

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2006

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

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

Apologies: District Councillor Mike Collins, County Councillor Ray Thompson

Mrs Sayce opened the meeting by wishing all those present a Happy New Year.

05/72 Declarations of Interest -

None

05/73 Minutes

The Minutes of 5th December 2005, were agreed as a true record.

05/74 Matters Arising -

It was reported that County Councillor Ray Thompson was disappointed that the whole of Meadowfield Road had not been re-surfaced. He will put pressure on the County for this to be done. It was felt that re-surfacing the road was more important than resurfacing the pavements.

It was noted that across the Estate many of the pavements were blocked where hedges had not been cut back far enough. The Estate Committee is to be asked to bring this matter to the attention of householders at the next AGM.

Youth Service - The question of discussions with the youth service and SICA had been raised with George McCreedy but nothing further had been heard from him. With regard to working with young people, the question of decorating the bus shelters was also raised.

Alcohol Designation Zones - mixed messages were being received about whether or not the station and the Back Lane were to be included in these zones. It was confirmed that the Back Lane had been included in the proposals. A letter is to be written to Tynedale to clarify the position on the Station.

05/75 Public Participation

It was reported that a residents of North View Terrace and Glen Avenue had difficulty in exiting onto the A695 because of the condition of the surface at the point of exit, vans parked in the lay-by and the speed of traffic. County Councillor Thompson has been asked for help on this matter and it is believed that a County officer has already visited the site.

It was reported that the Christmas Tree outside the Bridal Shop had been vandalised. It was agreed that a letter should be written to Rosina Brown expressing regret that this had happened and saying how much her display had been appreciated by residents.

05/76 Correspondence

Correspondence received had been listed on the Agenda and was noted.

Tynedale Joint Discussion Forum Meeting - Mrs Sayce to attend.

LAA Partnership - no further comment to make.

Age Concern - (Mrs Martin declared an interest) - It was proposed and agreed that a grant of £25 be made.

Victim Support - It was proposed and agreed that a grant of £25 be made.

Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service - the letter and papers were being circulated for comment.

Branch End Toilets - comments previously made are to be repeated with the addition that it is hoped that Tynedale will continue to care for the site until it is disposed of.

05/77 Finance

The Accounts for December were noted and accepted.

05/78 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

First Responders - a query had been raised about what would happen if there was a major incident/disaster in Stocksfield. Mrs Sayce advised that in the first instance 999 should be rung, the police would then get in touch with the Emergency Planning Officer at the County Council who would then if appropriate contact the WRVS who would set up such things as emergency accommodation/feeding centres.

Precept 2006/07 - Final documents outlining the budgets for 2006/07 had been circulated. It was agreed that the precept for 2006/07 should be set at £49,000.

Youth Disturbance - the notes on a recent meeting held with the Police, Youth Service and representatives of the High School had been circulated. It was agreed that residents affected by disturbances at Kate's Plain should be invited to a meeting with the police on 16th January. It was also agreed that should any consensus on the closing times of Kate's Plain be agreed then this should be implemented.

Annual Parish Meeting - 24th April

Suggestions for a speaker/topic for the Annual Parish Meeting were:

Northumberland Schools Re-organisation

Re-structuring the Health Service.

Branch End Surgery - an up-date on the expansion of services.

It was agreed that the preferred option was to ask Dr Alan Maguire to talk about the expansion on services at Branch End Surgery and current changes in Primary Care and hospital with particular relation to patients of Branch End surgery and residents of Stocksfield.

(Councillor Mrs Tracy Warhurst-Walker arrived at this point).

A copy of a notice of meetings with regard to changes to structures with the NHS had been received and circulated. Surprise was expressed that parish councils had not been included in the circulation for this consultation. Mrs Martin volunteered to attend one of the meetings.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

Tubs & Planters - following discussions late last year, advice had been sought from the Plants & Gardens Society and a proposal subsequently drawn up and circulated. The suggestions made in the proposal were accepted and the Handyman is to be advised accordingly.

Handrail on Path from New Ridley Road to Welton Close - after some discussion it was agreed that the County should be consulted about this and Mr Chainey advised that he would take this matter up with Tim Fish.

It was noted that the fence by the bridge at Birkdene had been vandalised again.

Spring Clean - it was agreed that a skip would be provided for the two weeks over Easter and that a Spring Clean Day would be organised for the Saturday after Easter. The WI would be asked to provide refreshments for the workers. The draft letter circulated to councillors would be amended. It was suggested that the burn at Birkdene might be included in the project. Gloves, bin bags and litter pickers would be left at the Community Centre.

c) Play Facilities Group

Kate's Plain

Mrs Davison and the Clerk had agreed on a site for the new litter bin and this would be installed as soon as possible.

The Handyman was congratulated on the great job he had done, in cleaning up the fence at the back of Brumwell Court.

The cost of collecting litter on Saturday mornings is to be investigated with Tynedale.

The problem of disturbance at Kate's Plain appears to have reduced in recent weeks.

It was noted that there is a larger litter bin can be provided for the west bound bus stop at the station - the Clerk is to contact Tynedale on this.

Branch End Play Area

Mrs Davison reported that nothing had been heard form SITA by the Regeneration Group in relation to funding.

It was reported that a fund raising event organised by the customers of the Dr Syntax at New Ridley had raised a magnificent £2150. A letter of thanks is to be sent.

Mrs Davison has spoken to the Kompan representative about a slightly cheaper design for the project.

A quotation had been received from Playdale for repairs to the Twist and other items at Branch End. It was agreed that this should be carried out, with the exception of repairs to the Cradle Swing (which is to be replaced and the Burma Bridge which is to be removed.)

Direct Fencing is to be contacted for a price for a self-closing gate.

d) Sports Facilities Group

MUGA - The recent meeting of the MUGA Regeneration Group had reviewed the constitution and made one or two minor amendments. The notes on the meeting will be circulated to councillors. It was reported that Sport England had rejected the application for funding. An application for funding had also been made to SITA.

e) Planning & Highways

Councillor Warhurst-Walker apologised to members of the Planning Group and the Council for the confusion over the planning meeting.

Traffic Speed at Branch End - Concerns had been raised regarding the speed of traffic through Branch End and a discussion ensued on the practicalities involved in speed cameras and similar controls. It was acknowledged that there seemed to be little that could be done at present but that the situation would continue to be monitored.

It was noted that the most recent planning application for the development at Broomley Village had been withdrawn.

Tynedale Council Homelessness Strategy - Mrs Warhurst-Walker advised that she had read this document over the Christmas break. She had found it to be an interesting and in-depth report and felt that there was nothing that the Parish Council could add.

Grit Bin - It was noted that the Grit bins at the tops of Painshawfield and Batt House Roads had been tipped over.

f) Communication

Nothing to report.

g) Council Representatives

Nothing to report

05/80 Other business

A child had been allegedly attacked shortly before Christmas late one afternoon - the Police are to be asked if there is any further information on this.

A letter had been received from the Community Rail Partnership regarding a meeting on 10th February. Councillors are to advise the Clerk if they wish to attend this meeting.

Mrs Sayce and Mr Hall are to ask about the condition of the Tetley's sign at the entrance to the Sportsfields.

05/81 Date of Next Meeting

6th February 2006

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.