

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th February 2006

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

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

Apologies: District Councillor Mike Collins

Mrs Sayce opened the meeting by welcoming new Parish Councillor, Dave Porter, and asking those present to introduce themselves.

Mrs Warhurst-Walker arrived late. Mr Porter left before the end of the meeting.

05/82 Declarations of Interest -

None

05/83 Minutes

The Minutes of 9th January 2005, were agreed with minor amendments.

05/84 Matters Arising -

Alcohol Designation Zones - a letter had been received from Tynedale Council in response to queries about Alcohol Designation Zones. Mrs Dale asked if enquiries had been made with British Transport Police regarding the comment that there have been no reported problems in the Station yard. There is concern that residents might be deterred from using the station if there are perceived to be problems. It was agreed that the situation will have to be monitored. Mrs Dale advised that she had asked the Tynedale solicitor to visit the Parish Council to discuss the question of creating bye-laws for certain areas. Mrs Drew confirmed that she too had been in discussions with Tynedale legal department on this matter.

NHS Restructuring - Mrs Martin gave a brief outline on a recent meeting sponsored by VONNE. She said that all comments had been noted, that the picture was not clear, that the NHS needs to make savings, that there is concern that services might be lost and that there is a need for community support. She said that the object of the exercise is regionalisation of the NHS Trusts. A presentation is to be made on restructuring of the ambulance service in March. There is concern that Stocksfield is on a border and ambulances could be pulled in either direction leaving a gap. Anecdotal evidence of any problems needs to be collated.

Play Facilities - Mrs Davidson advised that following the fund raising event at the Dr Syntax, no cheque had yet been received. However, County Councillor Ray Thompson has promised £5000.

Grit Bins - it was reported that the grit bin at the top of the Scaur Steps was damaged and half full of water. Mrs Sayce volunteered to ring the County regarding this.

Child Abduction - it was noted that following the recent attempted abduction of a teenager on the Bywell Road, a man was to appear in court. It was agreed that the prompt resolution of this incident had been as a result of good police work.

05/85 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

05/86 Website

Dave Porter gave a brief presentation on his ideas for the redesigned website. It was agreed that he and Mrs Barwick-Bell and the Clerk should meet to develop these ideas further. The host of the current edition of the website, David Fenwick, is to be contacted to ensure that he is in agreement with the proposals.

05/87 Correspondence

Correspondence received was listed on the agenda.

05/88 Finance

The Accounts for January were noted and accepted,

05/89 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

Parish Plan - A proposal to undertake the development of a Parish Plan had been tabled. Mrs Sayce briefly outlined the benefits of having a Parish Plan and advised that she had recently been to an exhibition in Corbridge publicising their new Plan and how they had achieved it.

It was agreed that Mrs Sayce, Mesdames Hedley, Martin and Drew, and Mr Hall should form a working group to develop the Parish Plan.

A letter had been received from the Community Council requesting funding and it was agreed that a grant of £100 should be made in 06/07.

Spring Clean Day - a draft of a letter to groups and organisations in the Parish had been circulated. It was noted that the date of the event had been changed to 29th April. It was noted that Stocksfield WI had agreed to provide refreshments. It was suggested that cleaning street signs and name plates might be included in the activities.

Methodist Church Coffee Club - a request for assistance with the costs of transport had been received. Mr Hall proposed and it was agreed that £100 should be sent immediately.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

General Grass Cutting - a letter had been received from Tynedale quoting for grass cutting around the village in the coming season. It was agreed to accept the prices.

c) Play Facilities Group

The Report of the Play Facilities Group had been circulated.

Branch End Play Area - Mrs Davidson reported that a cheque for £500 had been received from the Engineering Business. A meeting had been held with representatives of SITA and further developments are awaited. Kompan are putting together a new estimate for the proposed equipment. A meeting had been held with Mrs Dale and Susi Goncu and a meeting is planned with Anne-May Pottage to discuss equipment for "older" children. A meeting is to be held with Janet Orrick of SureStart to discuss funding. It was agreed not to go a head with the "Flying Fox" structure as it was felt that this might arouse unwelcome interest.

It was agreed to accept Playdale's estimate to repair the Tyre Swing at a cost of £360.

It was agreed to accept Direct Fencing's estimate to install a self closing gate at £780.

Kate's Plain - Reports were tabled.

It was agreed that with the exception of no. 6 (the provision of a fifth litter bin) the recommendations of the group should be endorsed, with the closing time of both areas being set at 9.30 p.m. It was agreed not to purchase a fifth litter bin for Kate's Plain at present. It was suggested that once the Code of Conduct had been agreed then it should be displayed at Kate's Plain. It was suggested that there should be a young people's page on the website. The concrete for the new seats had been put in and it was expected that the new seats would be installed shortly. It was agreed that it was not necessary to screen off the seats. The Kate's Plain Working Group next meets in May.

d) Sports Facilities Group

MUGA - Chris Catnach had advised that he had also had an encouraging meeting with SITA.

Crowd Control - a request had been received from the Football Club to erect crowd control barriers/ advertising hoardings at the edge of one of the pitches. It was agreed that Mrs Sayce and Mr Hall would meet representatives of the Football Club to discuss this further. The question of Planning Permission for such a structure was also raised.

There was nothing further to report.

e) Planning & Highways

It was agreed that Dave Porter should join the Planning and Highways Group. It was agreed that the Planning and Highways Group should fix dates for regular meetings, preferably in the middle of the month.

The Planning & Highways Group Report had been circulated.

Crash Barriers on A695 West of Railway Bridge - a proposal to request the County to erect crash barriers along the edge of the A695/railway had been circulated and it was agreed to make a formal request to the County Council. It was suggested that the health and safety aspect of this request should be stressed.

Local Development Framework - a letter had been received from Tynedale on this and it was agreed to take up the invitation from Tynedale for a visit to the Parish Council. It was felt that there was a need to consider how the Parish Council handled consultations in general and Local Development Framework consultation in particular.

Street Furniture - It was noted that the bollards immediately to the east of Branch End Garage needed repair. Mrs Drew advised that she had been told that some of the road signs may be replaced.

Dere Street Farm - it was noted that the entrance to this site was dangerous and that vehicles entering and leaving the site could cause problems for passing traffic.

Double Yellow Lines - the County Engineer is to be asked what progress had been made regarding the installation of double yellow lines at Birches Nook, Cross Street and Painshawfield Road.

LAA Final Draft - it was felt that the document was too complicated for councillors to make any meaningful comment. Points highlighted included:

- Is Stocksfield's natural community Prudhoe?
- Is Stocksfield's local centre Prudhoe?
- If redevelopment of Prudhoe town centre takes place then this may affect whether or not residents of Stocksfield look on Prudhoe as their natural community.

Land Registration - a letter had been received from the Land Registry suggesting that the Parish Council might register land that it owns. It was agreed not to take this any further at this stage but that the General Purposes Group should keep the matter under review.

f) Communication

Nothing to add.

g) Council Representatives

Nothing to report

05/89 Other business

Nil

05/90 Date of Next Meeting

6th March 2006

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.