

## **BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Broughton Parish Council was held at Green Close Farm, Little Broughton on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012

**PRESENT:** J Wilson (Chairman), Mrs A Carruthers, Mrs S Hannah (Vice Chairman), W Smith, M Weir and Mrs J Hobden.

Also present P Martin (Clerk)

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

### **44/12 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Wilson, Oldfield, Mr Hannah, Inglis, Sherwood, North, Cockburn and Martin.

### **45/12 MINUTES 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

It was proposed that the minutes of the meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be adopted as a true and accurate record. **Resolved**

### **46/12 MEMBERSHIP & CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### Vacancies for councillors

The Council received the resignation of Cllr Inglis; the Council will notify the monitoring officer and will advertise the vacancy.

#### Code of conduct

The Council considered and **approved** for adoption the following code of conduct;

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **FOR MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

1. Broughton Parish Council (“The Council”) has adopted the following code dealing with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the Council (“Members”) when they are acting in that capacity as required by section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”).
2. The Council has a statutory duty under the Act to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and the Code sets out the standards that the Council expects Members to observe.
3. The Code is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the obligations that are placed on Members. It is the responsibility of individual Members to comply with

the provisions of the Code as well as such other legal obligations as may apply to them from time to time. Failure to do so may result in a sanction being applied by the Council. Failure to take appropriate action in respect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in a criminal conviction and a fine of up to £5,000 and/or disqualification from office for a period of up to 5 years.

4. The code is intended to be consistent with the seven principles as attached to this code and applies whenever a person is acting in his/her capacity as a Member of the Council or co-opted member in the conduct of the Council's business or acting as a representative of the Council.
5. When acting in your capacity as a Member
  - (1) You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend, a close associate, an employer or a business carried on by you.
  - (2) You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that may influence you in the performance of your official duties.
  - (3) You must not disclose any information given to you as a Member in breach of any confidence.
  - (4) You must not bring your office or your Council into disrepute.
  - (5) You must treat others with respect and promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their sex, race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. You should respect the impartiality and integrity of the Council's statutory officers and its other employees.
  - (6) When carrying out your public duties you must make all choices, such as making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits on merit.
  - (7) You are accountable for your decisions to the public and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your office.
  - (8) You must be as open as possible about your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of your Council and should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
  - (9) You must declare any private interests, both disclosable pecuniary interests and any other registrable interests, that relate to your public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, including registering and declaring interests in a manner which conforms with the procedures set out below.
  - (10) You must ensure, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your Council, that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes) and you must

have regard to any applicable Local Council Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

- (11) You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your office.

**Registering and declaring disclosable pecuniary and other registrable interests**

- (1) You must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your Council's Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State, where the pecuniary interest is yours, your spouse's or civil partner's, or is the pecuniary interest of somebody with whom you are living with as a husband or wife, or as if you were civil partners. These interests and those at (2) below are shown attached to this code.
- (2) In addition, you must, within 28 days of taking office as a member or co-opted member, notify your Council's Monitoring Officer of any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which your Council has decided should be included in the register.
- (3) If an interest has not been entered onto the Council's register, then the member must disclose the interest to any meeting of the Council at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest' as described by the Localism Act 2011.
- (4) Following any disclosure of an interest not on the Council's register or the subject of pending notification, you must notify the monitoring officer of the interest within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure.
- (5) Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, vote on, or discharge any function related to any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest as defined by regulations made by the Secretary of State. Additionally, you must observe the restrictions your Council places on your involvement in matters where you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest as defined by your Council.

## **SEVEN GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

### **Selflessness**

1. Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

### **Integrity**

2. Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

### **Objectivity**

3. In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

### **Accountability**

4. Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

### **Openness**

5. Holders of public office should be as open as possible about the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands

### **Honesty**

6. Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest

### **Leadership**

7. Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.

Councillors were issued with revised declaration of interests forms.

## **47/12 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported on correspondence with Allerdale BC relating to the road by the Welfare Field leading to the church. The Council is concerned as to the upkeep of the road and has tried to determine responsibility for maintenance. The road is unadopted and is not included in the lease for the welfare field. The Council will attempt take temporary measures to improve the road surface.

The Chairman reported that the clerk would need a new computer in the near future for Council work. Cllr Smith offered to investigate the provision of a second hand laptop from BNFL.

The Chairman had continued to receive complaints and comments from residents regarding access to the footpath through the development at Church Meadows to Soddy Gap. The developers have lodged a planning application to redirect the path; the Council will make enquiries as to when it is expected to be completed. The Council will also contact the developers and Allerdale BC to clarify the status of the graveyard extension/cemetery and to ensure that a separate access is included in the plan.

#### **48/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **49/12 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman did not adjourn the meeting as no members of the public were present.

#### **50/12 POLICE REPORT**

The following report was received;

There were 3 offences in Broughton in June 2012.

A burglary from a dwelling on Kirklea via an insecure window, ongoing investigation.

One incident of Racially Aggravated Harassment via Facebook, one person arrested and given a Simple Caution.

Theft of a field gate from Little Broughton, enquiries ongoing.

#### **51/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### Allotments

Following an inspection letters had been sent to a number of allotment holders reminding them of the terms of their tenancy and particularly of their obligation to keep down weeds and invasive species. A further inspection was carried out in mid July. The Council was pleased at the response; the vast majority of letters had been acted upon promptly.

The Council will contact the Community Payback team to request that they trim/cut the unallocated area at the Coldgill site and two untended sites at The Nook.

The Council will gain further estimates for the cost of extending the water supply at the Nook site and for depositing hardcore to form parking and path surfaces at Coldgill and Monkey Villas.

### Playground

The Council will investigate the installation of outdoor fitness equipment at the Welfare Field and the possibility of gaining further grant funding.

The handyman will explore the possibility of installing gate closers.

### **52/12 REPORTS FROM VISITING COUNCILLORS**

There were no reports from visiting councillors but the Council did receive correspondence from Cllr Cockburn indicating that an application for a wind turbine at Wellington Farm was expected imminently.

### **53/12 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council had received the following correspondence, all of which was noted.

- 1 Clerks and Councils Direct – newsletter
- 2 CCC – consultation, Minerals and Waste Local Plan
- 3 CCC – A boards and street café licences
- 4 Mr Raine & VAC – Reading Rooms
- 5 Cumbria in Bloom – questionnaire
- 6 CALC – newsletter
- 7 Active Cumbria – grant, Community Games. The Council will contact the PCSO regarding any planned holiday activities.
- 8 Scouts – newsletter delivery. A grant of £200 was **approved**.
- 9 MRWS – newsletter
- 10 Tallentire CLG – meeting
- 11 Allerdale BC – core strategy consultation
- 12 Connecting Cumbria – newsletter. The Council will notify Connecting Cumbria of Cllr Wilson’s appointment to the post of Broadband Champion.
- 13 CALC – Allerdale Standards committee

### **54/12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Reference no 2/2012/0490

Applicant; Mr Scott Bradshaw, Persimmon Homes

Proposal; Proposed diversion of footpath FP218009

Location; Church Meadows, Great Broughton

The Council has no objections but makes the following observations;

The diversion to the rear of the parking spaces is unnecessary and will not be used.

Landscaping is needed on the edges of the footpath.

The Council is concerned that this work be quickly completed to allow residents access to Soddy Gap.

That lighting needs to be provided at the point that the footpath joins the bridleway.

### **55/12 PLANNING DECISIONS**

There were no planning decisions received

## 56/12 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Financial Statement.

#### **Bank Statements**

Current Account - Statement 17/7/2012	40873.25
Money Manager Account 31/6/2012	89.37
Cumberland Building Society Account 31/3/2012	53013.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>£93976.47</b>

#### **Invoices 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012**

P Martin	Salary and Expenses (Jun/Jul)	310.87
I Winter	Grasscutting	158.00
Scouts	Newsletter delivery	200.00

#### **Receipts 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012**

Interest	0.02
HMRC – VAT reclaim	8561.70
VAC	2.88

## 57/12 MEMBERS QUERIES

### Stile, permissive path at old mill

The Council will endeavour to ascertain the responsibility for the repair of the stile.

### Footpaths

The Council received reports of paths becoming overgrown particularly at The Went at the back of Broughton Manor and at Alice Lane and Winder Lonning. The Footpaths Officer will be informed.

## 58/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21<sup>st</sup> August 2012, Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm at Little Broughton Village Hall.

**The meeting closed at 9.20pm**

**Signed.....Chairman**