**Broughton Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Broughton Parish was held in Christchurch, Great Broughton at 19:00 on Tuesday 21st May 2024

**Present:** Mary Bradley (Chair), Nicky Cockburn, Steve Hannah, Sue Hannah, Nigel Clubley, Adrian Davis Johnston

# Welcome & Apologies.

Mrs Mary Bradley welcomed all those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Russ Cockburn, Bill Smith, Cumberland Councillor Martin Harris

# Approval of Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting 23rd May 2023

All present were in favour of these minutes being signed as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes be signed by Mrs M Bradley

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

# Chairman’s Report 1st April 2023-31st March 2024

Mary Bradley delivered a Chair’s report:

“It has been a privilege to be chairman again this year, which I am sure you will agree has been another busy year with the usual highs and lows .

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the councillors who give freely of their time and have often gone over and above expectation. Following our village survey, we needed time to analyse the responses and seek good examples of others village plans. Adrian had analysed the data in a way that made it easy to select the most impactful areas that people had highlighted. Nigel has now put this into a village plan which has been placed on our web site. The intention is to take a topic and work up a plan to address this and then move to the next topic. By taking bite size pieces of work, we can ensure action follows.

Although in 2021, we adjusted our number of councillors, we do begin 2024/5 with 2 vacancies. Our intention is to be proactive to fill these. It has been good to have Nigel on the team and bring fresh prospectives.

We have also enjoyed the support of the Cumberland Councillor, Dr Martin, who has attended several meetings and followed up on actions as requested.

I would like to thank Bill and Steve for all the support on the allotments– we now have all but 1 plot let, recently cleared and ready to go. We have 2 Broughton residents on the waiting list and 4 from outside of Broughton. We are now in our 7th year of the project to achieve our goals on the allotments and potentially the scouts field if it becomes available. Another significant piece of work has been the trees with ash die back with 2 further trees identified. It was pleasing to be able to demonstrate our allotment project at the green2 grow conference in July 2023 as the practical example to illustrate the formal talk given by the allotment association. However, Malcolm will be sorely missed as the key go to person for the Nook site.

We have made great strides with the playground, including embedding the older kids equipment and the netting which supported the funding the school received for their M.U.G.A. to become a community facility. We need to arise around £140k to upgrade the play equipment and improve the drainage. Sue has worked tirelessly and has secured a significant grant and recently we have received a grant from the Lottery. With other bits and pieces we should be in a position to proceed in the autumn.

The planning considerations, formal and informal brought before the council are always taken seriously and the eagle eyes of the councillors on their various walks contribute to meaningful discussion and onward comments. We are concerned that the application for the 71 houses on the Derwent Forest site was approved at appeal but understand any development is delayed. We need to find ways of ensuring those coming into the village, particularly in the larger new houses are connected to village life.

Derwent Forest, as ever is a constant agenda item and we look with interest as Cumberland Council tries to take back the lease. We were asked to re-establish the community group from surrounding villages but this is on hold whilst ownership is re-established. There is still interest in a history project and behind the scenes discussions are taking place as to how this might be funded.

Whilst last year we all upset to learn that the roundabout had been rejected, it did spur us into action along with the PC of Brigham, Little Clifton and Eaglesfield. After surveying traffic flow, we met with MP and highways and put a strong case together which resulted in agreement to revisit the business case. We do know that this is a project ready to go and as such we are campaigning to have this considered as part of Cumberland’s allocation form the reidentified HS2 moneys. It is still a huge frustration that neither the weight limit or speed limit seems to be adhered to making main street challenging at times. Speeding through Little Broughton is becoming a significant issue with road rage a constant feature along -side squealing brakes. There have been a number of car parking issues raised and hopefully we may at last be able to engage more meaningfully with highways in the next few months to undertake a ‘walk about’. Parking on the pavements is concerning many people particularly those with mobility issues and those with pushchairs.

Home housing residents have raised concerns about a number of safety issues, some of which were highlighted in the recent survey. This is on -going and despite having what appeared to be a helpful site meeting in July, nothing further has happened. There is also ongoing concerns with large trees in the village and although in peoples’ gardens, do hangover on to footpaths.

The footpaths were cleared with the support of the community pay back team. We hope that this relationship may address the painting of the benches, which we had hoped would be a village project.

The basic administration of the council goes on quietly behind the scenes, so thanks to those who sign cheques, organise contractual work, put up monthly and other notices and so much more.

I think we would all agree that we are very fortunate to have a professional clerk who can not only undertake the work in a knowledgeable and timely manner but also has the right contacts.

Well done everyone – now its onwards and upwards to a bright year ahead. We need to fill the 2/3 vacancies and then although we have much to do, but together we can!”

# Questions & Open Discussion.

None.

Meeting closed 19:05