

BRUNSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th June 2018

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

In attendance: R.J. Gray – Clerk
J Robson - Resident

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

11. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 9th May 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS

a) Cutting Down Trees – Newcastle City Council Policy

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to clarify its policy in relation to the replacement of trees that had been cut down and if this replacement policy applied to trees that had been removed as a consequence of disease/safety reasons.

b) Amber House

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested again to clarify if they have any information in relation to the ownership and future proposals for Amber House especially as the building now had a number of damaged windows.

c) Brunswick Park Community Centre

J Robson raised her increasing concern about the deteriorating condition of the structure of the Community Centre.

From discussions and observations made when at the building there were concerns about the alarm and cameras not functioning, fire extinguishers missing, the showers not being cleaned and inspected regularly for safety reasons (they used to be checked regularly by the City Council for legionella) and about works being carried out allegedly by unqualified trades people.

Often the building appeared to be left unsecured when not in use.

The lease to Bright Minds expired in April 2018 and the City Council were in negotiations with another operator to take over the management of the facility.

Despite the Centre being advertised as open on Tuesdays it was rarely open at the times stated. With the new housing being developed in the area there could be increased demand for the use of the building.

Externally it looked shabby and there were weeds and overgrown trees and vegetation around it.

The Chairman referred to the concerns of the Parish Council in relation to the condition of the building. These had been raised with the City Council on number of occasions over the last 12 months.

The Clerk read out a response from Kim McGuiness (Cabinet member for Culture Sport and Health) who had responsibility for Community Centres/facilities) to the last correspondence with the City Council on the issue.

In relation to the maintenance of the building she had advised the Parish Council in April 2018 that Under the lease agreement with Bright Minds the Council retains responsibility for cleaning the building and repairs / maintenance. The property is operational and in good condition and repairs that have been reported by the tenant have been actioned by the Council. This has been confirmed with Bright Minds this morning (17/04/2018) Some recent electrical repair work has been completed on the boiler and the fire alarm system and the building has also been visited by the fire service for a safety check whose only action about equipment in the Centre was to remove some goal posts from the outside space.

It was suggested that Councillor McGuiness might want to visit the Centre or request officers to inspect the quality of work that had been carried out to ensure it met current safety standards for a public building.

RESOLVED – That the information now reported be noted and referred to Councillor McGuiness with an invitation for her to come and inspect the property to see the issues first hand.

d) Deteriorating Appearance of Village

Reference was made to the concerns of residents and the Parish Council about the deteriorating standards of environmental maintenance in the village. Year on Year things were getting worse and the appearance of the village was getting shabbier, including bins not being emptied regularly and grass cutting standards reaching an all-time low.

RESOLVED – That the concerns of the Parish Council be submitted to the City Council again asking if the standard of environmental maintenance in the Village could be improved.

e) Summer Bedding

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to confirm if it was going to replant the flowerbeds this year (it was confirmed that Dinnington paid the City Council to plant out its remaining flowerbeds).

f) Flat above One Stop Grey Street

This problem had now been reported to the enforcement team at Newcastle City

Council. There was a further discussion regarding the occupancy and ownership of the property. The issue had been picked up by the local press.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

g) Public Areas around the access to the Bradbury Centre

It was reported that workers from the Centre used the areas to have cigarettes and dumped the cigarette end outside of the dentists.

It was also reported that there were wine bottles in the area next to the wall. The glass in the bus shelter had also been smashed.

The hedge in front of the dentists needs to be cut back as it was encroaching significantly on the pavement.

RESOLVED – That the problems in this area be reported to the City Council with a request that it be tidied up and if necessary for the enforcement team to come and visit in relation to the discarding of cigarette ends.

h) Pavement Corner of Cheviot View and Grey Street Electrical Works

Following the installation of new electrical cable, the reinstatement works of the pavement in this area had not been good

RESOLVED – That the City Council be requested to inspect and ask for the pavement to be levelled out in this area.

13. HOUSING MATTERS

a) Martin Way – Damaged Picket Fencing

RESOLVED – That YHN be requested to repair the fencing.

b) Westfield Avenue Garages

Reference was made to this area or garages (to the rear of Cheviot View) where there was a space for a garage but it had been fenced off and was gated. A question was asked if this complied with YHN's rental terms.

RESOLVED – That YHN be requested to clarify the terms and conditions in relation to the rental of a "garage plot".

c) White Internal Door – Dumped in Front of Garages Cheviot view

RESOLVED – That the YHN be requested to remove the door.

d) Westfield Avenue – Tenancy Issue

RESOLVED – That YHN be asked to investigate the information/claims made in relation to the tenancy of a property in this street.

14. POLICE MATTERS

It was reported that there had been sightings of cars being driven off road by adults, with children in the cars where the drivers were suspected of drinking.

Reference was also made to the successful police action in catch motorcyclists riding bikes illegally off road. Details of the action had been reported at the last meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted and passed onto the Police.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Cheques for Signature

Cheque No.	Amount £
001199	206.57

Bank Balance at 11th June 2018 £10,506 (subject to pending transactions)

RESOLVED – That the information be noted

16. REST CENTRE GREENSIDE AVENUE

RESOLVED – That the City Council be advised that the boiler had been installed without a timer and that there was a carboard cutout attached around the flue of the boiler to fill the gaps around the flue and pipes (filling the hole in the ceiling. This appeared to be a potential fire hazard.

17. PLANNING APPLICATION – 2018/0692/01/DET 10 Brookside Avenue NE13 7DP

RESOLVED – That, based on the plans and application submitted to the meeting, the City Council be advised that the Parish Council had no comments to make on it.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council be held at 7:00 pm on 11th July 2018.

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

Signed: -.....Chairman

Date: -.....

Documents Available for Inspection/Review at the Meeting

- The Clerk Magazine Vol 49 No 4
- Newcastle Airport Masterplan 2035 (comments requested by 13th September 2018)
- Open Spaces Annual Subscription Renewal Invitation
- NALC 2018-19 National Salary Award