

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2006

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

Also present: District Councillor Dale, County Councillor Thompson, Norman Hooks, Ruth Forster, Iris Dobson

Apologies: District Councillor Mike Collins,

06/55 Declarations of Interest - None

06/56 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October were agreed as a true record.

06/57 Matters Arising -

Cross Street - County Councillor Thompson advised that the holes in the road surface were to be filled in.

Painshawfield Road - Councillor Thompson also advised that the holes were to be repaired.

Birches Nook Road - Councillor Thompson said that it was hoped to progress the matter of the double yellow lines on Birches Nook Road shortly.

06/58 Public Participation

Norman Hooks gave a brief report on the progress to date on the creation of a new footpath route around the ponds at Merryshields. A copy of his report is attached. Following his report, a brief discussion ensued during which the following points were raised:

The conditions of the planning permission for the creation of the ponds should be researched

The creation of a path from Bywell Bridge was more difficult and costly because of the necessity to create a bridge over the burn.

The water level in the new ponds made it unsuccessful as a fishing pond. It is only about 4 feet deep as it had not proved possible to achieve the depths originally planned.

A permissive footpath might be the preferred designation of the new route as this would mean it would be easier to control access by dogs.

Norman Hooks and his group were thanked for their efforts to date and requested to pursue this project.

Mrs Iris Dobson requested that consideration be given to the provision of a bus shelter at the west bound bus stop at Branch End. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Planning & Highways Group should look into this and make recommendations.

Mrs Dobson asked if it was possible for the County to cut the grass verges outside the houses opposite Branch End Play Area. She said that as the residents of these properties grew older they found it more difficult to keep the grass cut. It was pointed out that although the County Council had responsibility for grass verges, where they were cut by residents and others the County did not usually cut them more than once a year and then only for a metre or so back from the road or footpath. However, it was agreed to look into this problem.

Mrs Dobson also asked if it was possible for the Main Road to be re-numbered but it was pointed out that the last time this was considered, residents had not wanted to pursue the idea.

District Councillor Mrs Dale advised that as a result of two pedestrians falling on the uneven pavement on the even-numbered side of New Ridley Road Tynedale Council have liaised with the County who have

agreed to carry out repairs between numbers 80 and 160 and for substantial works to be carried out outside nos. 150 to 152 and 124 to 130.

Parking outside Branch End Play Area - Mrs Warhurst-Walker raised concerns about cars parking on the pavement near the gate to the Play Area opposite the traffic island. She pointed out the cars were blocking the pavement and access to the play area and thus presenting a hazard to pedestrians and also to users of the play area.

It was noted that the “dumpy” bags had been taken away from Painshawfield Road.

It was requested that the County be requested to fill the grit bins before the winter.

06/59 Correspondence

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

Peter Elphick - a letter had been received regarding the sight lines at the junction of the A695 and the B6309. It was agreed to write to the County on this matter.

SCA Forum - the first meeting of the Forum is to be held on 22nd November. Ian Hall will attend on behalf of the Parish Council and suggest that future meetings might be held later in the day to enable councillors who work to attend.

Eastern Parishes Forum - Ian Hall to attend the next meeting when among the topics to be discussed will be the Youth Service.

Disorder in the Station Car Park - Malcolm Chainey advised that he had had discussions with the Police who had been aware of the knife attack which had been reported in the press recently. Northumbria Police were to suggest that extra lighting be provided in the Station car Park and it was suggested and agreed that the Parish Council should add £200 to the precept as a contribution towards this.

Concern was raised at the apparent length of time between the alleged knife attack and its reporting in the press. It was suggested that in the intervening 7 weeks British Transport Police had been advertising for witnesses. It was agreed to write to BTP emphasising these concerns and asking what progress had been made in the investigation. It was suggested that witnesses were reluctant to come forward.

Tynedale Joint Discussion Forum - Mrs Sayce and Mrs Warhurst Walker are to attend this meeting on 20th November.

Land Registry - a response had been received following our request for information. The response was not very helpful and it was agreed to ask for further advice from former councillors Peter Askew and Graham Ashley.

NALC - Community Strategy - Mrs Sayce offered to look at this document.

George Bishop - a letter had been received and responded to with regard to the provision of skate boarding facilities. A comment was made that youngsters were skate boarding down Batt House Road and that this was a dangerous practice.

NALC Training Events - It was agreed that Mrs Warhurst-Walker would attend the event on Land & Property Matters and that Mrs Sayce, Mr Hall and Mrs Wade would attend the event on Parish Plans.

NCC Minerals and Waste Development Framework - no comment to be made.

Youth Service - a report had been received on the work of the Youth Service in Stocksfield. Doubt was expressed that this term, the Tuesday Youth Project was actually operating. A letter is to be written to the Youth Service thanking them for their report and raising concerns that the current impression is that activity on Tuesday evenings appears to be negligible.

06/60 Finance

The Accounts for October had been circulated and were approved.

An additional cheques was also approved as follows:

Precept 2007/08 - A draft of the Precept/budget for next year had been circulated and Councillors were requested to let the Clerk have their comments by 20th November.

06/61 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

Remembrance Sunday - Mrs Sayce advised that she had asked Dennis Wellings to lay the wreath. Photos of the event were requested.

Resignation of Anne Davison - it was with regret that Councillors received the news that Mrs Davison would be resigning as a Parish Councillor in December. Mrs Davison's work on the play areas, and in particular the regeneration of Branch End Play Area was much appreciated. She advised that she would continue to work for the regeneration of Branch End as a volunteer.

It was agreed to co-opt a new Parish Councillor for the remainder of the term.

It was noted that a number of present councillors would not be standing for re-election in May and members were urged to actively seek new recruits to the Council

It was agreed that the following items be deferred until the December meeting

Code of Conduct - Kate's Plain

Risk Assessment

b) Planning & Highways

The Planning & Highways Report had been circulated.

Mrs Warhurst-Walker advised that while she was off work, she was trying to take photos of potholes and signs in order to record areas of concern.

A letter had been received from Northumbria Police outlining the results of a traffic speed survey and it was agreed to request further details.

The notes on the recent meeting with the County Council had been circulated and were accepted.

Concern was raised that it appeared that on some house extensions the bricks and window frames did not match the original building and a letter is to be sent to Tynedale raising concerns on the principles of planning permission.

Tynedale Core Strategy - no comment to be made.

County Councillor Thompson asked if the Parish was to be given a flashing speed indicator sign, where it should be sited. After some discussion it emerged that the most favoured site is near Branch End for traffic heading west. Mr Thompson is to discuss this with County.

County Councillor Thompson and Parish Councillors Warhurst-Walker and Barwick Bell then left the meeting.

c) Parish Plan - nothing to report

d) Footpaths & Environment Group

The notes on the Meeting of the Footpaths Group held on 9th October had been circulated.

It was agreed not to put up a fence on the repaired stretch of Footpath 13. Both County and Milecastle Housing accept the risk and it was noted that erecting a suitable fence would be difficult. It was noted that should there be an accident then the County and Milecastle would be responsible, however should the Parish Council erect a fence then they would be liable for its maintenance and should there be an accident the Parish Council would bear no responsibility It was agreed to write to the County accepting the recommendation not to erect a fence but stressing that the Parish Council still had concerns about the

safety of pedestrians at this point. It was stressed that this was a pedestrian footpath and that it should not be used by cyclists.

Broomley Woods - it was noted that Allendale Estates had been represented at the Footpaths Group meeting and that this had proved to be a useful contact. It was agreed that they would be invited to future meetings of the Group. Parish Councillors and residents were urged to report anything untoward happening in Broomley Woods to the Estate.

Uncut hedge on Apperley Road/New Ridley Road - it was reported that the County Council are taking action on this.

Concern was raised that the road from the Fords to Ridley Mill was becoming very narrow.

New Walks Leaflet - there is no time scale for the production of this, ideas are being considered, including a possible link with Healthy Walks

Hanging Baskets - it was agreed to replant these spending a maximum of £200

e) Play Facilities Group

The Play Facilities Report had been circulated. Mrs Davison commented on the recent seminar she had attended in Carlisle and urged councillors to look at the HSE website and in particular the leaflets on "Reducing Risk - protecting people". She said that the Council needs to have a "Play Strategy" but that there was no need to re-invent the wheel as reference could be made to Tynedale's Play Strategy. Anyone interested in seeing the presentations given at the Carlisle Seminar should see Mrs Davison as she has them on a CD.

Kate's Plain - it was agreed to take no action where the Matta was lifting under the equipment, but to monitor the situation. It was noted that there was quite a lot of graffiti and knife damage to the teen shelter.

It was agreed to accept the quotation from Outdoor Life to mend the fence at a cost of £130 but not to extend the height of the fence.

Branch End Play Area - a copy of the RoSPA final installation report had been sent to Kompan for comment. The handyman is to be asked to clean the fireman's pole on the new climbing frame.

Metal Swings - A letter had been received from SMP Playgrounds regarding the tiles under these swings. SMP advised that they believed that the tiles had now outlived their useful life. It was accepted that these swings would probably be replaced sooner rather than later and that SMP's advice to take no further action be accepted.

BEPA Phase II - Mrs Davison said that she was prepared to continue to help with the regeneration of the Play Area but as a volunteer rather than a councillor. Mrs Dale offered to help with grant applications.

Play Facilities Convenor - The appointment of the Play Facilities Convenor was deferred to the December meeting.

Ian Hall is to act as the Parish Council's representative on the Branch End Regeneration Group.

New Entrance Branch End Play Area - deferred to December meeting.

f) Sensory Garden - Nothing to report - discussion deferred to December

g) Sports Facilities Group - Nothing to report

h) Communication

NE43 News - A draft of the next edition was circulated - comments were requested by mid November

Website - Dave Porter requested Councillors to keep him informed of events in order that the website might be continually up-dated.

i) Council Representatives - Nothing to report

06/62 Other business - None

06/63 Date of Next Meeting

4th December 2006

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.