

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th September 2006

Present: Councillors Sayce, Drew, Davison, Porter, Chainey, Warhurst -Walker, Martin, Mrs Barwick-Bell arrived very late (9.45 p.m.) Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: District Councillor Dale (from 8.35pm), County Councillor Thompson, Helen Compson, Hexham Courant

Apologies: Councillors Hall, Levitt, Hedley and Wade, District Councillor Mike Collins,

06/37 Declarations of Interest - None

06/38 Minutes - The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July were agreed as a true record.

06/39 Matters Arising

Mr Chainey advised that the Footpaths & Environment Group had not met since the last Parish Council meeting and had therefore not reviewed the planting at the Hedley Road end. It was suggested that the surviving 'red hot poker' might stay. It was also suggested that the box at the end of the Bywell Road might have red geranium planted at its base in future years.

Mr Chainey reported that there was now no longer a problem with the hedge at Bright Cottage.

Youth Club - The Management of SICA had had discussions with the Youth Service about holding sessions on Friday evenings. However, it was reported that, because staff concentrate on outreach work on Friday evenings, the Youth Service were unable to provide an indoor club. Disappointment was expressed at this response. Malcolm Chainey is to bring this matter up at the Eastern Parishes Forum meeting to see if together they can push the County hold to discussions on this matter.

Acting-Vice Chair - it was agreed that Mrs Drew should continue in this role until such time as Councillor Hall returned following his recent operation.

There were no further matters arising.

06/40 Public Participation

County Councillor Thompson advised that he had had several complaints regarding blocked drains and gullies and he is to take this up with County.

Councillor Thompson also advised that he is trying to get dropped kerbs instated at the entrance to the new houses on New Ridley Road (29-49). He advised that this was proving difficult as the original developer had gone out of business and normally dropped kerbs could not be installed until the road was adopted.

06/41 Correspondence

The correspondence received since the July meeting had been listed on the agenda and was noted:

A letter had been received from the Environment Agency regarding the Tyne Catchment Area Flood plan - Councillor Chainey had looked at this briefly and proposed that the Parish Council should accept the proposals. He advised that the most vulnerable area was parts of Guessburn and asked what restraints were being put on the development at Burnside. Councillor Chainey is to draft a response to this consultation.

A letter had been received from Tynedale seeking views on The Gambling Act. It was agreed not to make a comment on this.

A letter had been received from NSP regarding the Boundaries of Belonging Communities - it was agreed to make no further comment on this subject.

An invitation had been received from Tynedale to the Meeting of the Joint Discussion Forum on 13th September. Mrs Sayce and Mrs Warhurst-Walker to attend.

A letter had been received from Prudhoe Community Partnership regarding the provision of community facilities in the area - it was felt that the existing facilities required better car parking.

A letter had been received from Tynedale regarding National Spring Clean - it was agreed to do nothing until next spring.

A letter and poem had been received from Ian Hall thanking councillors for their good wishes during his recent illness

06/42 Finance

The Accounts for July and August had been circulated and were approved.

Additional cheques were also approved as follows:

BDO Stoy Hayward: £411.25

Burlinson Print: £170.38

Post Office Ltd: £101.00

06/43 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

It was agreed to defer discussion of a Code of Conduct for Kate's Plain until the October meeting.

Football Club

A letter had been received from the Football Club requesting a grant for the provision of goal posts for the junior teams. After some discussion it was agreed to grant £300 but also to write to the Football Club stressing the need for them to achieve FA Charter Standard and to raise matched funds for grants and funds towards their own running costs. Mrs Sayce advised that she had been told that the Football Club need to have a development plan to enable them to achieve the Charter Standard and that it was understood that they are working towards this

b) Parish Plan

The Groups had not met over the summer. Mrs Sayce advised that she was hopeful that a group of students from Prudhoe Community High School will be involved.

c) Planning & Highways

The Planning & Highways Report had been circulated.

County Councillor Thompson was asked why Hall Farm Close had been resurfaced rather than Meadowfield Road. He explained that with the limited funds available County had been able to re-surface the whole of Hall Farm Close and claim a bonus for completing a job. There would not have been sufficient funds to resurface the whole of Meadowfield Road and therefore they could not have claimed a bonus.

A comment was made that the proposed fence to go around the property at the junction of the Main Road and Cade Hill Road was so high as to be out of character with the area. It was however acknowledged that it was now too late to comment on this and also that a fence up to 1.8 metres high did not require planning permission.

Tynedale Local Development Framework - Site Allocation Development Plan -

An e-mail had been received from Tynedale requesting views on this topic. A response is to be sent highlighting the need for:

Residential care home for the elderly so that they do not have to leave the Parish when they are no longer able to live in their own homes.

Provision of extended health care - dentist/chiropractist, etc.

Site for youth/community facilities

Low cost housing

Older people's housing/care centre/facilities

and re-iterating the concerns raised in the 97/98 Village Appraisal. It was also noted that potential developers will also be putting forward sites for development and it was stressed that planners should be reminded that the field opposite the school (which had been the subject of a planning application in the past) is currently in the green belt, is of high agricultural value and is also a major attraction as a tract of open countryside for those residents of Hall Farm Close and The Pastures.

New Bus Shelter

Over the summer break, councillors had met with officers of the County Council and agreed to erect a bus shelter at the westbound bus stop opposite The Pastures. Dave Porter advised that there was now a photo of the site on the website.

SCA

There had been a considerable amount of correspondence about SCA's plans and these had been discussed by Tynedale who had approved the planning application.

Speeding Traffic (Mrs Dale arrived during discussion of this item)

A response had been received from the County to our request for a meeting with officers to discuss outstanding issues. It was agreed that Councillors, Sayce, Drew and Porter would attend this meeting and a date is to be agreed. It was agreed there was a need to be fully prepared before attending this meeting.

A letter had been received from a resident regarding the speed of traffic on the A695. A response is to be sent advising that a meeting is to be held with County.

It is believed that the County Council are supposed to review all speed limits throughout the County by 2011. It was also felt that other authorities were able to put in place traffic calming measures which Northumberland claimed they were unable to do. It was felt that interactive speed signs were more effective than cameras or bumps. Councillor Chainey is to dig out recent research relevant to complaints regarding speeding on New Ridley Road.

A letter had been received from County enclosing a survey on highways services and it was agreed that individual councillors would return the surveys as they thought fit, but that the Council itself would not comment.

d) Footpaths & Environment Group

The Group had not met since the July meeting of the Parish Council. The next meeting of the Footpaths Group is 9th October.

It was suggested that Marcia Hedley might spearhead the Stocksfield in Bloom project.

Footpath 13 - over the summer the County Council had repaired the footpath alongside the Guessburn to the rear of the Tennis Club/Scout Hut. As a result of this repair, some re-instatement needs to be carried out where the digger was used to carry out the repairs. A resident had requested a fence above the new revetment, but the Footpaths Officer thought this was unnecessary. It was noted that the Parish Council would have to pay for any fence. The Footpaths Group is to make a recommendation on this matter.

Comment was made on the success of the planting throughout the village this year - a letter is to be sent to the Handyman congratulating him on this.

South Bank of the Tyne Footpath - correspondence on this project was noted.

e) Play Facilities Group

The Play Facilities Report had been circulated.

RoSPA Inspection Report

Mrs Davison had discussed the RoSPA inspection report on the play areas with Anne-May Pottage of Tynedale who had felt that some of the comments and recommendations were "over the top" and that a certain level of risk is part of play.

Tyre Swing - it was agreed to ask Kompan to arrange for new Matta to be installed but otherwise to take no further action on this piece of equipment.

It was noted that the Kompan contractor will build up the wet pour surface on the Twist and extend the ramp.

Metal Swings - it was agreed to write to SMP quoting the RoSPA report and say that we had expected the previous repairs to last longer than two years.

Self-closing gate - it was agreed that although ideally the gate should have rubber buffers on both the hinge and closing poles nothing further could be gained by asking the supplier to look at it again and that it should be accepted as it is.

The Handyman is to be congratulated on keeping both play areas clean.

Kate's Plain - the fence had still not been fixed and James Robson is to be contacted again. Some thought should be given to raising the height of the fence behind the goal posts by 1.5 metres, to prevent the balls going over.

The Play Facilities Group is to look at the other items raised by the RoSPA report and make recommendations.

It was noted that the central pole from the teen shelter is missing and Mrs Davison and Mrs Martin are to look at this and make recommendations.

BEPA Project - The contractor arrived on site on 4th September and it is expected the work would take around 4 weeks. It was agreed that there was no need to close the whole play area.

Mrs Davison is to attend a Play seminar in Carlisle on 29th September.

f) Sports Facilities Group

The Sportsfield Management Group is to meet on 12th September.

The wall at the Multisports Unit has still to be mended.

g) Communication

NE43 News was available for distribution.

Website - Dave Porter continues to up-date this as required.

h) Council Representatives

Nothing to report.

06/44 Other business

Land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace - Mrs Barwick-Bell declared an interest in this matter. It was agreed that she should take part in the debate as she had had discussions with residents and neighbours who were concerned about the fences which had recently been erected. No problems were suggested with the fence erected by the owner of 24 Baliol Road. However, it was felt that the fence erected by the owner of 15 Branch End Terrace might have encroached onto land which the Parish Council had registered an interest in and maintained. It was noted that any fence should not block the footpath to Baliol Road. The Clerk is to contact the Land Registry for clarification on the position.

05/45 Date of Next Meeting

2nd October 2006

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.