

# BROMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in Blencogo Village Hall on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 following the Annual Parish Meeting.

Present: Cllrs. I. Brough, J. Clark, R. Davison, G. Fellows, J. Lee and M. Underwood.

Also Present: K. Thurlow, Cumberland Councillor, G. Bickley, Chair of Blencogo Village Hall Committee and J. Rae (Clerk)

## **724/24 Election of Chair**

A nomination was received that Cllr G. Fellows be re-elected Chair for Council year 2024/25. As no other nominations were received it was RESOLVED that G. Fellows be re-elected for Council year 2024/25.

## **725/24 To receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr G. Fellows signed a declaration of acceptance form.

## **726/24 Appointment of Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that Cllr R. Davison be appointed Vice Chair for council year 2024/25.

## **727/24 Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Cllr I. Brough reported that he had been appointed to represent the Parish on the Thomas Nelson Charity.

## **728/24 Chairman's announcements**

None.

## **729/24 Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr. S. Lunken. The reason for absence was noted and accepted.

## **730/24 Declarations of interest**

None.

## **731/24 Requests for dispensations**

None.

## **732/24 Minutes Meeting 28 March 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **733/24 Public Participation**

Members noted that an email had been received from a member of the public who had received several harassing messages from a parishioner. The Clerk had advised that the matter should be reported to the police.

## **734/24 Reports from Outside Bodies**

Cumberland Council – Dog Fouling - Cllr Thurlow reported that Cumberland Council had confirmed that stencils had been painted on the roads in Langrigg to deter incidents of dog fouling. Cllr Underwood asked if Blencogo village could be re-done as the stencils were fading. Cllr Thurlow advised that leaflets can be provided if volunteers are willing to carry out a leaflet drop.

Cllr Thurlow also reported that the Community Panel for the area had held a catch up meeting recently. Cllr Thurlow was asked about the process for reporting potholes and why only those on the list are repaired. Cllr Thurlow advised that Highways inspect the roads on a regular basis and parishioners should continue to report highway defects on the HIAM systems on Cumberland Council's website.

Village Hall Committee – The Chair of the Village Hall Committee provided an update on the progress of the Village Hall Committee’s bid to purchase the Village Hall. Two public meetings had been held with the overwhelming majority in favour of keeping the Hall. The Diocese had confirmed the purchase price as £100,000 and the Committee had spoken with solicitors who advised the approximate cost associated with the purchase would be £10,000. The Village Hall Committee are fairly confident they will be able to raise the funds and have approached local businesses and large companies in the area for donations. Private donations have also been received. Various grants have been applied for. Unfortunately, due to the election being called on 4 July the fourth round of the UK Prosperity Fund had closed. A meeting is to be held to discuss fund raising events. The Committee would like letters of support from as many parishioners and user groups as possible. The Village Hall Committee’s accounts had been circulated and were noted

### **735/24 Financial Statement**

The financial statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 had been circulated with the agenda and was noted by members. Balance 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 - Cumberland Building Society £6250.89  
The Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer were authorised to sign the accounts book for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024.

### **736/24 Payments and Receipts**

(a) Income Received	
Cumberland Council - Half Yearly Precept	£3250.00
HMRC – VAT Refund	£ 57.70
(b) The following accounts were authorised for payment:	
Clerk’s account Quarter 1 4.24 – 30.6.24 Quarter 1	£421.30
HMRC PAYE Quarter 1 1.4.24 – 30.6.24 Quarter 1	£105.20
CALC Annual Subscription	£217.37
Internal Auditor	£ 60.00
Donation - St. Mungo’s Church towards grass cutting	£800.00

### **737/24 Standing Orders & Financial Regulations**

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were reviewed and accepted.

### **738/24 Audit Financial Year 2023-24**

- (a) Internal Audit Report - The internal audit had been carried out with no issues raised.
- (b) Annual Governance Statement – The Annual Governance Statement was considered. Members agreed that arrangements are in place for effective financial management and the accounting statements are prepared in accordance with Accounts and Audit Regulations. RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement.
- (c) Accounting Statement 2023/24 – Members agreed that the Accounting Statement represents the financial position of the parish council. RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the annual return.
- (d) Certificate of Exemption - Members resolved that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and Clerk certifying that the Parish Council is exempt from a limited assurance review and during the financial year 2023/24 the gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000.
- (e) Period of Exercise of Public Rights – Members noted that the period for the exercise of public rights will commence on 3 June and will end on 12 July. A notice will be displayed on the parish notice boards notifying electors of their rights to inspect the accounts.
- (f) Publication on website – The requisite documents will be uploaded to the parish council’s website.

### 739/24 Planning Matters

(a) Applications Received:

FUL/2024/0061 - Marshall Hall, Aspatria, Wigton, CA7 3LX

Proposal: Partial conversion of adjoining barn into living space associated with existing house.

(b) Decisions:

FUL/2024/0057 - Crooklands Farm, Bromfield, CA7 3NB

Proposed water storage tank GRANTED

FUL/2024/0046 Crooklands Farm, Bromfield, CA7 3NB

Proposal: Proposed roof over existing silage pit GRANTED

FUL/2024/0043 - Rose Acre, Heathfield, Aspatria, CA7 3SN

Proposal: Erection of general-purpose agricultural building for storage of tractor, implements, hay and animal feed. REFUSED

### 740/24 Correspondence

The following correspondence received was noted:

NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin

CALC – Allotment Survey

Cumberland Council - Environment and Climate for Cumberland Council Newsletter

CALC Newsletter

Connecting Cumbria Newsletter

Cumberland Council Updates

Cumberland Council - Public Space Protection Order and Litter Champions Event in Cumberland

Cumberland Council – Public Space Protection Order Presentation

CALC - Fibrus Community Fund

### 741/24 Highway Matters

The following matters were reported:

Blocked and overgrown drains on the Blencogo to Bromfield road.

### 742/24 Items for Discussion:

■ Broadband

A response had been received from Fibrus via the MP which advised that there are 196 premises within the parish, 97 of these are within their network build plan and are mainly within the Blencogo and Scales area. It is likely to be later next year and into 2026 before they will be able to offer full fibre network connection under the HyperfastGB build programme. Bromfield and Langrigg are categorized as being in a voucher priority area by BDUK. Cllr Davison had contacted the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology regarding the BDUK voucher scheme and received the following response: *BDUK conducts regular market reviews to obtain data about suppliers' commercial plans and to identify premises which are eligible for Project Gigabit funding. Initially, these market reviews indicated that Bromfield and Langrigg were included in at least one suppliers' commercial plans. This meant they were not eligible for Project Gigabit at that time. However, the latest market review data*

*indicates that these plans will no longer be delivered as expected. Therefore, BDUK are currently working with Fibrus to bring as many eligible premises in these areas into the Project Gigabit contract as possible. For any remaining premises that cannot be covered by this contract, and which also are not going to be connected through the commercial market, we will seek to connect through alternative interventions. This may include reopening the voucher scheme.*

- Donation Request – Churchyard Maintenance Bromfield Church  
Members considered the request received from St. Mungo's Church, Bromfield for financial assistance towards the grass cutting at the churchyard. RESOLVED that £800 be granted.
- Cumberland Council (Footpath No 217001 Parish of Bromfield) Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2024  
Members noted that the above order had been confirmed by Cumberland Council.
- Assurance re Langrigg defibrillator  
Cllr J. Clark enquired about the procedure for the maintenance of the defibrillator at Langrigg. Cllr Brough reported that he was the guardian and undertook the regular checks and reporting.
- Speed of farm vehicles, damage to grass verges and street furniture –Langrigg  
Cllr Clark asked if there was anything that can be done regarding the speed of farm vehicles and reported there had been a few instances of farm vehicles speeding in the area and road signs had been damaged caused by farm machinery. It was agreed that the farming community would be asked to be more considerate to other road users.
- Village Hall Projects  
The Village Hall accounts had now been received and were noted by Members.
- Account Signatories  
Cllr Davison had completed the mandate form from CBS to be added as an authorised signatory. The form was signed by two existing signatories and will be forwarded to Cumberland Building Society to update the account.
- Vacancies - Members noted that there are two vacancies on the Council following the disqualification under the six-month rule of Brian Sharp and Philip Batch. A by-election to fill the vacancies will be held if, within 14 working days from the date of the publication of the Notice of Vacancy, ten electors for the Parish give notice, in writing requesting such an election to the Returning Officer. If no such notice is given, the Parish Council must fill the vacancies by co-option as soon as practicable after the period of 14 days.

#### **743/24 Items for the Next Agenda**

No new items were raised.

#### **744/24 Date and time of the Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall, Blencogo on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2024.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm