associated with the land.

This was seconded by Cllr R Gildert. **Resolved** that this was approved by all councillors present.

**Action: Clerk to look into the legalities and associated liabilities prior to the next meeting.**

**16715 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interest.**

1. *Request for Dispensation*

None received

1. *Declarations of Interest*

None received.

**168/15 Public Participation**

None present

**169/15 Applications for co-option (2 vacancies)**

No applications for co-option had been received.

**170/15 Police Report**

The clerk read out a report provided by PCSO Sarah Brown, which detailed 1 incident in the public interest.

It was noted by the Council that there had been a number of other incidents of a person/s knocking on doors in Little Broughton and then running away.

**Action: Clerk to report this to PCSO Sarah Brown**

**171/15 Update on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting 18th August 2015**

Ms Alex Fitzsimmons attended from ABC to provide information on Community Assets. These can be Assets of Community Value or Community Right to Bid and they arouse from the Localism Act 2011. This relates to the community being able to nominate assets that the community feel of community value. The nomination has to come from designated groups within the community (Parish Councils being one of these) or an unconsituted body of 21 named electors. The nomination is then submitted to the Local Authority who then undertake a series of checks on the nomination to ensure it is valid. If it is they let the owner and any necessary consultees know.

The council then collects evidence from the different bodies regarding the piece of land, it is important that as much information as possible is obtained about how the land or property issued and why it is of community value.

The definition of being of community value is ‘does it further the social wellbeing or social interest of the local community (e.g. recreational, sporting, cultural uses)’. Social well-being is less well defined, but has in practice come to include many things, it tends to be civic or recreation purposes. This use has to be the MAIN and not ancillary use.

ABC then has to apply a test of is the current used of the land/property furthering social wellbeing or social interests of the community and is it realistic to think that this will continue whether in its current or different form. If it doesn’t currently have that use has it recently had (last 5 years and is it likely that this could resume in the future). In the case of Soddy Gap it is a continued usage that is being argued.

ABC then decide if to list it as an asset, if it is listed then it stays on the relevant list for 5 years. If during this time an owner wants to dispose of the asset (subject to lots of exemptions) then the seller must tell ABC who will then publicise this. There is then an option for what are described as community interest groups to come forward (during a 6 week window) to express an interest. If this happens then the moratorium period is extended to 6 months for that group to try and pull together the finances to support a bid.

Soddy Gap’s nomination is in and ABC are currently going through the process of assessing/checking it is valid. If it is successful this area should be listed as a Community Asset sometime in October.

ABC have asked Broughton Parish Council to submit any evidence they wish to support this community right to bid application.

**Resolved** that Broughton Parish Council would submit a written statement of strong support for this application stating that the area is of community value (with evidence regarding population demographs, and the importance of it for health benefits ) for a multitude of uses including recreation, running, walking, cycling, education, wildlife & bird watching, exercise, and is widely used by all demographs of people including those with health & mobility issues. In addition it is a key site for migrating aquatic and wading birds. Broughton Parish Council have recollection that it has been used by the wider public for over 35 years and in its current format for at least 15 years.

**Action: Cllr M Bradley to provide the Clerk with statistics to support this statement.**

**Action: Cllr S Anderson to speak with the School to see if they are willing to submit a statement of support**

**Action: Clerk to draft a form of words for residents to complete stating how long/regularly etc they have used the asset for**

**Action: Clerk to compile all the information and submit it to ABC by 25th September 2015**

**Action: Clerk to ask either Cllr Carruthers or Richardson to post the request for evidence into the facebook group**

**Resolved** that in addition to the above the Clerk look into the possibility of registering the access across this piece of land as a public right of way.

**Action: Clerk to look into the above and report back at future meeting**

**172/15 Clerks Matters**

A Clerks report had been received by all councillors in advance of the meeting.

*150.15.1 Access at corner entrance to Welfare Field Play Area- Standard of work*

Cllr Steve Hannah had held a meeting with the contractors on the 1st September. During which it was agreed that the standard was not sufficient and the slabs would not stay in place due to the lack of bedding in. However due to there being an old path under the surface there are only two options 1) dig out the old path to put down a sufficient depth of bedding material, 2) grout between the slabs (once they have been re-leveled) to ensure they remain in situ. There is an old edge of slabs that can be used to form a buttress for the slabs prior to concreting. This additional work will cost a further £354 plus VAT and will need the path to be out of action for 1 week in October.

**Resolved** that Corfields be asked to continue with the additional works subject to the work being done under a 1 year guarantee

**Action: Clerk to communicate this decision to Corfields**

*150.15.2 Welfare Field Track*

Cllr J Wilson reported to the meeting that in his opinion the track had been returned to the standard it was in prior to the Home Group using the road.

**Resolved** that this matter be now marked as closed

**Resolved** that the Clerk organise quotes/tenders to get an indicative price for the re-surfacing of Welfare Field Track, Monkey Villas and the area in front of the Post Office (Subject to a check of ownership)

**Action: Clerk to research the ownership of the area in front of the post office**

**Action: Clerk to obtain some costing’s for this work, (Tolsons & SDS)**

*150.15.3 Fingerpost Refurbishment*

Cllr Steve Hannah confirmed that a verbal quote had been received for circa 3700 for the three posts to be repaired in situ, plus VAT. There would also be an additional cost (Circa £1000) for a road closure/or similar for the one post that stands on the edge of the road.

**Action: Clerk to complete an application on behalf of Broughton Parish Council**

**Action: Cllr Steve Hannah to obtain a written quote from the contractor in question**

*150.15.4 Landscape management Home Group Properties*

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Home Group had now undertaken a walk around and works would be commencing on the issues identified

**Action: All to monitor the situation and report back at the next meeting if the situation hasn’t improved.**

*160.15 Speeding Consultation*

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had submitted the concerns of the council regarding the proposed change in speed limit on Great Broughton Main Street. CCC have requested a meeting with councillors, but are unwilling to attend a council meeting.

**Resolved** that the Clerk ask for some dates from CCC and then circulate to all, with Cllr Steve Hannah to lead on this meeting, in the opinion of Broughton Parish Council it is crucial that the speed limit is at the very least extended past the school

**Action: Clerk to contact CCC to ask for some possible dates for a meeting.**

The Clerk also informed the meeting that following actions from the last meeting, a mirror is not an option for the Great/Little Broughton junction as they are classed as non standard signage and are not allowed.

In addition the pedestrian priority zone on the hill from Broughton Bridge to Great Broughton, and Great Broughton Main Street is unlikely to happen as it can offer a false sense of security for pedestrians.

**Action: Clerk to request that white lines are installed on the hill from Little/Great Broughton to encourage traffic to stay on the correct side of the road.**

**173/15 Play-area**

*Play area Inventory*

Receipt of the Play area inventory was noted by all councillors

*Graffiti on the play area*

**Resolved** that Cllrs Wilson & Anderson would attempt to remove the graffiti on the climbing wall section of the climbing wall

**Action: Cllrs Wilson & Anderson to undertake this work.**

**174/15 Reports from visiting councillors**

A/BC Cllr Nicky Cockburn informed the meeting that 6 parishes including Broughton were interested in forming an informal parish cluster group to work together on common issues. The councils in question could contact each other for a support as and when required.

**Action: Cllr N Cockburn to speak with Broughton Moor to see if they would be interested in joining.**

A/BC Cllr Janet Farebrother informed the meeting that there was supposed to be 10k for the whole of the Allerdale Area to assist rural transport, (thought not necessarily directly fund bus services) she asked the council if they had any issues they feel the money could be used for.

**Resolved** that the council feel it would be useful for the funds to be able to be used to more widely promote the volunteer car schemes and also to fund/support volunteers additional insurance costs.

**Action: A/BC Cllr Farebrother to take this suggestion back to ABC**

**Action: Clerk to contact Ellenvalle Coaches to ask for an update on how the new service is progressing.**

**175/15 Allotments**

1. Noticeboards

The Clerk informed the council that no quotes had yet been received

**Action: Clerk to agenda this matter for the October Meeting**

1. Drainage at Coldgill

The Clerk informed the council that no quotes had yet been received

**Action: Clerk to agenda this matter for the October Meeting**

1. Vermin Control

The Clerk informed the meeting that emergency vermin control is taking place currently. Cumbria Pest Services have suggested that a contract would be more appropriate at a cost of £100 per quarter plus VAT

**Resolved** that Cumbria Pest Services be commissioned to undertake Pest Control on Coldgill Allotments for a 1 year contract commencing from the 15th November

**Action: Clerk to contact Cumbria Pest Services and organise this contract.**

**175/15 Parish Plan**

**Resolved** that this be deferred until the October meeting

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Bradley to meet to prepare the Parish Plan paper in advance of the October meeting**

**Action: Clerk to agenda this for the next meeting**

**176/15 Parish Maintenance**

*Millennium Garden-*

Cllr Sue Hannah informed the council that a meeting had taken place with the volunteers regarding this matter. The Council also noted receipt of an email from Ms Pauline Harkness offering help with the design of the new scheme.

Following a discussion it was **resolved** that due to the large volume of work and logistics involved in clearing the site that quotes be sought from a number of contractors for a contemporary, low growing design, that shows the mosaic off as a centre piece, and provides clear site lines for the junction. The design should also include some form of weed prevention ground cover. The quote should include the removal of ALL existing planting, preparing of the ground, the removal of the waste material, and liaison with the interested parties. The volunteers could then be involved in the ongoing maintenance of the new design.

**Action: Clerk to contact companies for a quote and design and to bring these to a future meeting**

**Resolved** that any design would be signed off by the council prior to its commencement.

**Resolved** that in recognising Ms Pauline Harkness’s long support and help on this site and her on-going interest with the site that she be invited to the meeting at which the contracts are considered to allow her expertise and knowledge of the site to be taken into account by the council in making the decision as to which design to approve.

**Action: Clerk to invite Ms Harkness to the relevant meeting**

**177/15 Correspondence**

No items of correspondence were raised for discussion

**178/15 Finance**

1. *Financial Statement for September*

**Resolved** by all present that the circulated financial statement for September and the bank statement be signed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Sue Hannah

1. *Budget Report for September*

**Resolved** by all present that the budget report for September be received and approved.

1. *Payments of accounts*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payee** | **Reason** | **Amount** |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £69.94 |
| Becx Carter | Salary (Via SO) | £307.28 |
| Cumbria Payroll Services | PAYE Services | £12.00 |
| HMRC | PAYE | £76.80 |
| ISS Landscaping | Pruning of Millennium Gardens | £165.60 |
| Ian Winter | Grass Cutting | £103.00 |

Cllr J Wilson proposed the above accounts be paid, Cllr M Bradley seconded this motion. **Resolved** that the above accounts be paid and were signed by two signatories (Cllr J Wilson & Cllr M Richardson)

**Action: Clerk to process the above payments.**

1. *Request for funding from Broughton Children’s Carnival*

**Resolved** that £100 be granted to Broughton Children’s Carnival for float designing/making workshops

**Action: Clerk to process this S.137 donation**

1. *United Utilities Direct Debit*

The Clerk informed the meeting that UU have consistently had errors in producing statements and collecting direct debits over the last year. Despite repeated attempts by the Clerk UU have still only provided details to set up a new direct debit for one account.

**Resolved** that this new Direct Debit be approved and signed.

**Action: Clerk to pursue UU regarding the remaining account and their incompetence**

**Action: Clerk to post the signed Direct Debit to UU**

**179/15 Planning Applications for Consideration**

None received

**180/15 Planning Decisions**

The following decision was noted:

Ref: 2/2015/0471

Proposal: Change of use to upstairs flat and proposed two storey extension

Location: Punch Bowl Inn, Main Street, Great Broughton

Approved with conditions

**181/15 Consultations for Consideration & response**

None received

**182/15 Councillor Matters**

The Clerk left the room

There was discussion, at which the Parish Clerk was not present, regarding a complaint made against the Parish

Clerk and her standard of work. It was **resolved** the Chairman should write to the complainant asking for a written letter detailing the complaints so they could be investigated and request a response within 7 days of the letter.

After the meeting a further meeting took place between the Chairman and the Clerk.  The Clerk was informed that the Councillors had expressed no complaints themselves and that the actions detailed above should be taken.

**183/15 Date of next meeting**

27th October 2015 at 19:00 in Little Broughton Village Hall

**Signed ………………………………………………………………………………………………..Chairman**