Broughton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Broughton Parish Council held in Christchurch, Great Broughton, on Tuesday 19th September 2023 at 19:00

**Present:** Mary Bradley (in the Chair), Sue Hannah, Steven Hannah, Bill Smith, Nigel Clubley, Nicky Cockburn, Adrian Davis Johnston, Becx Carter, 1 member of the public

**Apologies:** Russ Cockburn (Personal Commitments), Martin Harris (Cumberland Council),

With 7 Councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 115/23 Apologies and reasons for absence

# *Apologies:*

**Resolved** by all present that the apologies and reason for absence for the above listed councillors be accepted and approved.

**116/23 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interest**

None

# 117/23 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

None

**118/23 Minutes of the meetings held on the 18th July 2023**

All members of the council had received a copy of the minutes in advance of the meeting.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes of the 18th July 2023 meeting be signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair.

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

**119/23 Chairman’s Announcements**

* Cllr M Bradley noted that people remain very concerned about the issues of parking and the state of the pavements (weeds etc). It was noted that issues regarding weeds had been raised with Allerdale historically, but residents complained about the actions that Allerdale Borough Council took to address the issue due to the risk to pets etc.

**Action: Clerk to raise these issues with Cumberland Councillor Harris, to ask him to request that the pavements in Great & Little Broughton are cleared of weeds and vegetation and that Cllr M Harris commit to attend the village to do a walk around to look at these issues.**

* A meeting has been organised by Cllr M Bradley with Home Housing to discuss parking provision and other issues on their estates.

**120/23 Public Participation**

* A member of the public (and allotment holder) raised concerns about the recent rise in allotment rent from 17p to 21p per Sq M. The member of the public circulated a written statement objecting to this rise.
* A councillor responded noting that the budget for allotments in Broughton Parish is very low compared to other local areas (including Cockermouth).
* Councillors present noted the very significant amount of voluntary time that goes in to managing the allotments needs to be acknowledged (circa 15 hours a month) if more time is required (e.g., for extra enforcement) this will have to be cost recovered from the tenants.
* The council confirmed vermin control is necessary because of the lack of people managing the vermin acceptably. The Parish Council have a responsibility for ensuring the allotments aren’t a public health nuisance.
* Broughton Parish Council also noted that there was consultation with allotment tenants etc prior to the setting of the budget and the rise.
* It was noted that the price rise is equivalent to the costs of the pest control (it’s not just mice & rats around the chicken runs it is also mink etc). The rent rise is not linked with water usage or trees being cut down (despite any rumours that might be circulating).
* Historically Broughton Parish Council have subsidised the allotments and therefore by all resident parishioners but this was inequitable for other parishioners as the Parish Council couldn’t therefore afford to undertake other actions in the Parish due to expenditure on the Allotments, as such the Parish Council had to move towards a more cost neutral budgeting system where allotment holders were charged the full economic cost of the allotments.
* In terms of the water harvesting, Broughton Parish Council can can only enforce this on the new contracts (since oct 2022), and these Plots are checked, and water harvesting is enforced.

**Action: Clerk to draft a formal response to be provided to the member of the public by the end of the Sept.**

* Cllr M Bradley noted that the volunteer efforts put in by her (and other Councillors) are not easy and not pleasant and often abuse is suffered. Currently the high volume of Volunteer Time doesn’t appear to be fully appreciated by the Allotment tenants.

**Action: Clerk to include Volunteer Time/In Kind contributions in future budgets, as if the current Councillors were unwilling/unable to continue their voluntary efforts Broughton Parish Council would need to increase staffing to cover this work, this would obviously have a significant cost.**

* Thanks, were noted by Broughton Parish Council to the allotment holders who do help, in particular Malcolm Grout (Nook) & Nellie (Coldgill).

**Action: Clerk & Cllr M Bradley to organise another allotment meeting over the Winter time to further engage with Allotment tenants and discuss these matters.**

**121/23 To receive and consider applications for co-option (2 Vacancies)**

None received

**122/23 Reports from visiting councillors & Police**

# *Cumberland Council*

# Cumberland Councillor Martin Harris had provided a written report via email this was noted as received by all present.

# It was noted that the Lakes to Sea grants are now open, but the budget Is limited (circa £60,000 for the whole area) and projects must tie into the Cumberland Council Plan.

# There is going to be a community network meeting for the Lakes to Sea Panel on 26th October 2023, these are the meetings at which Parish Councils can attend and raise issues and hear about the strategy for the Lakes to Sea area.

# Action: Clerk & Chair to confirm the date and venue of this to all councillors

# 123/23 Clerks report

# The Clerks report had been circulated to all in advance of the meeting and this was noted as received.

#### Parish Plan

Cllr Adrian Davis Johnston noted that data is still being collated but the themes remain as previously discussed, weeds, general village tidiness, traffic enforcement, speeding enforcement.

There are areas that the Parish Council could address e.g., considering a village lengths man type contract.

Concerns were also raised in the responses to the Parish Plan Consultation about Millennium Gardens Junction and traffic flow at this junction. The accident data doesn’t support the concerns raised. The previous layout was worse in terms of accident data.

It was noted that Cumberland Council are responsible for the maintenance of Millennium Gardens and this is confirmed by the Land Registry.

**Action: A subgroup made up of Nigel, Adrian, Mary to be formed with the first meeting to be held in November to look at Parish Maintenance around the village and the prioritisation of works (and investigation any necessary consents/agreements required).**

It was noted that the White Lines on the Millennium Gardens Junction and the Bridge needs to be replaced.

**Action: Clerk to report these faded lines on HIMS.**

#### Derwent Forest

It was noted that there has been no Community Meeting yet as the legal issues are still being decided, it was also noted that the planning process is still ongoing regarding the 71 houses development resubmission.

# 124/23 Play-area

#### Play-area refurbishment update.

Cllr Sue Hannah updated on a number of matters.

* The trip hazards around the new Key Stage 3 have been resolved.
* The application to WREN/FCC environment has been submitted and a decision is due in December 2023. The drainage installation/costs are forming part of a separate application to Awards for All.
* Cllr M Bradley noted that CCF are now managing several environmental funds that might be relevant, and that the CLEP might also have funding.

**Resolved** by all present that Cllr Sue Hannan proceed with an application to Awards for All for the drainage costs and equipment.

**Action: Cllr Sue Hannah to look at CLEP & CCF as possible other funders**

**Action: BC to provide contact information to SH.**

Thanks were noted to Cllr S Hannah for her work on this.

# 125/23 Allotments

#### Update on Annual Payments

The Clerk informed all present that all invoices have been issued, and up to 18:00 on the 18th September 2023 the below is correct:

Coldgill- 1/3of Tenants have paid

Nook- ½ of Tenants have paid

It was noted there are 3.5 plots on Nook waiting to be allocated, but at the moment the waiting list is very short so we may have plots laying fallow over the winter.

#### Consent for livestock on Coldgill Plot 1

The tenant of Coldgill Plot 1 is seeking Council consent to keep some goats on his plot to manage the vegetation. This is not allowed under the current tenancy agreement, so if the Council wanted to grant consent this would have to be on the basis of special dispensation.

**Resolved** by all present that consent be granted to this plot holder due the size of Plot 1 Coldgill for the housing of a couple of goats with a review due in one calendar year.

**Action: Clerk to confirm this in writing to the tenant.**

# 126/23 Parish Maintenance & Highways

#### Broughton/Brigham A66 Roundabout.

Cllr N Clubley provided an update on this project. There was another joint meeting of all Parishes in early September. The data capture that has been done over the summer supported the position that the group had already identified (in that vehicles are apparently avoiding using the A66 junction on the difficult turn but returning via it on the easy turning), and further backed up the proposition that has been held all along that a roundabout would be a) Safer and b) would not cause significant delays to traffic.

**Action: Cllr Bradley to discuss with MP Mark Jenkinson a date for a meeting with National Highways. Another meeting of the joint parish councils to be organised to agree a strategy for this meeting once the date is set.**

Thanks were noted to Nigel for all his work on this matter.

#### Sewage Outflows into the River Derwent

The Clerk confirmed that the only response received thus far was from United Utilities who confirmed they couldn’t respond to FOI requests for live or more recent data flows due to ongoing Government investigations.

**Resolved** that Broughton Parish Council are very disappointed with the lack of response from all relevant agencies.

**Action: Clerk to share the link to the sewage discharge map with all councillors.**

**Action: Sewage concerns to be raised on all future planning applications regarding sewage capacity.**

**Action: Clerk to contact CALC about a mail out to all Clerks on this issue.**

#### Parish Council Seats

Cllr Steve Hannah has discussed this with Cumbria Probation Service who suggested they might be interested in their offenders undertaking this work in return for payment for materials.

**Resolved** by all present that delegated authority be given to Cllr Steve Hannah to take this forward, with a maximum budget for up to £500.

**Action: Cllr Steve Hannah to take this forward.**

It was noted that large Crack in the gable end of the property on the corner of the access to the Nook estate appears to be getting worse. (It was also noted that the grass around this area is also not managed/maintained and looks unsightly).

**Action: Clerk to report this issue of building safety to Cumberland and ask for action to be taken.**

# 127/23 Correspondence

1. Environment Agency investigations on Illegal Waste Site off Line Foot Lane

It was noted that the Environment Agency are currently investigating this site and have undertaken a number of site visits.

**Action: Clerk to file a planning compliance case about the illegal development on this site with Cumberland Council, this would then be investigated concurrently with the EA investigations.**

All other correspondence was noted as received.

**128/23 Planning Applications**

**Ref: HOU/2023/0147**

Location: 9 Derwent Park, Great Broughton, Cockermouth

Proposal: Detached Garage

**Resolved** by all present that Broughton Parish Council have no comments or objections.

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

It was noted that there is a large wood pile on residential land in the centre of the village.

# 129/23 Planning Decisions

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| WTPO/2023/0019 | Broughton Grange, meeting house lane | Works to TPO tree | Approved |
| FUL/2023/0124 | Little Moor, Moor Road, Great Broughton | Extension to existing farm implement store to form new covered muck store | Approved with conditions |

**130/23 Finance & Accounts**

### Payment of Accounts

**Resolved** by all present that the below accounts be paid via BACS authorised by 2 authorised signatories:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **From** | **Reason** | **Amount** |
| Becx Carter | Salary (August)- To ratify | £628.15-Via SO |
| HMRC | PAYE (August)-To ratify | £174.64-Via SO |
| NEST | Pension-To ratify | £57.85-Via DD |
| Becx Carter | Salary (Sept) | £628.15-Via SO |
| HMRC | PAYE (Sept) | £174.64-Via SO |
| NEST | Pension | £57.85-Via DD |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £99.40 |
| Jackson Hetherington  | August Grass Cutting-To ratify | £285.00 |
| Jackson Hetherington | Sept Grass Cutting | £285 |
| Cumbria Pest Control | Nook Allotments pest control (Sept-Nov) | £216  |
| Cumbria Pest Control | Coldgill Allotments pest control | £216 |
| Steve Hannah | Reimbursement for Strimmer Line | £34.20 |
| Colin Neale | Allotment repayment | £11.00 |

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

#### To consider & approve the bank reconciliation and spend against budget reports

**Resolved** by all that these be noted as received and signed as a true and accurate record.

**131/23 Councillor Matters**

Items for the Oct 2023 meeting.

**132/23 Date & Time of Next meeting.**

**Resolved** by all that the meeting dates for Broughton Parish Council going forward be set as:

17th October 2023 19:00 Christchurch

28th November 2023 19:00 Christchurch

23rd January 2024 19:00 Christchurch

Meeting closed 20:33

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