

# BRIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Brigham Parish 2024

### 1. Chairpersons' report

Chairperson Light thanked the Councillors for all their hard work over the past year and read out her report.

The Parish Council have had an active year even though there are 3 vacancies. The Working Parties have endeavoured to deal with any issues, and we have welcomed a new Councillor who has become involved in the Community consultation. Vice-chair Wilson is now on the CALC committee which has improved communication. Cllr Greaves publication of the Parish flier continues to be delivered to all residents. A new swing was installed in the playpark and is a well-used community resource. We have received and handed over the original ceremonial key to the Memorial Hall to the Memorial Hall Committee, which will be used in their 100-year celebrations in November. Several Cllrs are regularly attending the monthly 'Book and Brew' at the Memorial Hall to engage with residents, and this has proved to be very useful. The Parish Council is also working with neighbouring Parish Councils to attempt to progress the agreement for a Brigham/Broughton roundabout.

### 2. Clerks report

Clerk Holliday agreed with Chairperson Lights report and agree that all the Cllr's had, had a busy year with a lot of positive outcomes.

### 3. Working parties and sub-committee reports

#### Planning

Application FUL/2023/0025, for the (many times refused) building in field 0005 behind High Rigg and Ellerbeck Brow, was surprisingly approved just as Allerdale folded and Cumberland Council came to life.

A barn at Stoneybeck, (AGR/2023/0036), a play barn at Wellington Farm (FUL/2023/0237), an extension at School Brow (HOU/2024/0011), another at High Brigham (HOU2023/0162) and one at the Wheatsheaf Garage (FUL/2023/0252) have all been commented on. We are aware that Cumberland have had pre-planning discussions about commercial and leisure changes at the east Quarry and we await formal notification as a statutory consultee. The permitted development of the Fibre Broadband network and associated road-digging (TEL/2023/0315 etc.) has been noted. WTP0/2024/0016 – Trees at Hotchberry Road, Brigham, LBC/2024/0013 – bathroom at Westgate, a porch on High Rigg and a porch at School Brow, HOU/2024/0011 have also been commented on.

This brings a total of 11 applications with only one objection (this 'one' being in line with Allerdale's policies and as previously agreed by the Government twice...) and we continue to apply our Planning Checklist that we run through with all applications (as part of our commitment to the environment) to help support an increased range of biodiversity habitats in the construction of new building in the parish.

There has been no action from Cumberland's Kerry McCartney about the dead Ash Tree close to Gratone's garden. We suspect it may have had a contribution to the flooding problems there, but that situation seems resolved now by the owners and the risk it poses is now one of falling.

The annual review of the grids and gullies around the parish has been completed and reports submitted (from the public too) to Cumberland about the condition of the grids/access covers on the road network. For example, we have EI/204427 where the road surface appears to be collapsing around the grid.

The 'development' in the east quarry could have an effect on the routing of the water from High Rigg since GDB Civils have shared the idea of a not-for-profit scheme to divert the Highways water which flows directly into that quarry from an outlet near the former shop near The Square.

### Open Spaces

One footpath remains closed: FP216001 at Quarry Bank to Greysouthen and this is because of the condition of the walls and bridge on that route at the High Brigham end of the path. We have benefitted from the walking and excellent reporting of the public this year, as in previous years.

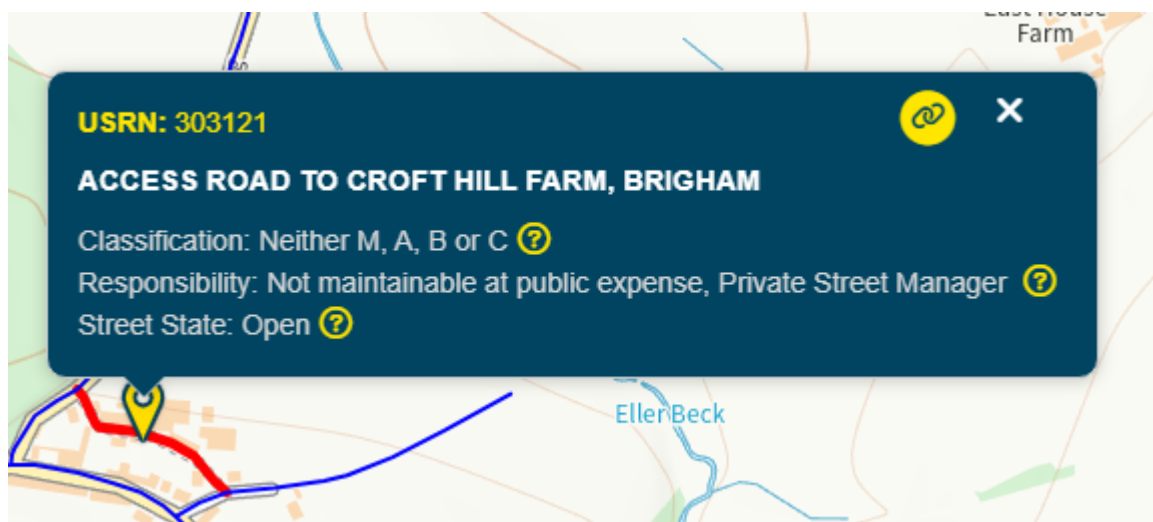
The situation with Mr Winstanley and the Broughton Cross Recreational Area trustees is unresolved but we have to park this issue as we cannot see the paperwork nor have we had any positive support from the Charity Commission.

Request EI/132698 remains submitted but unresolved with Highways to try and reduce the amount of long and/or wide vehicles coming through the parish following Satnav, for example down Hotchberry Road or along High Brigham, by installing road signage saying 'narrow road ahead' etc.

A meeting has been held with our MP on the subject of the A66 Roundabout and a strong presentation made from Broughton Parish Council to the Highways team from Manchester. The funding situation could be affected by the re-distribution of Government money from the stalled HS2 railway fund, but the situation is not clear, despite the land already being purchased.

There has been little progress on the issue of the installation of a gate on Barr's Lane along the stretch by Croft Hill Farm. Neighbours were surprised by this as it seems out-of-line with the land owned by the Farm. Cumberland have opened and closed an investigation into it, so it has become a private matter, and we are aware solicitor's letters are being exchanged. The introduction of intrusive, steerable CCTV has become a police matter and signage has appeared.

From 'find my street' website, which is created in association with the local government, this is the position of Barr's Lane, High Brigham and Cockermouth Lonning. The unadopted road is shown in red.



The parish council's view of the unadopted road is that it's a narrow lane (a sign on High Brigham says 'restricted' meaning 'narrow') and it is part of the highway network over which all people have a right to pass and repass. It may be an access lane to Croft Hill Farm but there are private residences on it with 'High Brigham' addresses and it is not a private street, so no one owns it and so development, including gates, can

only be on land owned by the property owner. No evidence has been received that the gate installed in 2023 is on anything other than public land but Cumberland Highways has declined to be involved as they say it's not their responsibility and Cumberland Planning have visited, assessed the gate as being too high but have declined to act as they're unconcerned by the narrowing of the lane the gate's positioning has caused.

Potholes remain a source of much public dissatisfaction across the County, not just in our parish, e.g. EI/202421 which seems to be a previous 'jet patcher' repair gone wrong again. Recent reports include the road surface outside the school and the trip hazards on the crossings there, EI/204435.

In an early-2024 presentation made by Cumberland Council's Neil Dixon and Paul Shearsby, Enforcement Team, we were pleased to learn that the whole of Cumberland will be designated an area where the evidence of non-picking of dog waste and/or incorrect disposal will become the subject of Public Space Protection Orders. This will be applied to 'persistent' offences in other areas too, such as camping and busking.

The Play Park is in reasonable repair although there are some jobs to do. Overhanging branches on the access road were trimmed back by the adjacent landowner this year. The few jobs that do need doing have been assessed by a village handyman and we have approached the school to press their grass-cutter to complete the job around the periphery of the Play Park fencing.

We are aware of the threat of Ash Dieback around the parish and continue to monitor and offer advice.

We have been asked to look at funding (or raising a grant) for a new bus shelter on Low Road by the bus-user's group.

### **Communication**

We are about to deliver issue 58 of the flier and the volunteer deliverers' team is ten-strong. There remain two houses in the parish who do not wish to receive one.

Cllr Wilson is now a director of CALC.

The ceremonial Memorial Hall key from 1924's opening ceremony was returned to the Hall Committee after being sent in by a former resident now living in Devon. This year ahead will see the centenary of the War Memorial Hall's opening and issue 58 of the flier has an article about Cllr John Williamson who was instrumental in the financing of the Hall, starting back in 1919.

Tendley Quarry night working and out-of-hours working is being communicated via 'The Brig', Facebook.

On the first Wednesday of each month the Memorial Hall holds its Book & Brew drop-in session and we have adopted a table at this public meet-up to be present for them to speak to us. We generally issue informal notes on what's happened there because it acts as a 'between-meetings-meeting'.

A parish-wide survey and questionnaire was raised and distributed this year. The response was low – we have come to expect relatively low-levels of engagement with the community, and we have established the potential for litter-picking and invasive species-clearing teams, plus we have received direction on the thorny issue of grass-cutting which is helpful.

### **Finance**

Our 2024 Precept has been increased 1% to £12,000, but this is at a lower level than the main council's monies again and agreed by Cumberland, who gave, as ever, little time to do this.

We are now not in the search area for the Allerdale GDF and so no more grants are possible from them, but opportunities may open up through the Cumberland Community Panels and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

Donations have been made to Citizens Advice, Playgroup and the Church for cemetery grass cutting but rely on organisations requesting funding before November's meeting.

#### **4. Cumberland Councillor report**

Cllr Andrew Semple sent a report to be read out.

##### **Brigham roundabout**

A roundabout at the junction of the A66 remains a top priority for me and all local councillors. We still await guidance from the Department for Transport about the government's guidance and it remains the case that no funding will be released until June 2025. I am in close contact with the Highways portfolio holder Cllr Rollo and as soon as we have information to share, I'll make sure I closely consult with the parish council.

##### **Traffic Regulations Order (TRO)**

I expect a meeting in the next two weeks with Highways about the TRO which should take place in September and this includes the request for a new sign at Broughton Cross.

##### **Lakes to Sea Community Panel**

Our Community Panel – Lakes to Sea ( council wards of Bothel and Wharrels, Broughton and Dearham, Cockermouth North, Cockermouth South, Keswick, Maryport North, Maryport South) is chaired by Councillor Andrew Semple. Community Panels are a way of listening to our communities and directing investment where it is needed most. This new process puts local people at the hearts of decision making and supports Cumberland Council's focus on health and wellbeing. Our panel meets four times a year, to decide what our communities need and to direct investment towards projects that tackle those priorities. In our first year we have agreed our priorities which are:

- Transport for the Community
- Community Health and Wellbeing
- Community Involvement
- Community Resilience

The Cumberland Council Executive, in May 2023, recommended and agreed that all Community Panels have the delegated authority to approve grant applications funded from a new Neighbourhood Investment Fund. The intention also is to set up and nurture a Community Network of residents, businesses, third sector partners. We are currently recruiting independent members for co-option to the Lakes to Sea Community Panel. In summary: In the last 12 months (see attached appendix for financial investments for the Cockermouth area)

- Part of Cumberland Council's aim to establish 8 Community Panels (sub committees of the Executive) to create local decision making and local focus
- Currently recruiting up to 3 co-opted members. (5 out of the 8 panels are co-opting this year)
- Community engagement throughout the panel area to assist with the setting of priorities and key themes
- Distributed £60,183 across 20 organisations. Applications ranged from £300 to £10,000
- Set up community networks (engagement arm of the panels)
- Formed neighbourhood investment plan (new and will be developed in coming year)

**5. Members of the public invited to speak**

None

**6. Members of the Council invited to speak**

No further comments

**7. Date of next meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024**