

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2021

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

In attendance: Roger Gray – Clerk
Juliet Graves
City Councillor Thom Campion
3 Residents

WELCOME

The Chair welcomed City Councillor Thom Campion to the meeting and congratulated him on his recent election as Ward Councillor for Castle Ward.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of City Councillor Laverick.

23. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th July 2021 be approved as a correct and signed by the Chairman.

24. VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk reported on the interview for the vacancy on the Parish Council held on 12th August 2021 when the final candidate who had submitted an expression of interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council had been held.

Members of the Interview Panel had recommended that Juliet Graves be coopted onto the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – That the recommendation of the Interview Panel to co-opt Juliet Graves onto the Parish Council (term of office ending in May 2023) be confirmed.

(The Chair welcomed Parish Councillors Juliet Graves, Ian Laverick, and Karen Horner to their first meeting of the Parish Council)

25. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

a) Disposal/Scattering of Raw Chicken Big Waters

It was reported that there had been several occasions over recent weeks when large quantities of raw chicken had been scattered in Big Waters. There were rumours that this was poisoned/not fit for consumption and was being scattered by a person who did not like dogs. It was a serious concern especially for dog walkers when in the area. When Urban Green, which managed the area, had been

contacted they had confirmed that putting up CCTV was not an option and that people using the area should report any future incidents/get car registration numbers etc. and report incidents to the police.

A dog had died in an unrelated incident in Brunswick Green that had involved a dog eating a cooked chicken carcass that had been disposed of irresponsibly.

It was important for anyone who had information on the problem and any future incidents to get details, dates, times and if possible and not putting themselves at risk to get photographs of the person scattering the raw chicken pieces.

The police allocated resources based on reported crimes/incidents and if they were not aware of problems, they could not assist in resolving them.

There were also problems being caused in the early evening/hours of darkness by couples meeting up in cars at Big Waters. This was causing distress for parents with children who were in the area walking.

RESOLVED – That: -

- 1) the information be noted, the police be advised of the problems and be requested to increase patrols/visits to the area, and
- 2) Parish Councillor Horner be requested to put a post on the Village Facebook page to advise walkers to contact the police (telephone 101) with relevant information that would assist in identifying who might be carrying out this dangerous activity so that it could be stopped as quickly as possible.

b) Beaumont Terrace – Noise Nuisance from Industrial Estate

A resident reported on the noise nuisance created by the hours of operation of the industrial units occupied by Master Clean/A1 Laundry. Sometimes the unit was operating 24 hours per day and as well as the noise nuisance fluff and dust was blown across the road from the Unit. It meant she had to have her windows closed whatever the weather conditions. The matter had been raised with the City Council and she had kept a noise diary at the request of the Enforcement Team at the City Council. Despite this there had been no visible action taken to sort the problem out and she did not know what to do to resolve the problem.

There was a discussion about who owned and who managed the site and to a previous policy when the City Council managed it to locate “noisier” business operations towards the rear of the site.

It was suggested that the MP for Newcastle North should be contacted by the resident to take up the complaint with the City Council on behalf of the resident.

RESOLVED – That: -

- 1) the information be noted, the resident contacts her MP detailing the situation and actions she had taken to date to resolve the problem, and
- 2) the Clerk contact the Enforcement Team at the City Council to clarify the current position and what actions were proposed to be taken in relation to resolving the noise nuisance and dust emissions from this unit.

c) Grey Street – Collapsed Chimney Stack

It was reported that the chimney stack had been repaired. There was still scaffolding to the rear of No 16 Grey Street as permission from the owners of the adjoining property was required to enable the adjoining chimney stack to be repaired as it had a crack in it.

It was reported that there had been an electrical fault in an underground cable in the area and a temporary generator had been positioned outside of the property to provide electricity pending the repair of the cable. The generator created a noise nuisance for residents of adjoining properties.

Northern Powergrid had been unable to provide a date for the cable to be repaired as they were waiting for a team to become available to carry out the works.

It was reported at the meeting that a security guard was stationed in a car next to the generator 24 hours a day. Concern was expressed in relation to where he was going to the toilet as he could be using the back lane for this purpose.

RESOLVED – That: -

- 1) the information be noted, and
- 2) the Clerk contact Northern Powergrid to seek clarification on when the works to repair the underground cable would be carried out and the generator switched off/moved and to raise concerns about the reports of the security guard using the back lane as a toilet whilst he was on duty in the area.

d) Jubilee Park Play Area

The Clerk reported that he had tried to identify possible for Su Cumming to meet with Parish Councillors at the play area to discuss options and plans for the future. He had not received any possible dates for the meeting to be held. However, he would make further efforts to get dates from her for the site meeting in the Park.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and as soon as dates were received the Clerk confirm the arrangements for the site meeting.

e) Jubilee Park Site Investigation Works

Mr. R Wilson reported that there had been a number of people in the Park in recent weeks carrying inspection works and taking various measurements. When approached they had said they were carrying out investigations associated with creating a cricket square, installing a cricket scoreboard, and creating a cricket pavilion.

The Chair and the Clerk confirmed that they had not been notified of any proposals for the construction of a new pavilion or any other works in the Park. Reference was made to the discussions and numerous conditions and restrictions placed on the development of the Community Centre following the demolition of the original cricket pavilion in the Park. As it was in the green belt the footprint of the Community Centre building had to match that of the original pavilion and no additional space or buildings were permitted in the area.

There was a discussion about whether temporary structures might be allowed i.e., a scoreboard and storage containers.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk contact the City Council (Su Cumming) for information on the site investigation activities that had been recently carried out and if there were proposals to re-create the cricket square with scoreboard and pavilion in the Park.

f) Litter Bins

RESOLVED – That the Clerk request the City Council to reinstate the litter bin in the car park at the western end of Jubilee Park (Big Waters end); relocate the litter bin that was next to the bus shelter on Darrell Street as on occasions the smells from it made it unpleasant to use the shelter and to install a new litter bin in the Community Centre Car Park.

g) Brunswick Grove Overhanging Roses & Untidy Garden

RESOLVED – That the Clerk draw YHN's attention to the overgrown garden and the various items that had been placed on the pavement in front of a property in Brunswick Grove as they were causing problems for people walking on the pavement.

h) Grey Street Overhanging Hedge and Nettles

RESOLVED – That the Clerk draw YHN's attention to the overgrown hedge and nettles in front of this property.

i) Unadopted Street Light to the rear of 85 Westfield Avenue

A resident referred to the problems being caused due to the streetlight to the rear of properties in Westfield Avenue being broken for many months. It was difficult/frightening to use the access path to the rear of the properties in the evening/nighttime.

RESOLVED – That: -

- 1) the Clerk contact SSE & Streetworks to advise them that this light had not been working for many months and as it did not have an identifying number on it requests for it to be repaired had been refused with SSE stating that as it was "unadopted" it was not therefore its responsibility to repair it, and
- 2) the City Council be requested to adopt the street light and get it included in the Street Lighting contract with SSE.

j) Darrel Street – Vehicles Speeding Through Village

Reference was made to the on-going problems caused by vehicles speeding through the Village.

The Chair referred to many discussions over the years about this problem and to the requests that had been made to the City Council to introduce a 20mph speed limit on this stretch of highway. There had also been requests made for a change to the priorities on the chicanes that had been installed to reduce the speed of traffic.

The police had carried out mobile speed checks and issued warning letter to drivers who had been caught breaking the current speed limits. The police had offered to train volunteers in the use of “speed guns” in previous years but no volunteers had come forward.

If it was not possible to get 20mph speed limit signs erected, it was suggested that erecting “Hedgehogs Crossing” warning signs could be an effective alternative in persuading drivers to slow down when travelling through the village.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk contact

- 1) Streetworks and the police to request them to consider introducing a 20mph speed limit on this stretch of highway, and
- 2) Streetworks requesting them to consider altering the priorities at the chicanes so that vehicles had to stop when entering the village and investigate the possibility of erecting “Hedgehogs Crossing” signs at the entrance to the village by the industrial estate.

k) Brown Bin Permit – Rest Centre Greenside Avenue

RESOLVED – That the Clerk purchase a permit for the brown garden refuse bin allocated to the Rest Centre so that Brunswick in Bloom could use it to dispose of the waste generated from its activities.

l) Defibrillator

RESOLVED – That the update on the weekly maintenance schedule for the defibrillator be noted and Parish Councillor Horner be requested to publicise the location, availability and how to access the defibrillator in an emergency on the Village Facebook page.

m) Community Centre Activities/Proposals

RESOLVED – That the current and proposed future activities at the Community Centre be noted and Parish Councillor Horner be requested to publicise the activities at the Community Centre including the foodbank/Eco Parcels that were available on the Village Facebook page and in her Hair Salon.

n) Brunswick In Bloom

Parish Councillor Graves referred to the need to attract more volunteers to be involved with the work/activities of Brunswick in Bloom. She was looking for ideas to attract more people as the proposed works/plans could not be carried out/sustained by the current small number of volunteers.

Parish Councillor Graves was currently developing a 2-to-3-year strategy for Brunswick in Bloom however the big issue was the lack of volunteers.

There was a discussion about potential opportunities for support including an offer from a local cub and scout group to carry out some activities next spring as part of their work towards getting their gardener’s badge. It might also be possible to ask for support from the 861 Woodlands Hall Cadets for work in the future.

RESOLVED – That

- 1) the information be noted, and Parish Councillor Graves follow up the offers/suggested areas for support for the activities of Brunswick in Bloom, and
- 2) Brunswick in Bloom be requested to share it's 2-to-3-year strategy with the Parish Council when it was available.

26. PLANNING MATTERS

Application for Planning Consent

a) Grass Verge in front of the site Morley Hill Farm, Coach Lane, Hazlerigg Ref 2021/1541/01/ADV

Display of 2 Non-Illuminated Vinyl Boards on supports and 3 Non-Illuminated Monolith Vinyl Boards

The Clerk confirmed that this application was associated with the development of new housing accessed via Coach Lane Hazlerigg. The land was in Brunswick Parish and that was why the application for Planning Consent had been sent to the Parish Council for consideration.

RESOLVED – That the application and associated information be noted.

27. 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.

28. AIRPORT USERS COMMITTEE

The Chairman updated members of the discussions at the last meeting of the Committee. The Airport had applied for planning consent for the creation of a solar energy farm on the site near to the end of the runway. The electricity generated would be used to contribute to the power used at the airport.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

29. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cheques for Signature

Cheque No.	Amount
	£
Bank Transfer	353.36
001233	40.00

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

Bank Balance 10th September 2021 £10,544.90. (Subject to pending transactions)

30. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held in the Rest Centre, Greenside Avenue at 7:00pm on Wednesday 13th October 2021.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Signed: -.....Chairman

Date: -.....