

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7th November 2005

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

Also present: District Councillor Mrs A Dale, County Councillor Ray Thompson, Hexham Courant Reporter - Helen Compson, 6 members of the public, WPC V Byrne.

Apologies: Councillor Wade, District Councillor Mike Collins.

05/55 Declarations of Interest -

None

05/56 Minutes

Subject to amendments to those present and those apologising for absence the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October were agreed as a true record.

05/57 Matters Arising -

Councillor Thompson advised that all the bus stops had been remarked and that positioning of yellow lines was under review.

It was reported that the barrier at the end of the footpath at Kimberley Gardens had still not been repaired. Mrs Davison is to check this.

New Seat on New Ridley Road - nothing to report

Tynedale Local Development Framework - Statement of Community Involvement. - the Parish Council had nothing to add to this document.

05/58 Public Participation

4 of the members of the public present had attended to raise concerns over disturbance and nuisance by young people on Kate's Plain and around the Guessburn/Mount View Terrace Area.

It was alleged that there were still people in the play area at 9.30 on the most recent Friday evening. During half-term week it had been quiet.

PC Byrne commented that this topic had been raised at every Parish Council meeting since May. She said that police, and youth outreach workers, are in the area every Friday and that on 90% of occasions no criminal offences were being committed. She said that when residents ring in to the police several call are referring to the same incident. She stressed that the play area is a public place and the public cannot therefore be excluded from it. PC Byrne also intimated that new legislation on consumption of alcohol in public places was being considered for both Branch End Play Area and Kate's Plain. Mrs Dale offered to ask Tynedale's advice about recent legislation on congregating in public places. PC Byrne advised that although bad language might not be acceptable it was not something which could be addressed by the police. She did however agree that residents might feel threatened by shouted abuse.

Councillors asked what parents felt when their children were brought home by the police and were told that some were shocked whilst others appeared to be indifferent. Concern was expressed that there appeared to be no feed back from the parents of the young people. It was stressed that Kate's Plain had been a play area since at least 1974 and that the current equipment had been installed as a result of a fund raising drive by a group of hard-working, committed parents.

It was felt that access was being gained to Kate's Plain through the field. It was stressed that there was no right of access through the field and that the apparent pathway had been defined by the grass cutters, cutting a route through. The Parish Council is still awaiting notification from the insurance company about

repairs to the fence. The estimated cost of the repairs is around £300 and the damage was reported to the police and is being investigated. The Handyman is being paid to lock and unlock the play area.

One resident asked if the problems persisted, what the Parish Council and police were prepared to do about them and suggested that if a solution could not be found then, the play area should be shut down.

Ref. No: 2005 1229 - Burnside Yard, Main Road

Change of use of redundant Joiners Shop to one dwelling and construction of three new dwellings.

Mr & Mrs Gleadhill expressed concern about the detail of the application for the development at Burnside Yard.

The application was discussed in some detail and a summary of the discussion is included in the Planning Report for the December meeting.

Roads

Councillor Thompson advised that resurfacing of Meadowfield and Apperley Roads had been delayed because of re-servicing requirements. It was however hoped that this work would be completed by the end of December. Mr Thompson would welcome requests for repairs so that they could be prioritised for the next financial year.

Re-surfacing of footpaths - it was claimed that the path from New Ridley Road to Tynedale Gardens was dangerous and slippery as a result of it being tarmacked. It was suggested that the matter would be improved by the erection of a handrail.

BOATS - Mr Chainey advised that the County believed that no 48 could be come a restricted byway rather than a BOAT.

05/59 Correspondence

The following had been received and had been circulated/tabled:

NCC re Local Transport Plan 2006-11 - comments were required by 23rd December. Comments should be sent to Councillor Chainey.

Tynedale - Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme 06/07 - comments required by 25th November, Mrs Dale advised that Tynedale Councillors were to look at the parking strategy and she will ask about transport integration. It was suggested that it would be helpful to know the results of previous enquiries before commenting on future reports.

Local Works - Sustainable Communities Campaign - an invitation had been received to a meeting to be held in Belford on 17th November.

NCC - an invitation to join Northumberland Life - it was agreed that this was useful and that the Parish Council should sign up to this.

Other correspondence received had been listed on the agenda.

05/60 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

Election/Convening of a new councillor - the Clerk had been verbally advised by the Electoral Officer at Tynedale that no one had put themselves forward for election as a parish councillor to replace the late Bill Bouch. The Parish Council should now consider co-opting a new member. Councillors were asked to suggest possibly candidates.

Remembrance Day - Mrs Sayce as Chairman of the Council will lay a wreath at the War Memorial. She has asked an ex-serviceman to join her in this ceremony.

Financial Regulations had been considered by the General Purposes Group and recommended for acceptance by the Council and this was agreed.

Record Retention Guidelines had been considered by the General Purposes Group and recommended for acceptance by the Council and this was agreed.

Inspection of Play Areas Guidelines had been considered by the General Purposes Group and recommended for acceptance by the Council and this was agreed

A Risk Assessment Review had been carried out by the General Purposes Group and recommended for acceptance by the Council and this was agreed.

Parish Plan - proposals for the drawing up of a Parish Plan are to be discussed with staff at Prudhoe Community High School with a view to students assisting with the research work.

Branch End Toilets - Mrs Drew advised that Ian Douglas of Tynedale had asked if the Parish Council had any interest in keeping Branch End Toilets open. This was thought to be a huge financial responsibility. Tynedale had made no contact with Branch End Garage to see if public facilities could be provided at the garage. It was pointed out that the toilets at Branch End had been closed since May 2005 and that no one was aware of any demand for them to be re-instated. Councillor Chainey proposed and it was agreed that nothing further should be done with the toilet block. It was also agreed that any suggestion to convert the toilet block to a parish office would be too expensive.

Crime & Disorder - a letter had been sent to all households in the Guessburn / Mount View Terrace / Brumwell Court area asking residents to keep a diary of disturbances. The Eastern Parishes Forum had also been asked to discuss this topic. It was thought that there were two schools of thought - more publicity and pressure on the police to take action, but this draws attention to the site and the problem and makes it attractive to young people - no publicity and therefore less awareness of the site. It was felt that the cost of mending the fence would outweigh the cost of keeping the play area locked over the hours of darkness.

Grants:

SICA - it was agreed to give SICA a preliminary grant of £100 towards the cost of the roof repairs.

Rugby Club - a decision on a request for grant aid is to be deferred to December.

Netball Club - it was agreed that this request would be considered again next year as the club had already received £100 in 05/06.

Baptist Church Youth Club - It was agreed that an initial grant of £100 should be made and that a letter should be sent saying that there would be a further grant in 06/07 but that the new club should not "push religion" and be socially inclusive.

It was agreed that George McCreedy should be invited to the December meeting to discuss the work of the youth service.

Precept - a draft of the 06/07 budgets was tabled. Councillors were asked to consider this and let the Clerk have any suggestions and amendments by 18th November. It was agreed that the precept for 06/07 should be no more than £49,500.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

Mr Chainey advised that Footpath 13 near the tennis club had caved in and that the County would close the path until remedial work could be undertaken in the spring of next year.

BOAT 45 - Mr Chainey reported that Mrs Robson had accepted the proposals of the County Council.

Scaur Steps - the landowner is to be asked to clear the vegetation from the slope parallel to the steps.

Dog Fouling - a report had been received from Councillor Levitt with regard to dog fouling east of Meadowfield Terrace. Mrs Dale said that the matter had been attended to.

Back Lane - Mr Chainey advised that although young people congregating in the Back Lane behind Mount View Terrace might not be a criminal offence, it was still a problem to residents.

Planters & Stocksfield in Bloom - The Footpaths & Environment Group will consider this in due course and it will be placed on the Parish Council agenda for June 07.

c) Play Facilities Group

Kate's Plain - it was agreed not to await a response from the insurance company but to authorise James Robson to repair the fence and gate at a cost of £270.

Seats - in view of the current problems it was agreed to defer installing additional seats at Kate's Plain until the spring.

Branch End - self closing entrance gates - two quotations had been received and a further one is to be sought. Indicative costs - £500 plus installation plus VAT.

BEPA Improvements - £500 had been promised from the Engineering Group and a promise of a further £5000 had been received. Susi Goncu of Tynedale would be attending the next meeting of the Group. Mrs Davison and Mrs Sayce had been given some useful information at a recent meeting with representatives of Living Spaces. Anne Davison had spoken to Hayley Beattie of the Journal and a short article and photo had appeared. Mr Hall is to speak to Brendan Foster with regard to painting the "thermometer".

d) Sports Facilities Group

The Sportsfield Management Group had met on 3rd November and notes of the meeting were tabled. Among the items discussed were agreements between the Parish Council and the various users and the level of rent to be levied.

e) Planning & Highways

Members of the Group are to advise the Clerk when they are available for training sessions.

The Planning Group Report for October had been circulated.

Ref.No: 2005 1230 - 11 Halton Close

Construction of conservatory to rear and construction of single storey extension and new porch to front

To be referred to full Parish Council Meeting

Comments from Planning Group:

The knocking down of the garage is going to cause parking problems however we did not object to the previous application for this site - this is a resubmission.

As we are very vocal with regard to parking problems we feel that this must be taken into consideration with the council as a whole.

The comments of the Planning Group were endorsed.

Burnside Yard

The comments made earlier in the meeting were endorsed.

f) Communication

NE43 News - a draft of the next edition had been circulated. Various suggestions and comments were made which are to be incorporated.

Website - nothing to comment.

g) Council Representatives

Mrs Sayce had attended the NALC AGM and papers are available on request.

Mrs Drew had attended the Broomley First School Governors' AGM and their Annual Report was tabled.

05/61 Finance

The Accounts for October were accepted.

Additional payments were agreed:

Neat Ideas - £26.19

SICA - £100

Budgets - A Spend v Budget report to 31 October 2005 was tabled - no comments were made.

05/62 Other business

Baptist Church Summer Camp - Mrs Sayce advised that she had been approached by the Baptist Minister who is looking for projects in the community for young people to be involved in during the international summer camp in July. It was suggested that some kind of garden might be built in Branch End Play Area.

DeFRA a meeting is to be held on the new Social & Community Programme on 16th November in Hexham.

The Clerk was asked to chase the Planning Department about the proliferation of mobile advertising hoardings.

Train Services - there had been complaints about delayed trains and the poor "long line" announcements. It is noted that there will be changes to the timetable in December but that the big fear is possible major changes in December of next year.

It was reported that gullies were blocked on New Ridley Road.

05/63 Date of Next Meeting

5th December 2005

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.