

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2006**

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

Also present: District Councillor Mrs A Dale, Mrs Betty Bouch, Reporter - Hexham Courant.

### **06/1 Nomination of Chairman**

The Clerk, Mrs Williams, invited nominations for Chairman. Councillor Drew proposed and Councillor Martin seconded Councillor Mrs Sayce. Mrs Sayce was duly elected as Chairman.

### **06/2 Election of Vice Chair**

Mrs Martin proposed and Mrs Warhurst-Walker seconded Councillor Ian Hall as Vice Chair. Mr Hall was therefore duly elected as Vice Chair.

### **06/3 Declarations of Interest - None**

### **06/4 Apologies: County Councillor Ray Thompson**

### **06/5 Public Participation**

Mrs Dale advised that the Parish Council had been sent a letter on 13th July 2005 requesting comments on the Tynedale Sports & Open Space Strategy - Draft Action Plan. She said that as Tynedale had received no comments by 16th September 2006, it had been assumed that Broomley & Stocksfield Parish council had been happy with the proposals. She further intimated that once the development at Broomley is completed Tynedale will enforce the Section 106 condition that requires a play area to be built. The Clerk is to look into what response was made to the letter of 13th July. Mrs Dale then left the meeting.

A further discussion ensued when it was agreed that there is a need to establish

what equipment is to be installed at Broomley and

at what point the Parish Council becomes responsible for this play area

how much should be set aside for maintenance and what contribution the District Council will make

what guarantees there are that the play area will be built to the required standards

Other areas of concern were:

The condition of the pavements on Cade Hill Road

Dangerous parking at Branch End combined with the speed of the traffic - a discussion ensued as to the possibility of volunteers operating some form of traffic control or monitoring traffic. It was asked if the County would be able to conduct traffic flow/speed monitoring. A letter is to be written to the County stressing that in recent weeks there have been three accidents at Branch End and stressing that with the improvements at Branch End Play Area there will be a greater number of children using the facilities and that this is causing concern to the Council. A copy of this letter is to be sent to the police.

Speeding at Guessburn

The whole problem of parking and speeding is to be looked into by the Planning & Highways Group and they are asked to report back to the July meeting.

Post Office Services - It was noted that there was a petition in Branch End Post office against the ending of the Post Office card system. It was also noted that 300 MPs had signed an Early Day Motion against the ending of this service. It was however agreed that because of the advance of technology and the fact that many people were used to having their salaries paid direct to their bank accounts, and also because of the

increasing availability of cash machines, in due course the change to all benefit payments being made direct to bank accounts would become inevitable.

### **06/6 Election of Advisory Groups and Council Representatives.**

For details of all appointments to advisory groups and other bodies, click the 'The Parish Council' button.

It was agreed that the Groups need to consider succession planning so that should there be a change of councillors in 2007, there is a continuity of experience.

### **06/7 Finance**

a. Responsible Financial Officer - It was agreed that the Responsible Financial Officer would be the Clerk, Margaret Williams.

b. Internal Auditor - The appointment of Mr Peter Basnett as Internal Auditor was agreed.

c. 05/06 Accounts - The unaudited Accounts for 2005/06 had been tabled and were accepted.

### **06/8 Calendar for 2006-07**

The Calendar for 2006/07 had been tabled and was accepted. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 23rd April 2007.

Proposed meeting dates for Advisory Groups had been tabled. This will be re-circulated to Group Convenors for them to discuss with their members and come back to the June meeting.

### **06/9 Management of land adjacent to Branch End Terrace**

It was noted that during 2005/06 Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council has continued to maintain this site, keeping the grass cut and the planting and shrubs cared for appropriately.

### **06/10 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2006 were agreed with one minor amendment. (The word 'gross' is to be inserted on page 3 para. (c) following the figures of £20,000).

### **06/11 Matters Arising**

Malcolm Chainey agreed to review the Handyman's Contract for the July meeting.

Tree Preservation - the question of requesting a TPO on a tree near the Fords is to be pursued by Mrs Sayce. The owner of the land on which the tree stands needs to be identified.

Kate's Plain Working Group - the question of who calls the next meeting is to be discussed with the Police.

BEPA Self closing gate - Councillors were still not happy with the standard of work on this gate and Ann-May Pottage (Tynedale) is to be asked for advice.

Multi-sports Area - Councillors expressed concern at the condition of this facility and asked what should happen to it in the short-term. It was agreed that David White (Tynedale) should be asked to look at it and make a report on its condition. It was agreed that the handyman be asked to try to clear the moss from the playing surface.

### **06/12 Brief Report on Annual Parish Meeting/Spring Clean Event**

Annual Parish Meeting - Dr Maguire had made an interesting presentation to a very well-attended meeting. It was thought that most of those attending the meeting had come to hear Dr Maguire.

Spring Clean Event - Gratitude was expressed to all those who had taken part in this event particularly the staff and children of Broomley School and the Cubs (who had done a litter pick earlier in the month). It was felt that in general there was less dog mess around. However it was felt that New Ridley Road was an area of concern.

## **06/13 Finance**

The Accounts for April were agreed.

## **06/14 Correspondence**

Correspondence received had been listed on the Agenda. It was agreed that non-urgent correspondence be transferred to the June agenda.

A letter had been received from AMEC regarding Windfarms in Northumberland and it was agreed that no action need be taken.

Tynedale Planning Training - a request for feed back on the planning training session had been received and it was agreed that individuals should return this.

NSP - a letter had been received about "Belonging Communities" and it was agreed that no comment would be made.

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister - a letter had been received regarding bye-laws. Mrs Drew agreed to look at the papers.

Tynedale - a letter had been received from Tynedale to attend the State of the Area Debate - It was agreed to write to Tynedale requesting that in future invitations of this type should be sent earlier to allow councillors to arrange their diaries.

SCA Mill - correspondence had been received regarding a planning application submitted by SCA. A response had been sent to Tynedale and circulated to councillors. The response was endorsed by the Parish Council. It was however agreed that Tynedale Environmental Health would be asked how they would monitor emissions from the proposed SCA stack and what re-assurances they can give to residents regarding any such emissions. It was also asked if these emissions would fall within the Air Quality Strategy. Mrs Drew, as a district councillor, agreed to take this matter up with Environmental Health.

## **06/15 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives.**

Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

### **General Purposes**

Grants - It was agreed that grants should be paid to the following organisations

Vitalise (formerly Winged Fellowship Trust)	£50.00
Northumberland Theatre Company	£25.00
Lifespan	£100.00
Great North Air Ambulance	£100.00

### **NE43 News**

It was agreed that a small group of councillors be appointed to discuss

- the policy on content
- the production arrangements, and
- the distribution system

for NE43 News, and make recommendations to the June meeting of the Council.

It was agreed that Mrs Sayce, Mr Porter, Mrs Barwick-Bell, Mrs Drew and the Clerk should form this group.

It was agreed that the General Purposes Group would look at

- The future of the Youth Service
- The future of the Post Office
- The services offered by Hexham Hospital

and report back to the Council

Planning & Highways - the report had been tabled and was accepted.

A response had been sent to Tynedale commenting on the Core Strategy Options and this was tabled and accepted.

Play Facilities -

Branch End Play Area

It was agreed that the terms of the grant from SITA should be clarified. Mrs Davison advised that £2000 was required to bring the fund up to the point where the first part of the project could be set in motion. She advised that a representative from Thompsons of Prudhoe had suggested that the whole field could be levelled at a cost of £5000. It was felt that it was difficult to envisage the outcome of such a proposal and that further details would be required, including what effect this levelling would have on existing equipment. Further advice is to be sought and more details obtained.

Mrs Davison had been contacted by the Baptist Minister about what work could be done by their Outreach Team in the summer. It had been suggested that some project might be undertaken in Branch End Play Area (a sensory garden had been suggested) but it was acknowledged that this might now be difficult in view of the above proposals and other sites for work by the Outreach Team were suggested (Branch End Terrace Garden, Branch End Garden or Kate's Plain.)

Big Lottery Award - Mrs Davison and Mrs Sayce are to liaise to pursue the suggestion that £50,000 Big Lottery funding might be forthcoming from Tynedale for further improvements to Branch End play Area.

Mrs Davison that Kompan had taken a group of children and teenagers to Newton Aycliffe to look at recently installed play equipment there. This had been a very successful visit. Among the items seen were a mobile skate facility. It was wondered if Tynedale had considered obtaining one of these which could be used around the district.

#### **06/16 Any Other Business**

It was agreed that the June meeting of the Parish Council would start at 7.00 p.m. in order that as much business as possible could be completed. Mrs Andrea Barker, a solicitor at Tynedale Council, is to address the meeting on the introduction of byelaws.

Mrs Drew advised that a new road sign was needed at the junction of Apperley Road/Painshawfield Road.

#### **06/17 Date of Next Meeting: 5th June 2005 7.00 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.