



Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Church Cottage, Church Lane, on Monday 8th April 2024.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Christine Howe (Chair)

Cllr. Andy Dunhill

Cllr. Eileen Carew

Cllr. Stephen Lightley

Cllr. Brian Singer

Cllr. David McKenzie

Cllr. Barbara Wood

Cllr. Ellen Rutherford

In attendance:

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk

2 members of the public were present

Cllr. Howe opened the meeting at 7.45 pm.

24/35 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. David Irwin and County Councillor Anne Dale.

24/36 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs. Rutherford and Dunhill declared an interest in Item 15 : Matters relating to the Sports Field.

24/37 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2024

It was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting and the confidential Council meeting were a true record and were duly signed off by Cllr. Howe (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Singer).

24/38 Matters Arising

- (i) *Minute 24/12(b) – Investing in a fixed-rate bond.* The Clerk confirmed that an application had been submitted and it was hoped that the new account would be accessible shortly;
- (ii) *Minute 24/26 – EV Charging points.* Cllr. Dale had confirmed that the EV charging points for Riding Mill had been included as part of a funding bid to Transport North East and it was hoped that the outcome of the bid would be known shortly.

24/39 County Councillor Report

Cllr. Dale provided a written report on the following issues:

- (i) *Potholes* – Cllr. Dale continued to receive complaints about potholes in the village which she referred to the County Council's highways team;
- (ii) *Turning areas for parking* – Cllr. Dale noted that complaints had been made concerning the use of turning areas for parking. The County Council had erected the relevant signage which appeared to have resolved the problem;
- (iii) *Consultation on the consideration of the implementation of car parking charges at Stocksfield Station* – Cllr. Dale thanked the many residents of Riding Mill who had written formally to

Northern Railway raising their concerns about this issue. The consultation would close on Friday 12th April;

- (iv) *EV Charging Points* – Comments noted under Minute 24/38(ii) above;
- (v) *Footpath alongside the river to Corbridge* (Minute 24/06(i)). Cllr. Howe asked if the Clerk could enquire if there had been any further updates about this matter following Cllr. Dale's offer to raise it at the Tynedale Area Committee.

ACTION: CLERK

24/40 **Hydro-generation on the Tyne**

It was reported that the Community Energy Fund had endorsed the Parish Council's decision to award the contract for a feasibility study to Renewables First, due to the specialist nature of the work. This appointment would be confirmed once all the necessary grant paperwork had been completed.

24/41 **Climate Change**

No new village issues were noted. Councillors did discuss the pollution in the River Tyne and noted that rowers at Hexham had been advised of high E.coli levels. They also noted that a number of flood warnings had been issued for the coming days.

24/42 **Review of Policy Documents**

The following document had been reviewed by Cllr. Rutherford and a number of updates suggested, which were unanimously accepted:

- Covenant Policy (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Rutherford).

ACTION: CLERK

24/43 **Finance**

(a) *Monthly Accounts*

(i) *Payments/Receipts*

The following payments were agreed (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Lightley)

St James's Church PCC – room hire, Church Cottage	£170.00
David Ballantyne – tree work	£1,100.00
Unity Trust Bank – quarterly bank charges	£18.00
Northumberland County Council – reimbursement of Clerk's salary	£1097.40 (inc. VAT £2.50)
Trevor Bell Horticultural Services – football field cutting and line marking	£240.00
GeoXphere Ltd – subscription to Parish Online	£27.00 (inc. VAT £4.50)
County Durham Association of Local Councils – councillor training	£10.00
Neetfleet – play park inspection	£90.00
RM Village Hall Trust – room booking	£15.00
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (Mailchimp monthly subs./ Postage)	£14.36 (inc. VAT £14.36)

Standing Orders/Direct Debits:

Nest pension – March pension contribution	£36.50
Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (paid in arrears to cover March)	£240.00

The following receipts were noted:

Nationwide - yearly interest	£275.10
Triodos - quarterly interest	£52.39
Unity Trust (Bridge fund) – quarterly interest	£200.20

(ii) *Budget reports*

A draft budget statement for the financial year 23/24 was received and approved (Proposed Cllr. Howe, seconded Cllr. Lightley). It was noted that funds had been taken from the reserves to cover the cost of the new bridge at the weir and play park improvements. A full

summary of the accounts would be discussed at the May meeting before being submitted to the auditor.

24/44 **General Village Maintenance**

- (i) *Handyman:* The Clerk reported that during March the handyman had swept various footpaths and cleaned road signs. He had also partly drained the new flower planter and undertaken a quarterly safety review of the play park:
- (ii) *Play Park inspection* – The inspection report was noted and all actions identified were in hand. Councillors discussed whether it was necessary to power wash the play park and the Clerk was asked to contact the handyman for his opinion
ACTION: CLERK
- (iii) *Lighting on footpath to the station from Broomhaugh.* Cllr. Singer noted that a light on one of the houses at Broomhaugh was sometimes switched off which meant that the first section of the footpath was in darkness. The Clerk was asked to raise the issue with the County Council to see if a further light could be installed;
ACTION: CLERK
- (iv) *Fencing by the railway on Underwood Road.* Cllr. Wood noted that Network Rail had not replaced a section of fencing on Underwood Road although it was in an extremely poor condition. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Network Rail to enquire if they planned to return to replace this section.
ACTION: CLERK

24/45 **Planning**

Planning applications - it was reported that:

- (i) the following new planning application was under consideration:
 - 24/00293/FUL / 24/00294/LBC – 3 Hollin Hill Terrace. Box room to be converted into an ensuite bathroom. External EV charging point installed. PC – no objection.
- (ii) the following planning applications had been granted permission:
NONE

24/46 **Correspondence**

None

24/47 **Minor Matters**

- (i) *Annual Parish Meeting* – the Clerk reported that she was still struggling to secure a speaker for the annual Parish Meeting and councillors discussed other possible options.
ACTION: CLERK
- (ii) *Use of chalets at Broomhaugh* – In the premeeting discussion, a resident had raised a query about the use of the chalets for holiday rentals booked via Airbnb and asked what permissions were required. Councillors agreed that this was a County Council matter and the Clerk was asked to refer the query to Councillor Dale.
ACTION: CLERK
- (iii) *Tennis Club parking* – In the premeeting discussion, a resident had complained about tennis club members parking in Millfield Road as she felt that the parking was causing passing cars to mount the pavement which was damaging sections of tarmac. She asked that the wording of the tennis club welcome letter was changed and that cars should be asked to park elsewhere. Councillors agreed that the issues should be raised with the Club.
ACTION: CLERK

24/48 Date of Future Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council should be held on Monday 13th May.

Public meeting closed at 8.20 pm

24/49 Confidential Matters: Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following items.

Summary of discussions/decisions:

- (i) *Embankment Issues, Marchburn Woods.* A geotechnical engineer had visited the site and his report was awaited;
- (ii) *Neighbourhood Plan, Housing.* Current developments were noted;
- (iii) *Issues relating to the sport field.* Current issues relating to the football field were noted. It was reported that the Sports Club was applying to become a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) which, if incorporated, would mean that it would become a legal entity in its own right. It was agreed to write to the Sports Club and suggest that, even though there were 5 years remaining on the current lease, now might be a good time to renegotiate it to take account of the Club's new status.

ACTION: CLERK

Confidential Meeting closed: 9.10 pm