

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th April 2021

Present: Councillor E. MacKinlay Chairman
Councillors J. MacKinlay and Ramsey.

In attendance: Roger Gray - Clerk
City Councillor Lower

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Northumbria Police.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th March 2021, including confirmation of any key decisions made under delegated powers, be approved as a correct and signed by the Chairman.

3. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

a) Potholes

City Councillor Lower reported that it was approximately 18 months since the City Council's highways team had carried out an inspection of the highways in the Village. One had just been carried out in recent weeks. A list of "red" roads had been created which had the most dangerous/urgent repairs required. However, the City Council had no funds to carry out the repairs required and was only able to carry out limited patching/pothole filling works. Filling the potholes was a short-term fix to bigger problems and could actually cause longer term deterioration of the surrounding road surface.

The potholes on the stretch of Westfield Avenue from the entrance to the Brunswick Park Community north for about 100 yards had been patched but the repair was not of a good standard and was unlikely to last. The patching of the road surface in Martin Way was also disintegrating and needed attention. There was also a pothole at the junction of Dene Avenue and Cheviots that needed attention.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and the City Council be requested to repair the patching of the potholes on Westfield Avenue/ Martin Way/the junction of Dene Avenue & Cheviot View.

b) Grey Street – Collapsed Chimney Stack

It was reported that no further works had been carried out since the last meeting to make the building safe. People were still crossing the secured area around the front of the property to access the cash machine directly below the chimney stack. It appeared from correspondence that Bellway might be responsible for the upkeep/maintenance of the building.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk forward the email exchange with the City Council’s Enforcement Team to City Councillor Lower who would contact the team regarding the lack of progress to make the building safe.

c) Parking Restriction Sign Loading Bay “One Stop” Grey Street

It was reported that the sign had been hit by a delivery vehicle and needed to be fixed back into the pavement.

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to fix the sign.

d) New Houses on Sandy Lane Hazlerigg

The Clerk reported that there were currently 128 houses on this development that were paying the Brunswick Parish Council precept in 2021.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

e) Defibrillator

The Chairman reported that it might be necessary to replace the defibrillator as some of them had a fault with their operation. He would check the serial number and then advise the Northumbria Ambulance Service who would take the necessary action.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

f) Park Play Area

A member expressed concern that there was no play equipment for small children in the Park.

City Councillor Lower referred to funding that was available from the City Council to provide funding for works/activities in the Parks that were still retained/managed by the City Council. A bid could potentially be made for some funds to be allocated to provide equipment for young children.

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to provide/install some play equipment for small children.

g) Newcastle International

The Chairman provided an update on activities at the airport. A study relating to night-time take offs/landings was being deferred for two year due to the reduced air traffic movements caused by the pandemic. Reference was also made to discussion about charging frequent flyers more for flights and to restricting flights of less of than 300 miles. The latter was creating significant issues due to the impact on internal connecting flights and the high cost/length of train journey time in the UK.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

4. PLANNING MATTER

Application for Planning Consent – Ref 2021/0291/01/DET Browns Park Brunswick Industrial Estate NE13 7BA

Members reviewed the information provided supporting the application. Reference was made to complaints that had been submitted to the City Council regarding a health and beauty business operating from the site.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and no comments made on the application for planning consent for the proposed works.

5. HOUSING MATTERS

a) 11 Brunswick Grove

Wet room floor very slippery and the tiles on the kitchen floor are also slippery. The tenant has had a couple of slips in recent weeks.

b) 16 Brunswick Grove

Floors in sitting room and kitchen have developed bumps in the concrete which had resulted in the carpets and floor covering being damaged. The tenant had been advised not to put new carpets down.

c) Paving and Paths to the rear of Bungalows Cheviot View

The grass cutters do not go down the side paths or the rear of these properties (where the front doors are located). As well as the grass being long there is a build-up of debris in the gaps between the paving stones that is now raised causing a tripping hazard for the residents.

d) Installation of Individual Gas Boilers (to replace communal boilers)

A number of houses had individual gas supplies installed in anticipation of the installation of individual boilers to replace the “communal ones” e.g. Cheviot View. It is now approximately 18 months since this work was carried out. It was understood that boilers were being installed in some properties/flats in Kenton.

RESOLVED – That YHN be requested to inspect and repair the floors; cut the grass and remove the debris/moss from in between the paving stones and confirm the current position on the proposed gas boiler replacement programme.

e) The Rest Centre

Following recent rewiring works it had been confirmed that YHN did not have a budget for the redecoration of the main room in the Rest Centre. It was not sensible to put all of the books and bookshelves back in position against the walls until they had been painted. The room would be required for the local Council elections on 6th May 2021 and the room could not be used if the bookshelves were left in the middle of the floor away from the walls.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk get details of the decorators who were currently working in the Community Centre to see if they were able to do the works before the local elections, whilst other possible solutions to getting the room decorated were investigated.

6. VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk referred to the information provided in relation to advertising the opportunity to be coopted onto the Parish Council, including the expression of interest form he had produced.

If members were aware of anyone who might be interested in being coopted onto the Parish Council they should forward this information the Clerk.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

7. BRUNSWICK IN BLOOM

The Chairman provided an update on the work of Brunswick in Bloom and on its efforts to open a bank account. Until the organization had a bank account the Parish Council could not transfer the remainder of the funds it had allocated to support its work. Brunswick in Bloom were trying to attract more members before it progressed further with the creation of the bank account.

If access to the allocated funds was required, the Clerk would forward a cheque to them to cover costs incurred up to the agreed level of funding.

Discussions had commenced into the feasibility of Brunswick in Bloom getting access to the Rest Centre to run a hosepipe across the green to water the flower beds.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

8. CRIME STATISTICS

The Clerk submitted the crime statistics that he had received from the Police as they were unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Cheques for Signature (* signed since last meeting)

| Cheques for Signature | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Cheque No. | Amount |
| | £ |
| 001227 | 80.00 |
| 001228 | 326.99 |
| 001229 | 216.00 |

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

Bank Balance 12th April 2021 £7,977.97. (subject to pending transactions)

10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Parish Council (Annual Meeting) be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 6th May 2021 via a Zoom meeting.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Signed:Chairman

Date: