

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th JULY 2018

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

In attendance: R.J. Gray – Clerk
PC 509 - Northumbria Police
4 Residents

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

20. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th June 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

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

RESOLVED –That the City Council be advised of the details of the car that had been seen dumping “trade waste” into the litter bins detailed and be requested to take appropriate action against this person.

b) Edwin Street & George Street Back Lane

RESOLVED –That the City Council be advised of the dangers now being created as a result of the highway collapsing/sinking in two places outside Nos 9 & 14 (the drop outside No 14 was quite deep and needed attention as soon as possible).

c) Amber House

RESOLVED – That, following the complaints received at the meeting that youths/children were now accessing the empty building pushing around wheelchairs and using it as a toilet, the City Council be requested again to clarify if they have any information in relation to the ownership and future proposals for Amber House and if they were able to contact the owners of the property to ensure it was made secure.

d) Brunswick Park Community Centre

The Clerk confirmed that he had submitted the concerns raised at the last meeting of the Parish Council regarding the concerns of residents and the Parish Councillors regarding the deteriorating condition of the Community Centre and the safety issues

that had been raised. He had not yet received a response from the Cabinet member responsible for Community buildings/facilities or to the invitation to her to come out and visit/inspect the building.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and a response awaited.

e) ‘One Stop’ Shop Grey Street

Residents in the area close to the shop were now encountering problems in relation to the times delivery vehicles were coming to the shop, sometimes arriving early in the morning and having to wait until it opened in the morning before unloading. The vehicles were large and were regularly damaging bollards, street signs and lamp posts when turning around or reversing into the street to get access to the loading bay.

The Clerk reported that it was now a number of years since planning consent was granted to expand this shop into a One Stop Store and recalled that an important part of the planning consent were conditions associated with the times delivery trucks could use the loading bay in front of it.

RESOLVED – That the City Council’s Development Control Team be requested to investigate/confirm what the conditions attached to this planning consent detailed in relation to delivery times/use of the loading bay and report the current damage of the street infrastructure/fencing to the relevant Department.

f) Deteriorating Appearance of Village

Four residents were present at the meeting to raise their concerns about the appearance of the Village and the falling standards of environmental maintenance that was being carried out by the City Council.

The Clerk confirmed that these concerns had been raised at the last meeting of the Parish Council and he shared extracts of minutes from previous meetings and to letters that had been sent to the Cabinet Member responsible for environmental maintenance in the City and the service manager last year.

The residents present at the meeting raised the following issues/concerns: -

There was continued and accelerating deterioration in the environment appearance of the village. Everyone was aware of the reported problems in relation to financial pressures on the City Council however, there were areas of the City that appeared to get more resource and attention compared to the northern villages and it showed. The results of the falling standards of environmental maintenance appeared worse as the boundaries with other local Councils were in this area of the City. The planting in North Tyneside and Northumberland was highly visible and made the poor standards of environmental maintenance in Newcastle really overt.

Flower beds were still visible but had not been planted out for a number of seasons, bins were unemptied for long periods of time and fly tipping was on the increase (although not created by the City Council) the time lag for clearing up was increasing).

Weeds/Litter/Grass Cutting

Very poor standard with areas missed and strimming carried out in a hap hazard way

Grassed area in front of Rest Centre - this had now been cut but was still regularly missed as it was "difficult to get the grass cutters into the area due to the railing to assist the old people getting into the Rest Centre.

Rear of the Bungalows in Cheviot View and Greenside Avenue - Grass cutting just not being carried out.

Grass clippings left on pavements

Areas of grass being chewed up and damaged

The residents wanted Kevin and Jerry (the rapid response team) back in the Village. This service was highly praised and the "can do" attitude of the team was greatly appreciated with the officers respected for what they achieved with limited resources

Envirocall

When trying to report problems/request services through Envirocall the waiting times were extremely long. A lot of the older residents did not have access to IT and were not comfortable using it to report problems. The online reporting system was very clunky and navigation of the map to identify the location of the problem was an issue.

The Clerk confirmed he would log the complaints on the Envirocall System and write to the Cabinet Member responsible for Environmental Maintenance across the City advising him that members of the Parish Council and residents/shop owners would be willing to accompany him on a visit around the Village to share first-hand the deteriorating standards of the environment in the Village.

RESOLVED – That the concerns of the residents and the Parish Council (detailed above) be submitted to the Cabinet Member responsible for Environmental Maintenance and the various complaints/service requests be logged by the Clerk on the Envirocall System.

21. HOUSING MATTERS

a) 3 Brunswick Grove

RESOLVED – That YHN be requested to investigate the comments now made in relation to this property.

b) 4 Greenside Avenue

RESOLVED – That YHN be requested to investigate the current position of the proposed replacement of the central heating system and kitchen in this property as the tenant understood these works were to be carried out following a survey/inspection some time ago.

c) Trees Cheviot View

Residents raised their concerns and complained about the height and spread of the trees in this street. They blocked light and the leaves/pollen etc. that dropped onto rooves and pavements were causing concern.

There was also a similar problem in Martin Way/Back Cheviot View.

RESOLVED –That the YHN be requested to inspect the area and advise of the action that could be taken to improve the environmental maintenance in these particular areas.

d) Edwin Street & George Street – Highway Collapse

RESOLVED –That the City Council be advised of the dangers now being created as a result of the highway collapsing/sinking in two places outside Nos 9 & 14 (the subsidence outside No 14 was quite deep and needed attention as soon as possible).

22. POLICE MATTERS

PC 509 reported that there had been 8 crimes logged on the system in the last 5 weeks. There were none that were of a significant nature for residents to be concerned about. Following reports about cars and owners acting suspiciously in the Big Waters car park the police had increased their presence in that area.

In response to comments from residents present at the meeting he agreed to investigate the comments made regarding a property in Grey Street.

Speed watch had been in the village and PC 509 provided an update on the findings of their activity. He reported that he would ask for speed survey equipment to be located on Darrell Street as it had been some time since the last speed survey had been carried out on this stretch of road.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and the police thanked for organizing the activities reported.

23. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank Balance at 12th July 2018 £10,043.24 (subject to pending transactions)

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

24. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council be held at 7:00 pm on 12th September 2018.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Signed: -.....Chairman

Date: -.....

Documents Available for Inspection/Review at the Meeting

- LCR Summer 2018
- CPRE North East newsletter Summer 2018

- Open Space Summer 2018 Vol32 No2
- Open Spaces Annual Accounts 2017 and Invitation to AGM 5th July 2018