

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2006

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

Also present: District Councillor Mrs A Dale County Councillor Ray Thompson

Apologies: Councillors Levitt, Chainey, Drew, Walker-Warhust District Councillor Mike Collins

Mrs Sayce recorded the sudden death of a former Parish Councillor, Mrs Joyce Dixon. It was noted that during her life she had made a big contribution to life in the village and will be much missed.

05/100 Declarations of Interest -

None

05/101 Minutes

The Minutes of 6th March 2006, were agreed with minor amendments.

05/102 Matters Arising -

As Councillor Chainey was absent no report was available on the review of the Handyman's Contract.

20 hanging baskets had been ordered from Tynedale. County Councillor Thompson had offered to erect these where required.

Mrs Sayce had briefly discussed the trees at Branch End Play Area with Peter Askew.

County Councillor Thompson advised that there was no progress on either the ownership of the former Quoits Area or Birches Nook parking.

Burnside Yard - a new plan had been received relating to the access to this site.

Broomley Village - Mrs Dale advised that the conditions of planning for this site are being looked at. She believes that the proposed play area on this site will be a public facility. She has asked for the Section 106 agreement to be clarified. It was felt that the Parish Council is "out of the loop" on this matter, and that it would be helpful if it could be consulted with regard to Section 106 agreements in future.

05/103 Public Participation

Concern was expressed about vehicles parking too close to the junction of New Ridley Road and Painshawfield Road.

County Councillor Thompson advised that work is to be carried out on dropping some kerbs on New Ridley Road.

It was reported that a tree near the fords needs attention - can a Tree Preservation Order be put on this tree.

05/104 Correspondence

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

Mrs Dale left the meeting at this point.

05/105 Finance

The Finance Report for March had been circulated and was accepted.

Additional payments for the following were authorised:

Broomley School - provision of power to west end of school for Christmas Tree	£339.90
Burlinson Print	£155.10
Prudhoe Community Partnership	£8.00
Tynedale - Rates	£250.27
Tynedale - Rates	£508.78

Provision of power to the School for the Christmas Tree - Mrs Sayce explained the background to this expenditure and whilst the amount was felt to be excessive, it was agreed that there was little that could be done about it but that in future costs for this type of expenditure should be investigated prior to the expenditure being undertaken.

Grants - A request from Lifespan for funding was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

05/106 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

Annual Parish Meeting - Dr Maguire has confirmed that he will be present at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May. Members were asked to encourage residents to attend.

Spring Clean - This will go ahead on 29th April. Councillors were asked to encourage residents to participate. Disappointment was expressed at the apparent lack of response from groups who had been contacted regarding this event. It was agreed to display information about the Parish Plan and Branch End Play Area regeneration. A display will also be mounted at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Plan - The event planned by the Community Council on 20th March had been postponed. At a meeting of residents held on 29th March only one member of the public had been present. However, a number of apologies had been received. A summary of the meeting was tabled. It was agreed that an invitation to the next meeting would be sent to certain groups urging them to participate in the process. During a similar exercise in the early 1970's, four fifths of the population had contributed to the debate, but it was recognised that many people nowadays appear to be too busy working to participate in community life. It was suggested that questionnaires might be placed on the Parish Website and that neighbourhood meetings might be considered. One topic which might be added to those suggested at the meeting on 29th March, was the provision of a dentist in Stocksfield.

Code of Conduct for Kate's Plain - there has been no progress on this matter as Brian Wade (Prudhoe Community High School) had been off sick. It was also noted that Jan Harrison and Vicki Byrne (Northumbria Police) had been promoted to Police HQ. Concern was expressed at the comments by Inspector Brayshaw in the Hexham Courant recently. It was said that the comments appeared to be designed to annoy residents.

The next meeting of the Kate's Plain Working Group should be held in May.

b) Footpaths & Environment Group

The next meeting of the Footpaths Group is on 10th April.

A letter had been received from Tynedale in response to a request for Tree Preservation Orders. It was agreed that despite the comments in this letter the Parish Council should continue to request TPOs when required.

It was agreed to request an up-dated list of trees covered by TPOs.

Variation to Planning Permission Granted to Ladywell - removal of 4 trees. Concern was expressed that felling these trees was not necessary. Clarification of the granting of the planning permission is to be sought from Tynedale. It was also suggested that as these trees were now alleged to constitute a hedge then permission to fell was not actually required. Clarification on this matter is also to be sought.

c) Play Facilities Group

The Play Facilities Report was tabled.

It was reported that notification of a grant of £20,000 (gross) towards the cost of Branch End Play Area regeneration had been received from SITA. Clarification is to be sought from SITA with regard to the VAT element of expenditure. The BEPA project must be started this summer so that this grant is not lost. Mr Hall is to speak to Mr Conley regarding earth moving.

BEPA Self closing gate - concern was expressed at the unsatisfactory nature of the work on this gate. Mr Hall offered to find out why this work had not been finished.

It was noted that a Songs of Praise event is to be held at BEPA on 22nd May.

Mrs Davison was thanked for the contribution that she and her husband have made to the work of the Play Area Regeneration Group.

d) Sports Facilities Group

The next meeting of the Sports Facilities Group is to discuss:

Re-arranging the football pitches on the eastern Sportsfield

Rent levels for users of the facilities

Crowd barriers for the football pitches

Multi Use Games Area - it was noted that the regeneration group was not successful in obtaining a grant from SITA for this project. Concern was expressed at the deterioration of the existing facilities. Councillors were asked to inspect the MUGA and make written proposals/comments on the way forward.

Sportsfield Grass Cutting - it was agreed to accept the County Council quote for this tender.

e) Planning & Highways

The Planning & Highways Report had been circulated. It was agreed that there was a need to hold regular meetings of the Planning & Highways Group. The Planning Group needs to meet urgently to look at Tynedale's Core Strategy document and the LAA documentation.

The recent Planning Training morning had been felt to be successful and useful and underlined the importance of having a Parish plan. Clarification is to be sought as to who is advised directly when a planning application is sent out for consultation.

f) Communication

NE43 News was ready for distribution.

The website will 'go live' shortly and then will be continually updated. Dave Porter was thanked for redesigning and up-dating the website.

g) Council Representatives

Mrs Martin had recently attended a meeting entitled "Ensuring a patient-led NHS" and a summary of this meeting had been received and circulated to Councillors. Mrs Martin said that some of those attending had raised concerns, but she felt that the meeting had fulfilled the requirements to consult with the public.

05/107 Other business

It was agreed to send a Loyal Address to Her Majesty the Queen to mark her 80th birthday.

05/108 Date of Next Meeting

24th April Annual Parish Meeting

8th May Parish Council Annual General Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.