

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 5th December 2005

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

Also present: District Councillor Mrs A Dale, Hexham Courant Reporter - Helen Compson, Sally Jones - Prudhoe Youth Services, Mr P Scott.

Apologies: Councillor Barwick-Bell, District Councillor Mike Collins, County Councillor Ray Thompson.

05/64 Declarations of Interest -

Mrs Sayce advised that one of the planning applications being considered was for her home, 21 Crabtree Road.

05/65 Minutes

The Minutes of 7th November, were agreed as a true record.

05/66 Matters Arising -

It was noted that the County Council had started preliminary work on the road surfaces of Apperley and Meadowfield Roads. It was hoped that the project would be started properly in January. It was reported that there was no money for repairs in the next financial year and that County Councillor Thompson had expressed disappointment that the current works would not be as comprehensive as had been originally hoped. It was hoped that the pavements in Apperley and Meadowfield Roads would be repaired but this could not be guaranteed.

Mrs Dale asked about litter in the Station yard. A response had been received from Network Rail advising that litter bins could not be provided on railway properties due to on-going concerns about security.

05/67 Public Participation

Mrs Sayce welcomed Sally Jones to the meeting. Ms Jones was representing George McCreedy of the Prudhoe Youth Service.

Ms Jones opened her remarks by saying that the Youth Service was funded by the County Council but that this funding was being reduced and that the youth service was therefore having to rely more and more on grants from parish councils and others in order that it might continue to deliver its service and plug the gap left by the shortfall in funds from the County Council. Tynedale Council are also supportive of the youth service.

Ms Jones said that the youth club normally met on Tuesdays in the Community Centre but that the community centre was only available on 3 weeks a month. There are plans to take members out on the 4th night. In the past, there has been a problem when SICA has cancelled youth clubs sessions.

The outreach workers also regularly visit Stocksfield on other nights of the week. As a result of requests from young people a dance class has now been opened in Prudhoe. Young people from Stocksfield do attend the East Centre in Prudhoe.

A discussion ensued on the provision of a regular venue for the youth club which is currently attended by between 15 and 20 young people. Suggestions were made for the "Canteen" at the Community Centre (a possible venue for art and other similar activities), the Methodist Hall. etc. It was also suggested that the young people might have access to the computers. Mr. Scott offered to bring these suggestions up with the SICA Management Committee and Mrs Sayce said that she would speak to the Chairman of SICA, Norman Hooks.

It was suggested that young people might be asked to paint the bus shelters and possibly boards at Kate's Plain.

With regard to recent anti-social problems, Ms Jones suggested that the problems might be reducing as the young people were becoming aware of the ill-feeling that was being caused. It was noted that there had been a lot of police activity recently, including a scheduled visit by the police caravan to Branch End. It was also reported that meetings had been held at the High School when the problems had been highlighted.

Mr Scott stressed that the residents were only asking for peace in their own homes and said that that although there was a need to keep matters in perspective there were real problems.

It was also stressed that there is a need to convince succeeding generations of young people that bad behaviour is not acceptable.

Ms Jones advised that the benches ordered for Kate's Plain were ready for installation. It was however agreed that in the current climate, residents would not be pleased if these were placed in Kate's Plain. Other options were being considered, but it was felt to be illogical if young people were then encouraged to congregate in a different venue.

Concern was expressed that Stocksfield was not receiving a quality service from the Youth Service. It was agreed there is a need to try to keep on with the preventive work. It was noted that issue-based work was being done in the High School and youth clubs.

It was noted that the "Big Yellow Bus" was no longer in service.

Mrs Sayce thanked Ms Jones for attending the meeting.

05/68 Correspondence

An invitation had been received to attend a public enquiry about the North East Regional Spatial Strategy - it was agreed that the Parish Council had nothing further to add to this debate which would not be said by Tynedale and the County Councils.

An invitation had been received from Tynedale Sports Council to an Awards Ceremony on 5th December.

An invitation had been received to put an entry in Tynedale Visitor. It was agreed to use the previous entry as a basis for an entry for the coming year.

The remainder of the correspondence received had been listed on the Agenda and was noted.

05/69 Finance

The Accounts for November had been circulated and were agreed.

The Auditor's Report for the 04/05 accounts had been received and was accepted. There were no matters requiring action.

A request had been received from the Eastern Parishes Forum for a contribution of £10 towards administrative costs - this was agreed.

05/70 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

Convening a new Councillor - an approach had been made to Mr Porter who has yet to respond. The name of another possible candidate was put forward, should Mr Porter decline the invitation. It was noted that an article had been included in the current issue of NE43 News advertising the vacancy.

A request had been received from Prudhoe & Stocksfield Rugby Club for grant aid and it was agreed to grant £300.

A letter had been received from Tynedale Council regarding proposals for Alcohol Designation Zones - the proposals were welcomed but it was agreed that the Station Yard and the "Back Lane" behind Mount View Terrace should also be included.

Results of Survey on Anti-social Behaviour in Guessburn Area - a summary of the responses had been drawn up and circulated. It was felt that in view of the earlier discussions with Sally Jones there was no need to discuss the matter further. It was felt to be indicative that the number of responders to the survey was similar to the number of concerned residents attending parish council meetings. It was agreed that it was necessary to continue to be aware of and monitor any problems.

Mrs Sayce was thanked for sending a letter to the Courant on the current problems in Stocksfield.

It was reported that the police were trying to arrange a meeting with representatives of the youth serve, the High School and the Parish Council. It was agreed that Mesdames Sayce, Davison and Drew would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was suggested that a larger litter bin might be provided by the westbound station bus stop and Mrs Dale is to ask Tynedale about this. It was stressed that litter was not a problem caused exclusively by young people and pointed out that the recycling area was also a mess.

Precept 06/07

A second draft of the precept for next year had been circulated.

It was agreed that the draft should be accepted. Two areas of funding were however discussed in some depth.

Parish Plan - the necessity of actually carrying out a Parish Plan was raised. However it was noted that most of the issues raised in previous discussions on Parish Plans (1972 and 1996) were still with us. It was agreed that funding for the exercise should remain in the precept. The question of implementing any actions that arose from the Plan was also raised.

Youth Service - after some discussion it was proposed by Malcolm Chainey and seconded by Mrs Drew and agreed that the grant to the Youth Service should be £6000 in 06/07. It was felt that there should be a "value" approach to funding the youth service and that currently a lot of money was being spent on "fire fighting". It was asked if the County Council should give youth a higher priority. It was felt that the Parish Council should be aware of the number of young people who regularly use the youth club at the Community Centre, and if at all possible the numbers of young people from Stocksfield who regularly attend the East Centre.

It was agreed that the contribution of the Baptist Church to the work of the youth service in Stocksfield should be acknowledged.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

Correspondence had been received from the County Council with regard to the extinguishment of various footpaths.

Footpaths - Tim Fish is to check the barrier of the footpath adjacent to Kimberley Gardens.

Tyne Valley Rail Services - Malcolm Chainey outlined the background to the Rail User Group's campaign, details of which had been circulated to councillors. He advised that the Community Rail Partnership and Nexus had together commissioned a report on the West Line - Newcastle to Carlisle. He alleged that passenger services on this line were at risk and that a campaign was trying to engage the attention of the Northern Group of MPs and the Transport Committee of the House of Commons. It was said that writing to our MP on any subject ensured that the concerns reached the in tray of the relevant minister.

c) Play Facilities Group

Branch End Play Area

It was reported that the "thermometer" at BEPA had been covered in mud.

It was agreed to request the County Council to erect a pedestrian barrier opposite the small gate at a cost of £593.20 plus VAT.

Repairs small gate - Mrs Davison is to ask Tynedale about the possibility of a cheaper installation costs.

BEPA Regeneration - The Group has applied to SITA for £20,000. A photoshoot with the Engineering Company is to be arranged. Customers at the Dr Syntax are arranging a fund raising event on Boxing Day. The Group want to get the new facility up and running by the summer and it may be necessary to reduce the specification of the improvements in order to save on costs. Thompsons of Prudhoe and Denis Conley are to be approached re the earth moving required.

Kate's Plain

The Clerk advised that the insurance company will pay for the repairs to the fence at Kate's Plain.

It was agreed that the new litter bin would be sited behind the basket ball post.

d) Sports Facilities Group

MUGA - it was noted that in order to meet the funders requirements it was necessary to amend the constitution of the MUGA Development Group. A paper had been circulated with the agenda and this was agreed with the proviso that the phrase "any other irrelevant factor" be added to the Aims.

e) Planning & Highways

It was confirmed that both Mrs Drew and Mrs Warhurst-Walker were available for the Planning Training Sessions on any Saturday in February.

Wind Farm - Correspondence had been received regarding the proposals for a wind farm at Kiln Pit Hill. It was agreed that the Parish Council held no corporate view on this matter and would make no comment as a Council.

A695 Landslip - an up-date on the current situation was tabled.

f) Communication

The next issue of NE43 News would be delivered with the Churches Together Christmas Card.

g) Council Representatives

Nothing to report.

05/71 Other business

Comment was made about Christmas decorations around the village and how pretty they looked.

A letter had been received about the Tynedale Council Homelessness Strategy. Mrs Warhurst-Walker volunteered to look at this document.

05/72 Date of Next Meeting

9th January 2006

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.