

# BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors E. MacKinlay (Chair), Horner, Laverick, J. MacKinlay and Ramsey.

In attendance: Roger Gray – Clerk  
City Councillors Thom Campion and Helen Laverick  
5 Residents

### 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Graves and City Councillor Avaei.

### 39. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved as a correct and signed by the Chair.

### 40. BRUNSWICK GROVE – NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY NEIGHBOUR

A resident from Brunswick Grove was present at the meeting as she had been having sleepless nights for the last 13 months caused by her neighbour making noises throughout the night.

She played recordings made in her bedroom of the noise and loud talking of the neighbour which started at 3 to 4 am every morning including drawers being opened and shut loudly and a door trying to be shut repeatedly. The resident also shouted on a regular basis at these times and late in the evenings. Due to the layout of the properties the bedrooms in each of the properties shared the same wall.

The Safer Living Team at the City Council were aware of the problem and were looking into it. However, despite assurances that the issue was being investigated no progress had been made and the Team had not been in touch with her. She was upset and “at the end of her tether” with the lack of sleep and no sign of the problem being resolved. The lack of sleep was getting to her and affecting her health.

It was understood that other residents in the street across the road could also hear the noises and were affected by the shouting.

City Councillor Laverick reported on the actions she had taken in relation to trying to get YHN/the City Council to resolve the problems and would contact the resident in the next few days once she had contacted the Safer Living Team again.

**RESOLVED** – That: -

- 1) the Clerk raise the problems this resident was having in

relation to the noise nuisance caused by her neighbour which was resulting in sleepless nights with YHN, and

2) the Clerk ask the City Council if there was any support for the resident to assist with the difficulties, she was having to suffer every night, working with the Safer Living Team in relation to resolving the problems for all parties concerned.

#### **41. WESTFIELD AVENUE – TENANCY ISSUE**

A resident from Westfield Avenue was present and she referred to a new tenant moving into an adjoining flat. The new tenants had requested to borrow money on a couple of occasions and had also made the same request to a resident on the other side of the street.

Reference was made to possible reasons why the new tenants had relocated to Brunswick.

The Parish Councillors were very concerned about this reported activity and the impact it was having on the existing tenants especially their neighbour who had lived there for a long time.

**RESOLVED** – That the Clerk ask YHN: -

1) to investigate the reports now made and to take any necessary action in relation to the actions of the new tenants as they could be in breach of the conditions of their tenancy agreement, and

2) if there was any support for the resident who had been asked to lend money as she had been shaken/upset by these recent incidents.

#### **42. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS**

##### **a) Disposal/Scattering of Raw Chicken Big Waters**

City Councilor Laverick updated the meeting on the actions that had been taken by the police who had now spoken to the person whose had been identified as being at Big Waters when the meat was being scattered. He was from a business located in Gosforth and since the Police had spoken to him the disposal of raw meat had stopped. He had indicated that he was “only feeding the birds/animals.”

The Police could not take any further action as no witnesses to the activity had been prepared to make a statement to them.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

##### **b) Beaumont Terrace – Noise Nuisance from Industrial Estate**

**RESOLVED** – That the information that the Clerk had contacted the Commercial Noise Team for an update be noted, and the outcome of the work being carried out by the Team be awaited.

**c) Grey Street – Collapsed Chimney Stack**

It was understood that the property was going to be put on the market and the chimney stack was not going to be repaired before this happened. This was a surprise as the crack in the chimney stack would come up in the survey when it was sold.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

**d) Jubilee Park Play Area**

**RESOLVED** – That the confirmation that there would be a site visit between Parish Councillors and officers of the City Council in the Play Area on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be noted.

**e) Litter Bins**

It was confirmed that no further information on the requests to relocate and reinstate a litter bin had been received. City Councillor Laverick had agreed to follow the requests up.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

**f) Public Right of Way**

The Clerk reported that he had received a full response from the City Council's Public Rights of Way Officer confirming the route of the Footpath No3 Brunswick which had been diverted in 2011 due to boggy conditions along the original route in this area. He had also explained the legal responsibilities of the farmer and landowners in relation to the maintenance of footpaths across their land and for the maintenance of the stiles. The poor condition of the stiles would be drawn to the attention of the landowner as well as their responsibility to repair/maintain them.

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the resident who had raised their concerns about the footpath.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted, and the Public Rights of Way Officer be thanked for his full and quick response.

**g) Brunswick Grove/Grey Street - Overhanging Roses & Untidy Garden**

**RESOLVED** – That, as the gardens had not been tidied up since the problems had been reported in September the Clerk contact YHN again to request that they be tidied up to remove the hazards impacting on pedestrians using the pavements adjacent these properties.

**h) Un-Occupied Bungalow Cheviot View**

It was reported that a property in Cheviot View appeared to be empty. In front of the house a couple of trees had self-seeded and were growing very close to the walls of the property.

Based on previous experience and explanation from YHN there was little action

that could be taken in relation to un-occupied properties where the rent was paid and up to date and it was furnished/maintained.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted, and the Clerk request YHN/the City Council to remove the self-seeded sycamore and rowan trees adjacent to the property.

**i) Grey Street – Flat with No Wheelie Bins**

**RESOLVED** – That the tenant be advised to contact their landlord who should ask the City Council to supply wheelie bins for the property.

**j) Cheviot View – Accumulation of Leaves**

Two residents at the meeting referred to the large accumulation of leaves in the street which made the pavement slippery and created a hazard for elderly residents in the area.

City Councillor Laverick had asked the City Council to confirm the schedule/route for the “Johnston” street sweeper in the village so that residents could be given notice of it being in the Village and be requested to move their car to allow all the gullies to be swept and cleaned.

**RESOLVED** – That the City Council be requested to arrange for the leaves to be swept up/removed and to share the sweeping schedule of the “Johnston” sweeper in the Village.

**k) Christmas Tree and Tree Planting for Queen’s Jubilee**

The Clerk reported that the Highways Team at the City Council had confirmed that permission would not be required to erect a Christmas Tree in the Grounds St Cuthbert’s Church.

Reference was made to alternative opportunities to apply for tree saplings from various organisations where there was not a requirement to identify a large piece of land managed by a single landowner unlike the scheme operated by the Woodlands Trust as part of the activities to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee which had a minimum delivery requirement of 150 trees that had to be planted in one area.

It was suggested that the proposed tree planting could be part of a wider activity carried out across adjoining Parish Councils.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted, and the matter be discussed in the new year when further details of the tree planting schemes were available.

**43. POLICE MATTERS & CRIME STATISTICS**

The Clerk reported that he had not received the crime statistics for the Period since the last meeting from Northumbria Police.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted, and the incidents of anti-social behaviour be reported to the Police.

#### 44. AIRPORT USERS COMMITTEE

The Chair reported back on the latest meeting of the Committee and the items that were discussed.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

#### 45. FINANCIAL MATTERS

##### a) Cheques for Signature

Cheque No.	Amount £
001235	40.00

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

**Bank Balance 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 £9,935.04.** (Subject to pending transactions)

##### b) Precept 2022/23

The Clerk reported on the current financial position of the accounts and the projected expenditure up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 including planned commitments.

Reference was made to the decision of the Parish Council in 2020 to provide on-going support and funding for Brunswick in Bloom to enable it to plan activities for future years. This would be provided by a grant of £500 per year and would improve the environment in the Village and benefit all residents and those passing through the Village.

Based on this information it was proposed that the precept for 2022/23 should be increased from £5,500 to £6,000. There had been no increase in the level of Precept since 2010/11.

**RESOLVED** – That the Precept for 2022/23 should be £6,000 (last increase was 2010/11).

#### 46. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held in the Rest Centre, Greenside Avenue at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Signed: - .....Chair

Date: - .....

## **Exchange of Information**

- Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 - Consultation Letter Oct 21 – (Contact Lesley Watson)
- Support for Start Up Businesses Information (Contact - Sue Wannop)
- Un Wanted Ballots Boxes available from the City Council (Contact - Sue Wannop)
- Local Council Review Issue 3 2021
- The Clerk Magazine Vol52 No5
- Clerks & Councils Direct Sept 2021 Issue 137