

Brigham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th November 2024

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mrs M. Light, Mr D. Wilson, Mr J. Myers, Miss S. Simcox and Mr S. Morris

CLERK: Mrs D. Holliday

1. Apologies of absence notified to the Clerk

Cllrs Greaves and Semple. The Council accepted their apologies.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th August 2024 and the Extraordinary meeting on the 23rd September 2024

Proposed by Cllr Myers and seconded by Cllr Wilson.

Extraordinary meeting, proposed by Chairperson Light and seconded by Cllr Wilson.

Signed as a true record by Chairperson Light.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes held on the 6th August 2024

None

4. To receive declarations of interest in respect of Matters on the Agenda

None

The meeting will be suspended to allow the public to speak

2 members of the Parish attended to hear what was said at the Tendley Quarry Liaison meeting and had opportunity to meet the new general manager.

5. Police Matters

Clerk Holliday updated the Cllrs on the arson attack at the playpark. The decision on charging the 3 suspects has not been decided yet.

6. Cumberland Councillor

Not present.

7. Correspondence

All relevant emails are forwarded to the Cllrs.

8. Financial Matters

Clerk Holliday showed the Cllrs the banking details. The budget remains in line with the 3-year budget.

Yearly precept discussed and agreed to a 2% increase, which is well below inflation. This would result in an increase of £250 to £12,250.

Clerk Holliday to await Council Tax information in January to confirm figures prior to submitting precept application.

9. Donations

Clerk Holliday provided details of requested donations. There was some discussion, and the decisions were to agree:

Brigham Playgroup - £100

Citizen's Advice - £100

10.Planning Applications and Decision Notices

Ref: Ful/2024/0209

Location: Yew Tree House, Broughton Cross

Description: Alterations and extensions to first floor and subdivision of property into two dwellings

Parish Council: No objections

Ref: FUL/2024/0192

Location: The Fitz, Low Road

Description: New housing development of 47 dwellings

Parish Council: Object. Comments given.

11.A66 Roundabout update

See Cllr Wilson's report: Appendix 1 which was read out at the meeting.

Cllr Wilson asked the Cllrs to consider; what actions do we want to take, as the junction continues to not be fit for purpose? Chairperson Light informed the Cllrs she had contacted Broughton Parish Council to ask for a joint Parish meeting.

There was some discussion, and it was agreed to contact our new MP for support and continue to try and arrange joint meeting with Broughton Parish Council.

Cllr Wilson to contact MP

Chairperson Light to contact Broughton Parish Council Chairperson

12.Community Plan update

Cllr Wilson updated the Cllrs on the actions from the Community Plan and asked Cllrs to attend the next meeting with their actions from their working party responsibilities.

13.CALC update

Cllr Wilson updated the Cllrs on the CALC AGM held on the 15th of November. A report has been circulated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. The main priority is to establish the working relationship between Cumberland Council, CALC and the Parish/Town Councils.

14.Tendley Quarry Liaison update

Cllr Myers updated the Council on his and Chairpersons attendance at the yearly liaison meeting. The main updates include:

- The company has purchased land which potentially brings the quarry about 800 metres closer to properties in the parish.

- The management is about to start the process of “scoping opinion” as an initial stage in seeking planning permission to:
 - a. extend their planning permission for a further 16 years. Their current permission will enable them to extend their operations from 2029 to 2034. They will apply for this to be further extended to 2050.
 - b. quarry in the land they have purchased. They have decided to quarry a deep seam that runs under their existing land into the land they have recently purchased. Permission is required to work this seam under their new land.
- The management have analysed the impact on the drainage in the parish if they gain planning permission. They believe it will have no impact. The flow of water from their proposed workings will use the same course they currently use. The water will continue to flow towards the Derwent beyond Stoney Beck towards Great Clifton and outside the parish boundaries. They were advised that it would be worthwhile for them to have a full understanding of the drainage in the Parish.
- The restoration work continues on previously quarried land. The work so far completed is impressive.
- The current extension is approved until 2035, and the northern extension would increase this to 2050.

Gary McNeeley, the new General Manager of Tendley Quarries attended the meeting to explain the information in more detail and advised the Cllrs of the proposed planning application. He agreed to a public consultation when the process was at the most relevant point. He explained that new blasting techniques would improve safety and reduce the noise and over pressure and improve productivity. He further explained that the shudders homeowners experience is due to the change in air pressure and is well below the figures which are likely to cause damage.

15.Update from Council's working parties

- 2 new bus shelters have been approved and Clerk Holliday met with the company to agree designs and location. Unfortunately, funding has been put on hold to the new year.
- Speed indicator-Clerk Holliday showed the Cllrs the results from the speed indicator at Derwent Row. Although, the indicator didn't show significant speeding when in 'stealth' mode, there was a significant drop in speeds once the sign was turned on.
- Still no update on a new sign at Broughton Cross
- Bin on Low Road needs to be replaced as missing its lid. New bin purchase agreed.
- Emergency Plan sent to new contact in Westmorland and Cumberland Council.

16.Brigham Memorial Hall Centenary

The centenary event success was discussed at the meeting. Over 200 people attended and received a commemorative mug, funded by Tendley Quarries and Holmen Iggesund.

17. Christmas Lights competition

Cllrs all agreed to run the competition again this year.

Best Garden - £25

Best Window - £25

Best Overall - £25

Judging to be held on the 22nd December.

17.Members Queries

No new queries

19. Date of next Meeting: 11th February 2025

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix 1

A66 Roundabout Update

Prior to the general election of July 2024, the then Conservative Government had diverted HS2 monies of £147M over 7 years to Cumberland Council for transport infrastructure projects. The Brigham/Broughton junction was mentioned in a press release as one such project. The then Conservative MP for Workington, Mark Jenkinson, publicly expressed his support for the project and pressed Cumberland Council to allocate funds towards the junction to 'unlock' National Highways funding. It was, after all, "shovel ready" with plans and land purchases already in place.

On the issue of the Roundabout, we continue to enjoy the support, not only of our elected representatives on Cumberland Council (Cllrs. Andrew Semple, Cockermouth South and Dr. Martin Harris, Dearham & Broughton), who are committed to helping all they can, but also newly elected MP, Markus Campbell-Savours. It is also true to say that representatives of National Highways remain very supportive of a roundabout and believe it is the right way forward. However,

further progress is dependent, not only on the availability of funding, but on the evidence provided by data analysis.

Whilst waiting for decisions to be made regarding funding at national and 'county' level, National Highways have pressed ahead with work they are committed to carry out. There was enough evidence, perhaps from our own traffic surveys carried out by Parish Councillors in the summer of 2023, and subsequent modelling of the data by Nigel Clubley (Chair of Broughton Parish Council), for them to review the existing traffic model. The first stage of this was to collect new and robust traffic count information. Video equipment was installed to observe the "non-standard" manoeuvres our surveys had highlighted in 2023 and traffic surveys were carried out by WSP Consultants, on behalf of National Highways, on the 16th and 17th April 2024.

The new traffic data was used to update the traffic model, using a sophisticated modelling tool, and rerun the economic appraisal to determine the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) for the proposed roundabout. In simple terms the closer this figure gets to 1 the better. The previous BCR was 0.58, the new figure had increased to 0.68, but this is still not at a level where National Highways would be able to justify the investment required to construct the roundabout.

A BCR of 0.68 is a step in the right direction, but it is still disappointing news. Nevertheless, there are questions to be asked and actions to be taken. We are told that an extensive housing development at Derwent Forest, west of Broughton, would make a difference, indeed this has been mentioned by Cllr. Mark Fryer, Leader of Cumberland Council. However, this was never a factor when the roundabout was first proposed, and land was being purchased. Back then the roundabout had been justified on safety grounds alone. Only when funding was sought did this become the over-riding factor along with the "disbenefits" of delays caused by the roundabout to through traffic.