

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2022

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

In attendance: Roger Gray – Clerk
City Councillors Avaei, Campion and Laverick

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Laverick.

67. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2022 be approved as a correct subject to the first paragraph of minute 61 b) being amended to read “A member reported that she had been advised that the cottages in Cheviot View were going to get smart meters installed” and signed by the Chair.

68. WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE

City Councillor Campion provided a summary of the activities and actions the Castle Ward Councillors had been carrying out since the last meeting, including updates on specific actions/requests that had been received at the last meeting of the Parish Council. They were still trying to get the City Council to confirm the route and scheduled cleaning by the “Johnson” road sweepers to ensure they were in areas following bin collections and to give car owners advanced notification so that they had the opportunity to move their vehicles to ensure all gullies were swept.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

69. BRUNSWICK GROVE – NOISE NUISANCE CAUSED BY NEIGHBOUR

City Councillor Laverick referred to a recent conversation with a relative of one of the people involved in this issue. They were going to discuss the problems being caused and were proposing to rearrange the layout of furniture in the rooms so that it was not located against the “party” wall of the property.

Although assurances had been given by the Safer Living Team that they would be in touch about the problems being caused to the resident there had been no contact, correspondence, or phone calls from them about the issue.

The Parish Council and City Councillors expressed their disappointed that no contact had been made over the months since the problem had been reported.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted, and the Parish Council support the actions being proposed by Councillor Laverick in relation to the

lack of contact and support from the Safer Living Team in relation to the distress that had been caused over recent months.

70. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

a) Broken Street Lamp

Although the problem with the streetlamp in the car park of the Community Centre not working had been reported it still had not been fixed.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk submit a further request to SSE for the streetlamp to be repaired.

b) Jubilee Park – Boundary Fence Adjacent to Allotments

It was reported that following recent storms a tree had been blown over and damaged the fence in the vicinity of the “old Pavilion”. There had also been a quantity of burnt wood dumped in the same area including pieces of broken fence and sheds. It was assumed that some allotment holders had disposed of storm damage materials by dumping it over the allotment boundary into the park.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted, and the City Council be requested to clear up the “fly tipping”, remove the broken tree and repair the damage the fence.

c) Waste Recycling Centre, Brunswick Industrial Estate – Un Marked Metal Pole

It was reported that when a resident had been dropping of items for recycling, they had hit this metal pole when maneuvering to empty the car. The pole was grey and did not have any marking on it to identify it as a hazard so had not been seen by the driver. Their vehicle had collided with it and subsequently had to be written off.

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to take action to make the pole more visible as a hazard (e.g., painting yellow stripes on it) or if possible, relocate/remove the pole. information be noted and discussed again when further information was available.

d) Robert Allan Court – Area of Land in Front of Building

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by the manager of Robert Allan Court to see if the Parish Council could help with a project that had been planned for this area of land. The home had been successful in getting a number of shrubs/hedging and small trees to plant to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. However, when quotations for preparing the site and planting the shrubs had been received these had been high and unaffordable.

The Parish and subsequently the City Council had been asked if it was able to assist in the project or if it knew of a group or organisation that could carry out the work for the home.

Natures Landscapes (a team /project getting people back into work/giving them a chance) had visited the site with the Chairman and had provided a quote for the works/planting. It had also been suggested that the Parish Council submit a request to the Ward Sub Committee for a contribution towards the cost of the works as it would improve the environment of the area for the wider community.

The Parish Council and the Ward Councillors confirmed that they would be able to provide some funding towards the cost of the works.

RESOLVED – That: -

- a) the request from Robert Allan Court be noted;
- b) an application be made to the Ward Sub Committee for funding towards the cost of the works as discussed;
- c) the Manager of Robert Allan Court work with Natures Landscapes in relation to the timing/requirements for the planting of the shrubs/hedge/trees, and
- d) the Ward Councillors be thanks for their support enabling the works to be carried out.

e) DEFRA – Letter to All Households in the Area

Reference was made to a letter from DEFRA regarding an outbreak of avian flu in the area. If anyone saw any dead birds/wild fowl when out and about they needed to report this to DEFRA.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

71. BRUNSWICK IN BLOOM

Councillor Graves provided an update on the purchase of the “living Christmas Tree” that would be planted in the grounds of St Cuthbert’s Church.

The Clerk reported on an estimate received from the City Council for the digging of a hole, planting the tree and watering it until it was established. There was a discussion about other options available for digging the hole/preparing the site for the planting of the tree. Reference was made to the possibility that there could be “services” under the location where it was proposed to plant the tree. The City Council would not be able to dig the hole for the tree unless it was satisfied that there were no “services” in the area.

Although officers at the Church had given approval for the planting of the tree it was suggested that the Clerk contact the Vicar to confirm that the Church authorities were aware of the proposals prior to the tree being planted.

Councillor Graves suggested that the planting of the tree could be part of the Parish Council’s activities to commemorate the Queens Jubilee and was making enquiries about getting a plaque made to be placed by the tree.

The Ward Councillors suggested that some of the funds remaining in the Ward Committee’s budget could be used to contribute towards the cost of purchasing the

Christmas tree, planting it and the on-going maintenance whilst it was “bedding in”

RESOLVED – That: -

- a) the update be noted;
- b) the Clerk write to the Vicar of St Cuthbert’s confirming the outcome of discussions with officers of the Church and details of the tree and proposed arrangements for planting it;
- c) an application be made to the Castle Ward Committee for a contribution towards the costs associated with purchasing, planting and maintaining the tree as it became established;
- d) Councillor Graves make the necessary arrangements for the planting of the tree and sourcing a commemorative plaque as agreed at the meeting, and
- e) the Ward Councillors be thanked for their additional support in relation to the planting of the tree.

72. HOUSING MATTER

Grey Street

The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with YHN Officers to clarify which property had the untidy and overgrown garden.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

73. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Application 2022/0271/01/TPO at Brunswick House Brookside Avenue, NE13 7DP

Members referred to the applications that have been made over recent years to fell trees around the Home and were concerned that there did not appear to be a plan/tree strategy for the site. The number of trees on it were gradually being reduced by stealth.

The information that a tree specialist would be involved in the later works was welcomed however, it was suggested that the City Council should carry out a tree assessment across the village to provide some protection to the trees that were left after felling and recent storms.

RESOLVED – That: -

- a) the information be noted and the concerns of the Parish Council on the incremental approach to the felling/pruning of trees on the site be submitted to the Planning Department, and
- b) the TPO and the Parish Council’s response to the request for comments be sent to the Ward Councillors.

b) Planning Application 2022/0266/01/HOU – 1 Cragside NE13 6LQ

RESOLVED – That the information be noted, and no comments/observations made.

74. AIRPORT USERS COMMITTEE

The Chair provided feedback from the last meeting of the Committee. He made reference to the plans to plant 8,300 trees at the airport, and the approval for the creation of a solar farm on the airport site that would eventually make the airport ground facilities carbon neutral. A “jobs fair” was to be held at the airport however, it had been reported that it would take up to 3 to 4 years for the passenger numbers/flight movements to return to pre pandemic levels.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

75. POLICE MATTERS & CRIME STATISTICS

City Councillor Laverick reported that during discussions with PC Elkin he had advised that the Police were no longer providing monthly crime statistics to share with the Parish Councils. However, an email address and log in details had been provided by the police to enable Councillors and Parish Councils to access the crime statistics online.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted, and the Clerk access the site prior to each meeting and report the information (if available) to future meetings.

76. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cheques for Signature

Cheque No.	Amount £
001236	145.00
001237	7.59

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

Bank Balance 11th March 2022 £7,617.05. (Subject to pending transactions)

77. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held in the Rest Centre, Greenside Avenue at 7:00 pm on Wednesday 13th April 2022.

78. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A (2) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded during consideration of the following item.

79. CLERK AND RFO

The Clerk updated members on the recruitment process to fill the vacancy of Clerk & RFO for the Parish Council.

Following the failure to attract interest in the post he had held discussions with a person who had expressed an interest in taking on the role on an interim basis until a permanent appointment could be made.

Members discussed the proposal, including the suggestion to change the cycle of meetings for the Parish Council to bi-monthly.

RESOLVED – That: -

- a) the update be noted,
- b) the application/expression of interest in taking on the role of Clerk and RFO (under the current agreed terms and conditions) on an interim basis until the Parish Council Elections in May 2023 be accepted;
- c) the appointment to commence wef the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May 2022;
- d) the Parish Council meet on a bi-monthly basis for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, and
- e) the arrangements for the interim appointment to the role of Clerk and RFO and the revised schedule of meetings be reviewed in May 2023.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Signed: -.....Chair

Date: -.....

Exchange of Information

- The Clerk Magazine March 2022 Vol 53 No2
- Clerks & Councils Direct March 2022 Issue 140