

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2005

Present: Councillors Sayce, Barwick-Bell, Chainey, Davison, Hall, Hedley, Martin, Wade, Warhurst-Walker.
Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: District Councillor Mrs A Dale, Hexham Courant Reporter - Helen Compson, Journal Reporter - Amy Hunt

Apologies: Councillors Drew and Levitt, District Councillor Mike Collins.

The meeting began at 7.00 p.m. with a special meeting held to discuss proposals regarding "no waiting restrictions" for Birches Nook Road. This part of the meeting was attended by 28 residents (7 from Birches Nook Cottages, 3 from Glen Avenue/Main Road, 11 from Birches Nook Road), parish councillors and Jim Long, Engineer - Traffic Management of the County Council.

The notes on this meeting are at the end of these minutes.

The Parish Council meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Mrs Sayce opened the meeting by apologising to those members who had not been informed of the death of Councillor Bill Bouch. She went on to say that everyone had appreciated the hard work and contribution that Bill had made to the Parish Council and the village. She then asked for a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Bouch.

05/46 Declarations of Interest -

Councillor Mrs Anne Davison declared an interest in a planning application for a porch for her own house, 11 Birches Nook Road.

05/47 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September were agreed as a true record. Concern was expressed about the legality of reporting that the garage was to be prosecuted. It was however agreed that the Minutes were a record of what had been said and the prosecution was a matter of fact.

05/48 Matters Arising -

It was reported that there continued to be trouble at Kate's Plain and with young people playing on the railway track.

05/49 Public Participation

County Councillor Thompson advised that papers had been taken from the newsagent's early on Saturday morning and thrown into Branch End Play Area. He felt there was a need to send a letter to the police raising concerns about such events, highlighting the fact that the newsagent's livelihood was put at risk by such behaviour, and stressing that this was not the first time that such an event had occurred.

05/50 Correspondence

A letter had been received from Graham Ashley requesting that steps be taken to take out Tree Preservation Orders on trees in the field below Branch End Play Area. This was agreed.

Mr Thompson suggested that the birch trees in the bottom corner of Branch End Play Area were blocking the view from Garroway.

05/51 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

As a result of the death of Councillor Bill Bouch, it was agreed to start the process to elect a new parish councillor. Councillors were asked to advise possible interested candidates.

Parish Plan - a brief report was circulated at the meeting. A Parish Appraisal had been published in 1997, and if work were to begin now, a revised appraisal or parish plan could possibly be published in 2007. Its purpose would be to identify the aspirations and needs of residents, individually and in groups, and also the people and organisations who could or should meet those needs and aspirations.

It was recommended and agreed that further information be obtained about the current funding arrangements and conditions and the time scale for the funding programme; and also that the possible involvement of students at Prudhoe Community High School be discussed with the School as part of a "bridge building" opportunity.

Mrs Warhurst-Walker offered to look at what "citizenship" in the school curriculum involves.

Planting for planters is to be deferred until November.

New seat on New Ridley Road - Mrs Warhurst-Walker offered to speak to the land owner about the possibility of siting a seat at the bottom of Charlton's drive.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

BOATS - Councillor Chainey outlined the latest position.

Apperley Track - The County Council would have been prepared to look at the possibility of change of status to a bridleway. The owner of the land does not wish this to be considered and therefore the County must follow the BOAT route.

BOAT 48 at Kipperlyn will be a designated BOAT.

BOAT 45 past Christmas Cottage - it might be possible to look at a diversion of this route during the "window of opportunity" created by the delay between confirming the route as a BOAT by the court and the final confirmation. However all relevant landowners would have to be consulted and agree to the proposals - the cost to the applicant might be £900. It was proposed, and agreed that nothing further be done until the owner of the land had made a formal application. The status of the route as a footpath remains unchanged.

BACK LANE - there is now no way in which the route over the Back Lane can be extinguished. The possibility of the residents and Northumbrian Water coming to a wayleave agreement has been overtaken by events. Mr Chainey agreed to investigate possible courses of action with regard to the Back Lane. It was stressed that users have the right to pass along the Back Lane but not to congregate in it.

The barrier at the bottom of the path adjacent to Kimberley Gardens has still not been repaired. Tim Fish is to be asked about this - councillors were concerned that this was a safety issue.

The next meeting of the Footpaths Group is on 10th October. Tim Fish is to be asked what is happening about FP13.

c) Play Facilities Group

A spreadsheet of work required to be done on the play areas was circulated and the recommended actions agreed. Mrs Davison was thanked for drawing up the spreadsheet.

Branch End Play Area

Branch End Play Area Regeneration Group - the group will continue with its efforts to raise funds for at least a further two months and until decisions on outstanding funding applications have been received. It was noted that a play area at Haydon Bridge had been developed as part of a village green project which had widened the scope for funding. Offers in kind are to be included in the amount of funds promised. The next meeting of the Group is on 6th October.

It was agreed that Brendan Foster should be asked to "paint in" the fund raising on the BEPA thermometer.

There is no planning gain for the remainder of the Parish from the Broomley development. Any gain is in Broomley itself. County Councillor Thompson can only fund new projects from the Small Improvement Grants.

Mrs Davison is to get prices for a self-closing metal gate for BEPA.

It was agreed to repair the Twist at a total cost of £277 plus VAT.

Kate's Plain

A letter had been published in the Courant highlighting the current problems at Kate's Plain. It was accepted that residents of Brumwell Court and Mount View Terrace were suffering as a result of the anti-social behaviour of a few young people. It was acknowledged that Kate's Plain is secluded and "out of sight".

There had been further damage to the fences and gate. The damage has been reported to the police. A claim is to be made against the insurance but it was felt that the insurance would not keep paying out for future claims of this nature. Nor was it felt to be satisfactory for parish council and residents to have to bear the cost of repeated repairs. The play area had been closed early on Friday 30th September with the agreement of the Chair. There had been people drinking alcohol in the field and trouble had been reported to the police.

The question of smaller goals being provided was discussed. Clarification was needed about the age group for whom the goal posts were provided.

Living Spaces are to make an inspection of Kate's Plain on 27th October.

Work on the new seats for Kate's Plain is to start immediately.

Mrs Sayce and Mrs Davison are to be invited to Prudhoe Community High School.

Tynedale are to be asked about current legislation on drinking on play areas.

A letter is to be written to the police seeking clarification on the latest law on playgrounds and streets and the treatment of young people.

Tynedale Local Development Framework - Mrs Sayce outline the options set out in the documents and Mrs Dale explained the documentation - Mrs Sayce, Mrs Davison and Mr Hall are to study the documents and formulate a response.

d) Sports Facilities Group

Skate Park - a brief report was circulated at the meeting. The Parish Council has tried for over a year without success to identify any area of land which could be used for a Skate Park without diminishing the quality of life for nearby residents. In the light of existing heavy commitments for both funding and members' time, it was recommended and agreed that no further time be spent on the possible creation of a Skate Park in the Parish unless or until there is a major change in relevant circumstances. It was understood that should a skate park be developed at Mickley it would be open to anyone who wished to use it.

e) Planning & Highways

The Planning Report had been circulated.

It was agreed to monitor the situation with regard to the advertising signs on the A695.

There were no objections to the planning applications submitted.

No Waiting at Cross Street - Mrs Warhurst Walker advised that some residents were opposing the proposals for waiting restrictions on Cross Street. It was alleged that employees of the shops were parking all day in the bays. It was asked if there could be residents' only parking behind Alexandra Terrace. If parking on Cross Street is lost then residents of Alexandra Terrace will suffer. It was felt that yellow lines on Cross Street should make access to the back of Alexandra Terrace easier. It was noted that the Parish Council had received no comments either in favour of or objecting to the proposals for No Waiting on Cross Street. It

was felt that the back of Alexandra Terrace could be marked as a private road and the householders could arrange for a notice to that effect to be erected.

Statement of community Involvement - the Planning & Highways Group is to look at this documentation and agreed a response.

Advertising Light Boxes - it was agreed that where these have been erected on shop walls the situation will be monitored to ensure that they are turned off at night time.

f) Communication

Newsletter - it was reported that readers were finding this an interesting communication containing useful information.

Website - it was agreed to defer discussion on this.

g) Council Representatives

Councillor Chainey reported on the recent meeting of the Eastern Parishes Forum. He advised that discussions had been held on:

- Ovingham Bridge - there is no prospect of a replacement. If the bridge closed there is no alternative river crossing from Prudhoe.

- Wind Turbines - there is a tendency to oppose these because of the scenic value of the Northumberland countryside.

- Review of the Forum and its purposes - the Forum might be restructured to include Prudhoe. It provides a platform where matters of common interest can be discussed. The next meeting of the Forum is in November and Ian Hall will attend.

05/52 Finance

The Accounts for September were accepted.

Additional payments were agreed:

Burlinson Print	£155.10	
Robin Watson Sign & Design		£152.75
Glasdon (U.K.) Ltd		£178.20
Harrod (UK) - £880 to be refunded by Football Club - Parish Council to reclaim VAT		£1034.00

05/53 Other business

A suggestion had been received that a named resident, who has done a lot for the economy and profile of the North East, should be put forward for an honour.

05/54 Date of Next Meeting:

7th November 2005

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Notes on the Meeting held with residents of Birches Nook, Parish Councillors and Jim Long of the Northumberland County Council, prior to the meeting of the Parish Council on 3rd October.

28 residents (7 from Birches Nook Cottages, 3 from Glen Avenue/Main Road, 11 from Birches Nook Road) and parish councillors attended the meeting.

Mrs Sayce, Chairman of the Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming those present and Jim Long, Engineer - Traffic Management of the County Council.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposals by the County Council to introduce No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on Birches Nook Road.

Mr Long opened his remarks by stating that currently the proposals were proposals and that nothing was set in stone. The County had already received a few responses to the proposals put forward.

Residents comments:

(Glen Avenue) - The proposal will chase more cars into the bus lay-by. The lay-by had been built following compulsory purchase of land on Glen Avenue. A single yellow line had been promised at the time of construction of the lay-by but had never materialised. Usually two County Council vans are parked in the lay-by - these have now disappeared but may well return. At night-time and weekends the bus lay-by is full of parked cars and the bus drivers cannot see passengers. He also alleged that houses in Birches Nook Cottages were being advertised for sale with parking available opposite.

(Birches Nook Road) - Is in favour of the proposal. There have been near misses at the junction. She is concerned that the proposals will result in parked cars moving up the hill and impeding access to driveways on Birches Nook Road.

(Birches Nook Road) - Something needs to be done at the junction. Also concerned about the blind summit on the brow of the hill in Birches Nook Road and access to driveways. There is a need to think of the implications of the proposals.

(Birches Nook Cottages) - Agree with the proposal in principle but concerned that the problem will be transferred to higher up Birches Nook Road and onto the Main Road. Could there be marked spaces except for where near the road narrows and designated parking for residents of Birches Nook Cottages.

(Birches Nook Cottages) - there are 9 cars belonging to Birches Nook Cottages. If they park on the Main Road it could impact on the trade of the shops at Birches Nook. 600 plus vehicles an hour pass through Birches Nook in the mornings. There are existing laws to prevent parking on the junction - this is a police matter.

(Birches Nook Road) - the refuse collection cannot always take place on Fridays and bins have to be left out on Birches Nook Road until arrangements can be made for a special collection. Alternative collections cost money.

County Councillor - Single yellow lines only operate until 6 p.m.

(Birches Nook Cottages) - has a flexible working pattern and is concerned about her personal safety if she has to park far away from her property. Also concerned about the condition of the road surface and asked if street lighting could be provided on Birches Nook Road.

(Birches Nook Road) - Refuse vehicle is not the only wide vehicle which might require access. Ambulances and fire engines are also wide. Birches Nook Road is also narrow further up the hill.

(Birches Nook Cottages) - The bin wagon has a problem at the narrowest part of the road. Fire engines are 8_ ft wide.

Parking for the nursery must have been an issue when planning permission had originally been given.

(Fern Hollow) - Nursery employees park further up the road to allow parents to pull into the nursery car park. She has grave concerns if yellow lines are put on the road. Parents cannot be asked to park on Main Road when dropping off children.

(Birches Nook Road) - supports the proposal ? but thinks it does not go far enough. Yellow lines need to be supplemented by others and in the hammer head - so parking is clearly demarcated. There is probably enough space for regular users.

County Councillor - asked if parking areas could be allocated to particular households and that visitors were given passes.

Chairman - felt that there were few houses on Birches Nook Road without sufficient on-site parking. Most parking would be required by residents of Birches Nook Cottages and employees of the nursery.

(Glen Avenue) - again stressed the need for single yellow lines in the bus lay-by and said that there were 16 vehicles belonging to residents of North View Terrace and Glen Avenue. He also expressed concern at the speed of vehicles coming up Aspen Bank.

(Birches Nook Road) - would hate to have to park on Birches Nook Road on cold wet winter nights - would probably park on the Main Road.

If drivers parked for long periods outside the butcher he can lose £500 in takings in a morning.

(Birches Nook Road) - Drives on each side of Birches Nook Road are "stepped" which could cause problems. Need to take a big swing to get into some of the drives and available space is limited.

(Birches Nook Road) - could residents of Birches Nook Cottages not find space within their own sites to park. Safety for all road users is paramount.

County Councillor - suggested that Mr Long and his colleagues together with Mr Thompson, himself, should consider the proposals and alternative suggestions.

Police should be asked to look at alleged parking offences at the junction and on Birches Nook Road.

Mrs Sayce closed this part of the meeting and thanked residents for their contributions and Jim Long for attending.