Broughton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Broughton Parish Council held in Christchurch, Great Broughton, on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 19:00

**Present:** Mary Bradley (in the Chair), Sue Hannah, Steven Hannah, Bill Smith, Nigel Clubley, Russ Cockburn, Becx Carter, Martin Harris (Cumberland Council)

**Apologies:** Adrian Davis Johnston (no reason provided), Nicky Cockburn (Medical Reasons),

With 6 Councillors present the meeting was quorate.

# 169/23 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.

It was noted that Adrian Davis Johnston had provided apologies, but no reasons for these were given.

**170/23 Requests for dispensations and declarations of interest**

None

# 171/23 Exclusion of Press & Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

None

**172/23 Minutes of the meetings held on the 17th October 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 17th October 2023 meeting be signed as a true and accurate record by the Chair.

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

**173/23 Chairman’s Announcements**

Cllr M Bradley thanked the Clerk for preparing a presentation for the Green to Grow event, this was positively received, and compliments were made by attendees at the event.

**Action: Clerk to upload this to the website.**

**174/23 Public Participation**

None

**175/23 To receive and consider applications for co-option (2 Vacancies)**

None received

**176/23 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 a 20% increase for councillors’ allowance was approved at the most recent full council meeting. Cllr M Harris noted that he won’t be accepting this increase, but that he did vote for the motion.

# The justification for this was from the independent remuneration panel. This was based on the number of hours that councillors work a week (Circa 20/22) and the appropriate rate of pay for this. Consideration was also given to the fact that many councillors are on a low income or that the allowance is their sole income so the remuneration needs to be sufficient to live on. Additionally, the allowance needs to be of a scale that would attract new councillors.

# Questions were raised by Broughton Parish Councillors about how this increase will be budgeted for given the significant overspend that has already been acknowledged by Cumberland Council, and how if the outcome of the boundary commission review succeeds (to increase the number of councillors) these new councillor posts will be funded at this higher rate (alongside the existing councillors)

# Broughton Parish Councillors also noted that the increase to the Allerdale Waste Collection Staff was only 11-13%, and nationally the nurses pay rise was only 6% so a 20% raise for Cumberland Councillors seems excessive in the current financial times.

# Cllr M Harris noted that the motion regarding taking weed-spraying back in house was rejected, but the control measures remain under review.

# Broughton Parish Council requested that Cllr M Harris keep pushing on the weed control issues as it is of significant concern to local residents and was one of the highest identified issues in the recently undertake Broughton Parish Survey.

# 177/23 Clerks report

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

#### Parish Plan

All councillors present acknowledged receipt of the summary of fundings shared by Cllr A Davis Johnston via email. Thanks were noted to Cllr Davis Johnston for all his work on this project.

It was noted that a significant number of the actions/concerns raised are not the responsibility of the Parish Plan (mainly the responsibility for the other actions identified rests with Cumberland Council) but none the less there are actions/suggestions that could be taken forward by Broughton Parish Council.

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk be authorised to approach Cumberland Council to start the dialogue about entering into a Service Level Agreement or similar regarding a Parish Maintenance agreement for Broughton.

**Action: Clerk to take this forward (and keep Cllr M Harris included) and report back at the January 2024 meeting.**

**Resolved** by all present that a first draft be prepared by Cllrs M Bradley, N Cubley and A Davis Johnston and be presented to a future Parish Council meeting.

**Action: Parish Plan working group to continue working on this and agenda for the January 2024 meeting.**

#### Derwent Forest

It was noted that the appeal decision on the 71 Houses development has now been made public, and the appeal has been allowed so the development has the legal authorisation to proceed. This decision can be viewed on the Planning Inspectorate Website by searching reference number APP/G0908/W/22/3307515.

It was noted with disappointment the comments regarding highways at para 19 and para 20 of the decision but it was noted with some positivity the strict nature of condition related to foul water, given historical council discussions relating to the volume of raw sewage that is pumped into the river from the Great Broughton Pumping station (over 2000 hours in 2022).

Once all councillors have read and digested the content of this appeal a decision will need to be made at the January 2024 meeting on if the Derwent Forest Development Community Group needs to be reformed to discuss community engagement/liaison in light of this appeal ruling.

**Action: Clerk to agenda this for the January 2024 meeting.**

It was noted that the lease decisions on the Derwent Forest site is still being legally challenged and is going to judicial review; until this is resolved it is unclear what the exact impacts of the appeal decision are likely to be (as no developer is appointed, and the majority of the Derwent Forest Development Consortium have now left/resigned).

# 178/23 Play-area

#### Play-area refurbishment update.

Cllr Sue Hannah updated on a number of matters:

* A number of funding applications have unfortunately been rejected.
* The application with WREN is pending a decision.
* Circa 18k of funding is ‘outstanding’
* A suggestion was made that an approach could be made to Timebank for support via the 3 Project Partners programme for example with the ground works.

**Action: Clerk to put Sue in contact with Timebank/Rachel Melton**

#### To consider replacing lock & chain on the Mower Gate

It was noted with disappointment that this lock and chain has once again been cut off.

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk authorise Tivoli Services to replace this and recharge the council for it.

**Action: Clerk to include in the Newsletter that this chain should be left undisturbed**

# 179/23 Allotments

It was noted that payments are now concluded.

There are two allotments that are vacant that need some clearing undertaking but only once the vegetation has died down, a tenant is willing to take the plots on if they are cleared.

**Resolved** by all present that authorisation be given to Cllr M Bradley to work with Jackson to strim/clear the plots so they can be cleared and re-let.

**Resolved** by all present that delegated authority be granted to Cllr M Bradley and the Clerk to organise necessary asbestos clearance as the sheets are too large for the tenant to cope with.

**Action: Clerk and Chair to take this forward.**

Concern was raised about a particular location for rats on Coldgill due to how chickens are being fed.

**Action: Clerk and Chair to monitor this and issue warning notices if required.**

# 180/23 Parish Maintenance & Highways

#### Broughton/Brigham A66 Roundabout.

Cllr M Bradley has met with MP M Jenkinson who is now working to organise a meeting in the first week in January 2024 with National Highways, and one representative of Broughton and Brigham plus Nigel to the presentation, it was noted by all that it was disappointing that the meeting couldn’t include the whole of the working group who had been working on this matter.

**Action: Cllr M Bradley to continue working on the organisation of this meeting.**

# 181/23 Correspondence

All correspondence was noted as received.

**182/23 Planning Applications**

**Ref: OUT/2023/0014**

Location: Cardona, Moor Road, Great Broughton

Proposal: Outline application for detached dormer bungalow and detached garage

**Resolved** by all present that Broughton Parish Council have no objections but would request that appropriate conditions be applied to protect the school whilst in operation.

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

# 183/23 Planning Decisions

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Location** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| VAR/2023/0033 | Land at Pear Tree Gardens, Little Broughton | Variation of Condition 2 (plans) on application FUL/2023/0075 | Approved with conditions  |

**184/23 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 (Nov) | £628.15-Via SO |
| HMRC | PAYE (Nov) | £174.64-Via SO |
| NEST | Pension | £57.85-Via DD |
| Becx Carter | Expenses | £195.62 |
| Jackson Hetherington | Nov Grass Cutting | £142.50 |
| Christchurch | Room hire | £157.50 |
| D Scott | Allotment Repayment (Alteration to size) | £10.00 |
| L White | Allotment Repayment (Alteration to size) | £14.00 |
| B Carter | Back pay due to Salary increase | £422.06 |
| HMRC  | PAYE on Pay Rise | £223.48 |
| Cumbria Pest Services | Pest Control Coldgill (Dec 23-Feb 24) | £216.00 |
| Cumbria Pest Services | Pest Control Nook (Dec 23-Feb 24) | £216.00 |
| Swinside End Farm | Christmas Tree | £120 |

**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.

1. *To consider and approve a reduction in the Clerks weekly hours from 14 down to 10 effective 1st January 2024*

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerks hours be reduced from 14 down to 10 effective from 1st January 2024 due to reducing work load.

**Action: Clerk to make the necessary payroll/standing order changes**

1. *To approve the Clerks Statutory Salary Increase*

**Resolved** by all present that the Clerk’s Statutory Salary increase of £1 per hour be approved and associated back pay and HMRC be paid.

**Action: Clerk to pay take this forward.**

#### To consider and approve a S.37 donation to Lexie Mather

The Clerk informed all present that a donation had been received from a private individual seeking support for a Cheerleading event in America.

The Parish Council fully recognise the achievements of the individual and wish them all the best in the competition to get to this stage in her Cheerleading enterprise but unfortunately can’t offer grants to private individuals, we can only offer grants to constituted organisations.

**Resolved** by all present that it be confirmed to the individual that donations can’t be made to private individuals.

**Action: Clerk to take this forward.**

#### To consider a S.137 Donation to Great Broughton Children’s Carnival

**Resolved** by all presentthat a donation of £150 be made.

**Action: Clerk to take this forward**

#### To consider a S.137 Donation to Great North Air Ambulance

**Resolved** by all presentthat a donation of £100 be made.

**Action: Clerk to take this forward**

#### To consider the draft budget 24/25

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget to all prior to the meeting, this was noted as received. A final budget can’t be decided until the Band D figures are received from Cumberland Council these are not expected until the new year.

**Action: All present to provide any feedback on the budget to the Clerk for consideration at the January 2024 meeting.**

**185/23 Councillor Matters**

Items for the Jan 2024 meeting:

* Budget/Lengths man needs to be updated for Jan 2024.
* Need to consider increasing the waiting list for allotments as it is currently short and Broughton Parish Council don’t want to be in a position where we end up with vacant plots and no tenants
* Suggestions were made that the telephone box outside the phone box needs to be better used due to the condition.

**186/23 Date & Time of Next meeting.**

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

23rd January 2024 19:00 Christchurch

Meeting closed 20:16

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