**Broughton Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Broughton Parish was held in Christchurch, Great Broughton at 19:00 on Tuesday 23rd May 2023.

**Present:** Mary Bradley (Chair), Nicky Cockburn, Bill Smith, Steve Hannah, Sue Hannah, Russ Cockburn,

# Welcome & Apologies.

Mrs Mary Bradley welcomed all those present to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Adrian Davis Johnston.

# Approval of Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2022

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 2022-31st March 2023.

Mary Bradley delivered a Chair’s report:

It has been a privilege to be chairman during this year, which I am sure you will agree has been another busy year.

I would like to pay tribute to all the councillors who have worked tirelessly to ensure we not only maintained business as usual but responded promptly and imaginatively to other issues which emerged. The work of the parish council was questioned by parishioners who wondered what we do. So we had a business planning meeting in June and devised an approach with a timeframe delivery. Unfortunately, this has not been delivered as planned for a number of reasons, but we have now completed the village survey and have the first set of results. There is a little more work to make this presentable in terms of feedback, but Adrian has indicated he will do that shortly. This will mean we can revisit our plan and progress. I would like to thank all those that delivered and collected questionnaires.

Although in 2021, we adjusted our number of councillors, we do begin 2023 with an uncontested election and 3 vacancies. Our intention is to be proactive to fill these. We were sorry to lose Claire and Georgina, both had really encouraged us to be proactive around the playground facilities.

We have also enjoyed the support of Allerdale councillors, Nicky and Janet and CCC Jim Lister until they stood down on 31st March 2023. The Cumberland councillor is Dr Martin, who has attended several meetings in his shadow capacity and now as a full member. All in their own way have kept us informed and been pleased to champion our causes when appropriate to do so.

I would like to thank Bill for all the times he has walked round the allotments – we now have almost every plot let that can be. This has taken a 6 year project to achieve our goals and we are now thinking about how to deal with a challenging plot on Coldgill, the scouts field if it becomes available and there is a potential challenging plot on Nook. We have 7 people on our waiting list but all require particular type of plot. This is a great position to be in. Another significant piece of work has been the trees with ash die back. Thanks go to Steve and Bill for their work on this.

I would like to thank those who have supported the playground and John who although retired councillor has continued to do the monthly monitoring. We have completed the nets and have teenage equipment being installed. The next step is to find funding to replace the tired equipment and introduce a few new items and we are grateful to Sue for leading on this.

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 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 this becomes Cumberland’s responsibility to support the leaseholder. We have been asked to re-establish the community group from surrounding villages which is a key piece of work for this year. Once again we have a planning application before us. There is still interest in a history project and behind the scenes discussions are taking place as to how this might be funded.

I am sure we all upset to learn that the roundabout had been rejected. We had been informed that this was at an advanced stage and even at one point had a start date. Traffic management in general is a significant tissue in the village and experience of heavy traffic being a constant worry and annoyance to particularly those on main street in Great Broughton. It is still a huge frustration that neither the weight limit or speed limit seems to be adhered to. 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 will 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 but at least we have a site meeting in place. There is also ongoing concerns with large trees in the village and although in peoples’ gardens, do hangover on to footpaths. However, the main concerns are around safety during windy nights. Although sometimes it seems we can’t make progress, the success of sorting out the trees around the electricity sub stations should be encouraging.

The walking map we produced jointly with the school was well received during the past 12 months and even more people have enjoyed the walks along the lovely river, the woods, and footpaths.

Once again we have failed to address the painting of the benches, which we had hoped would be a village project. We do need to focus on this in the coming weeks. A discussion was held recently in the Punch Bowl regarding forming a Community Corps. There was some interest, but it needs to gather momentum. There remains some concerns around the bus shelters and we need to revisit this. The new one looks smart and young people don’t appear to be using it as much for social activities. We did have an issue of graffiti in the village and in the playground and thanks must go to those who spent many hours cleaning.

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 3 vacancies and then although we have much to do, but together we can!

# Questions & Open Discussion.

None.

Meeting closed 19:06