

# BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

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

In attendance: R.J. Gray – Clerk  
Sue Wannop – Newcastle City Council  
3 Residents

### 25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of City Councillors King, A Lower and P Lower.

### 26. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 27. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

#### a) Inappropriate Use of Litter Bins Bus Stop Darrell Street & Grey Street

**RESOLVED** –That the response from the City Council regarding the next steps that would have to be taken if they were to report the owner of the vehicle who was using the litter bins to dispose of trade waste be noted and if any of the witnesses to these acts were prepared to make witness statements they should contact the City Council using the details provided at the meeting.

#### b) Beaumont Terrace/Mason Street – Car Repairs

**RESOLVED** –That the City Council/police be advised that a tenant in on of the properties in Mason Street was buying and repairing cars apparently using the residential premises to run a business which was causing disruption and a nuisance to residents living nearby.

#### c) Cooperative Terrace – Vehicle(s) Parking on Grassed Area by Cragside

**RESOLVED** –That the City Council/police be advised of this problem and carry out any necessary investigations/action.

#### d) Amber House

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from the City Council that the property was not in its ownership and that if further information was required in relation to this the Parish Council should contact the land registry. There was a feed associated with such enquiries.

Residents reported that the building was not secure and safe. It was reported that you could see that the radiators had been lined up in an area, parts of the floor were missing and that the skylight was open. It was alleged that rats had been seen around the outside of the building.

**RESOLVED** – That, due to the reports that the building was not secure and of the potential health risks associated with this the City Council be requested to carry out an inspection of the premises and take any necessary actions to make it secure.

**e) Brunswick Park Community Centre**

A brief update on the current management arrangements for the limited operation of the Community Centre was given.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted and Sue Wannop report back on investigations in the location of tables and chairs that had been purchased by the Community Association for use in the Centre.

**f) Flat above 'One Stop' Shop Grey Street**

It was reported that there had been a recent incident which had resulted in water coming through the ceiling of the One Stop Shop. It was understood that the property was being refurbished ready to be put on the market.

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted and kept under review.

**g) A Cut Above – Small grassed Area of Land Adjacent to Property**

The owner of the property referred to problems that were being caused by water run off from this small area of ground. She had ideas that would resolve this problem by a simple re-alignment of the path.

**RESOLVED** – That City Councillor A. Lower be approached in relation to guidance on the proposed solution to these problems.

**h) Masterplan for Newcastle Airport to 2035**

The Chairman referred to the closing date for the submission of comments as part of the current consultation exercise (13<sup>th</sup> September 2018). He stated that the Village was already covered as part of the statutory airport plan as were all people/communities covered by the flight paths etc. So the issues around noise/flight paths (the planes did not fly directly over the village!) were meant to be covered off in these on-going arrangements.

If anyone had their own specific comments these should be submitted through the Masterplan website by close of business on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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

## **i) Deteriorating Appearance of Village**

The Clerk read out a detailed response from the City Council in relation to the concerns raised at the last meeting and over the last 14 months by the Parish Council.

The Chairman reported that earlier this week two managers (Mr Murray & Mr Charlton) of the Environmental Maintenance Service covering the City had been out to the village to carry out an inspection/walk around to pick up/review the concerns and points raised by residents at the last meeting. The responses made to the long list of issues was disappointing and was referenced back to significant reductions in resources available to maintain the environment and keep the area looking good. It was confirmed during the visit that Kevin would be returning to the village one day per week to try to maintain the area in the limited time available.

Despite comments made by the officers a person did not come around with a blower after the grass had been cut so cuttings were left on the pavements, bin emptying was not happening on a regular basis at Big Waters. However, it was reported that the City Council was getting new bin emptying vehicles delivered that could be operated by one man so this should improve the situation.

The City Council no longer maintained and do not want flowerbeds. Where they still existed in the village they should be removed/covered with grass. Flowerbeds could be retained so long as there were volunteers prepared to maintain them on an on-going basis. Where volunteers had come forward in the past problems had arisen as they had lost interest and ceased to maintain the beds/planters and they had had to be removed in the end. If there were volunteers prepared to come forward and make the commitment the Parish Council would consider providing funds to provide the plants. The potential of local businesses "sponsoring" a planter was discussed.

If residents were really committed to wanting to upgrade the appearance of the Village there was always the option to increase the precept to cover the additional cost of employing a contractor to carry out maintenance of flowerbeds/verges but this would have to be by agreement as it would impact on the majority of Council tax payers in the village.

It was apparent from the discussions with officers that no new resources would be made available at the present time to improve the current levels of environmental maintenance across the Village. They had indicated that where there were problems these continue to be reported and logged on the City Council's Envirocall system.

**RESOLVED** – That the disappointment at the response of the City Council to the concerns raised by the residents and the Parish Council be forwarded to the Cabinet Member responsible for Environmental Maintenance.

## **28. HOUSING MATTERS**

### **a) 3 Brunswick Grove**

**RESOLVED** – That the thanks and response from YHN be noted.

**b) 4 Greenside Avenue**

**RESOLVED** – That the update provided by YHN in relation to the kitchen upgrade and the current position in relation to boiler upgrades (i.e. there was no live replacement programme at present and if the property had a combi boiler they would not be updated) and if tenants had problems with their boilers they should contact the repairs team.

**c) Trees Cheviot View**

The trees in this location had been inspected as part of the walk around with officers of the City Council earlier in the week and it was unlikely that any pruning/cutting back would be carried out unless the trees were “in a dangerous condition” or damaging the roof/foundations of a property. Reference was made to the significant reduction in the already limited number of Arbor culturalists employed by the City Council.

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

**29. POLICE MATTERS**

Reference was made to allegations that were circulating in the village regarding a person who had allegedly been seen in the locality.

**RESOLVED** – That the police be contacted as a matter of urgency in relation to the comments made at the meeting.

**30. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

<b>Cheques for Signature</b>	
<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	<b>£</b>
001200	50.40

**Bank Balance at 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 £9,022.33.** (subject to pending transactions)

**RESOLVED** – That the information be noted

**31. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council be held at 7:00 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

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

Signed: -.....Chairman

Date: -.....

**Documents Available for Inspection/Review at the Meeting**

- The Clerk September 2018 Vol 49 No5