Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Church Cottage, Church Lane, on Monday 11th November 2024.

Councillors present:

Cllr. Christine Howe (Chair)
Cllr. Andy Dunhill
Cllr. Eileen Carew
Cllr. Barbara Wood
Cllr. Lucie Armstrong
Cllr. Brian Singer
Cllr. David Irwin
Cllr. Ellen Rutherford
Cllr. Bridget Jones

In attendance:

Mrs Catherine Harrison – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Anne Dale (until Minute 24/146)
4 members of the public were present

Cllr. Howe opened the meeting at 7.40 pm.

24/139 **Apologies for Absence**

None.

24/140 **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Rutherford declared an interest in the correspondence received from the Healey Estate because of her work;
Cllr. Singer declared an interest in item 10(iii) - Allotment wall repair - as he was chair of the Allotments Association.

24/141 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 14th October 2024**

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

24/142 **Matters Arising**

(i) *Minute 24/128(i) – Lighting on the footpath to the station from Broomhaugh*. The Clerk reported that the quote was still awaited despite Cllr. Dale contacting the relevant department. Cllr. Dale noted that, in order for her to make a grant contribution towards the project, it would have to be approved in this financial year;

(ii) *Minute 24/128(iii) – Decked area by sports pavilion.* The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a pre-planning application to the County Council in order to verify if planning permission was required as this was a green belt site. It was noted that the Cricket Club would refund the planning fee;

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(iii) *Minute 24/129 (iv) – Public Rights of Way*. The Clerk confirmed that the hedges alongside the Rights of Way on the Healey Estate had been cut back and the paths were now passable. The Councillors recorded their thanks to Mr Warde-Aldam;

(iv) *Minute 24/137(iii) – Meeting with Joe Morris*. The Clerk confirmed that a meeting would be held with the new MP on Friday 29th November. Councillors were asked to email the Clerk with any matters they wished to discuss with him;

ACTION: ALL

(v) *Minute 24/137(v) – Wentworth Grange signage.* The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted the care home and had been informed that the new signage was to help direct staff arriving by train to the home. Changes to the fencing alongside the Right of Way had also been mentioned and Mr Lee, the owner of the care home, had suggested that the Clerk and Councillors might like to visit the home and see all the changes that had been made recently and hear their plans for the future. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting as suggested.

ACTION: CLERK

24/143 **County Councillor Report**

Cllr. Dale provided a report on the following issues:

(i) *Gullies/road sweeping* – Cllr. Dale confirmed that the both the gully cleaner and road sweeper had recently been working in the village;

(ii) *Local Transport Plan* – Cllr. Dale reported that the LTP meeting was to be held later that week and she hoped that the resurfacing of the Slaley Road would be considered a priority;

(iii) *EV chargers* – Cllr. Dale confirmed that although the chargers had been installed, there appeared to be an issue with the operating software which was being investigated;

(iv) *Dropped kerbs* – Cllr. Dale had raised the cost of the proposed dropped kerbs with the relevant officers and it had now been decided to consider the dropped kerbs as part of the LTP;

(v) *Riverside Right of Way to Corbridge* – In the pre-meeting discussion, a resident had queried the lack of progress on reopening the footpath. They highlighted that a solution had been promised back in 2019 yet still it remained closed. Cllr. Dale promised to raise the matter again with the relevant officer and the Leader of the Council.

ACTION: ADa

(vi) *Parking on grassed area at Broomhaugh* – In the pre-meeting discussion, a resident had queried the number of cars parking on the grassed area by the bus stop which she believed were fishermen attending a coarse fishing event. As this was County Council land, Cllr. Dale offered to contact the relevant department.

ACTION: ADa

24/144 **Website / New domain name**

Councillors unanimously agreed that the council should move to a .gov.uk domain address and that councillors should adopt .gov.uk email addresses. Cllr. Irwin offered to liaise with the government department overseeing the new domain names to attempt to get approval for a geographic domain i.e. ridingmill.gov.uk. It was also agreed that the website should be refreshed at some point but that the current priority should be to change the domain name.

ACTION: DI/CLERK

24/145 **Recent Meetings**

(i) *East Tynedale Forum* – A report was received from Cllr. Irwin who had attended a recent meeting of the East Tynedale Forum where the main topic of discussion had been speeding traffic. It was

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noted that a number of parishes wished to introduce speed reduction measures and it had been agreed to work collectively in order to lobby the County Council. Cllr. Dale highlighted that it was not for the County Council to enforce the speed limit instead it was a police matter. Councillors suggested that the County Council should measure the speed of traffic exiting the village. It was suggested that the best place for the speed tapes would be approximately 100 m from the village entrance signs;

(ii) *Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership AGM* – Cllr. Singer had attended the recent AGM of the TV Community Rail Partnership and had circulated a report of matters discussed which had been noted by councillors.

24/146 **Climate Change**

Cllr. Irwin gave a brief update on the potential solar project and noted that further input from Northumbrian Water was still awaited.

24/147 **Finance**

a) Monthly Accounts

(i) Payments/Receipts

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

WEL Medical – electrode pads for defibrillator	£99.48 (inc. VAT £16.58)
Northumberland County Council – planning fee (to be reimbursed by Cricket Club)	£50.00
Unity Trust Bank – monthly bank charges	£5.40
Nick Bell – football field grass cutting	£90.00
Northumberland County Council – reimbursement of Clerk's salary	£1,232.29 (inc. VAT £1.67)
SLCC – Yearly subscription fee	£190.00
Royal British Legion – donation for wreath	£60.00
Neetfleet – additional maintenance tasks	£220.00
Catherine Harrison – reimbursement of expenses (Flowers for presentation, Mail Chimp monthly subs, land searches, Strimmer protectors for play park)	£64.36 (inc. VAT £5.48)
David Ballantyne – ash dieback tree work	£450.00
Marchburn Lane Residents' Association – yearly frontager fee	£150.00

Standing Orders/Direct Debits:

Nest pension – October pension contribution	£36.50
Neetfleet – monthly handyman payment (October)	£240.00

The following receipts were noted:

Triodos - Quarterly interest payment	£96.40

(ii) *Budget reports*

The budget reports were reviewed and approved. No new issues were identified.

(b) *Yearly Budget*

It was noted that the yearly budget would be set at next month's meeting. Ideas for capital expenditure projects should be notified to the Clerk in advance and a preliminary discussion should be held to consider funding priorities for next year.

ACTION: CLERK

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(c) *S137 Grants*

(i) A donation to the Royal British Legion was approved.

(ii) It was noted that funding requests from other bodies would be considered at the December meeting.

(d) *Pay Award*

It was reported that a national pay award for the financial year 2024/25 had recently been agreed and applied to the Clerk's salary. These changes had been backdated to April 2024.

(e) *Insurance of Tennis clubhouse*

The Clerk had obtained a quote to insure the tennis clubhouse. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to add it to the policy (Proposed Cllr. Dunhill, seconded Cllr Howe).

ACTION: CLERK

24/148 **General Village Maintenance**

(i) *Handyman:* the Clerk reported that in the previous month the handyman had cleared leaves from footpaths, tidied planters and planted spring bedding flowers, fitted new post guards in the Play Park, trimmed the new hedge in Marchburn Lane and removed ivy from the allotment walls;

(ii) *Resurfacing of Mill Close* – the Clerk reported that a resident had written to advise the Parish Council that residents in Mill Close wished to resurface the lane. They were keen to find out if BT had any maintenance responsibilities for the lane and, secondly, whether the Parish Council would make a contribution to the cost of the repairs. Cllr. Howe advised that the Parish Council would not be able to make a financial contribution to the work as it was a private road, similar to many others in the village, and it could set a financial precedent. However, as it was a Right of Way, Cllr. Dale offered to inform the County Council of the proposed work to check its responsibility. It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact BT Openreach to ask for a site meeting to discuss both the lane and the state of the telephone exchange;

ACTION: CLERK

(iii) *Allotment Wall* – The Clerk confirmed that work to repoint the wall had started although progress was slow. It was noted that a nearby resident had asked if the Parish Council intended to repoint the section adjoining their garden. It was agreed that the property's deeds should be checked to establish who held the maintenance responsibilities before considering the request further. It was also noted that the Allotment Association's members intended to remove ivy from all the walls to prevent future damage to the pointing;

(iv) *New planter at Broomhaugh* – the Clerk confirmed that she had obtained a price for a self-watering planter. Cllr. Howe agreed to produce a sketch of a possible layout for this area which might also include a few new trees. Permission would need to be sought from the County Council.

ACTION: CH

24/149 **Planning**

Planning applications - it was reported that:

(i) the following new planning application was under consideration:

- 24/03351/LBC – 1 Hollin Hill Terrace. Internal wall change, PC – no objection;

(ii) the following planning applications had been granted permission:

- 24/01479/FUL – Cartref, Marchburn Lane. Extension and creation of an annex;
- 24/03005/FUL – Jasmine Cottage. Broomhaugh. Rear extension;
- 24/03025/LBC – 2 Riding Cottage. Change to first floor windows.

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24/150 **Correspondence**

- Most items of correspondence had been considered during the meeting.
- Healey Estate Woodland Management Plan – the Clerk was asked to request a copy of the full plan so that councillors could consider it properly. Councillors discussed their desire for the Estate to reinstate the permissive path through the woodland to the 'blue bridge'.

ACTION: CLERK

24/151 **Minor Matters**

(i) *Christmas Tree lighting event* – the Clerk confirmed that the Christmas tree would be lit on Friday 6th December at 6.30 pm. She hoped that Tynedale Lions would be able to attend with their Santa Sleigh but was awaiting confirmation;

(ii) *Flood Resilience Event* – it was noted that the Flood Resilience project had reached a new stage and that the designers were now consulting on how the information would be relayed to wardens and residents. A workshop session was proposed for Saturday 16th November in Acomb and the Clerk had circulated the details;

(iii) *Draft Local Transport Plan* – Cllr. Singer highlighted that the North East Mayor was consulting on the draft Local Transport Plan and felt that the Parish Council should comment, especially on matters raised in the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr. Singer had circulated a link to the consultation documents and it was agreed to discuss them fully at the December meeting. It was further decided to invite Malcolm Chainey to the meeting as he had led the neighbourhood plan working group which looked at public transport matters;

ACTION: CLERK

(iv) *Presentation on behalf of Tynedale Hospice* – the Fundraising Manager of Tynedale Hospice had offered to give a presentation about their work and it was agreed that this would be an excellent guest talk at the annual Parish Meeting which would be held in May. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

ACTION: CLERK

24/152 **Date of Future Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council should be held on Monday 9th December.

Public meeting closed at 8.47 pm

24/153 **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:

(i) Sports Club lease / football field hire

(ii) Marchburn Wood – tree work.

Confidential Meeting closed: 9.05 pm

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