

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2007.

Present: Councillors Sayce, Chainey, Drew, Hall, Levitt, Martin, Porter, Wade, Warhurst-Walker
Mrs M Williams, Clerk. Also present: District Councillor Dale, County Councillor Thompson
Mr L Jewitt, Mr W Green, Hexham Courant

Apologies: Councillors Hedley and Barwick-Bell, District Councillor Mike Collins

Mrs Sayce opened the meeting by wishing those present a Happy New Year. She also welcomed Mr Jewitt to the meeting and thanked him for his interest in the proceedings of the Parish Council.

06/73 Declarations of Interest – None

06/74 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December were agreed as a true record.

06/75 Matters Arising

Double Yellow Lines at Cross Street – Councillor Thompson said that these would be painted on the Surgery side only of Cross Street and on both corners, and that steps would be taken to ensure that the pavement would be accessible to all pedestrians and disabled scooter users. He advised that the County was responsible for pavements and highways and suggested that the bollards prevent the delivery vehicles from using the pavement.

Double yellow lines Birches Nook Road - will be installed as previously agreed.

Land at 15 Branch End Terrace – Mrs Dale provided a copy of a letter from Tynedale referring to this issue. The matter was discussed more fully later in the meeting.

Fence at Hall Farm Close – Mrs Dale advised that responsibility for repair was being investigated.

Broomley Village Play Area – Mrs Dale confirmed that responsibility for this will be taken over by Tynedale.

Branch End Play Area – Mrs Dale said that Tynedale will be recommending the BEPA Phase II improvements for grant aid – however she stressed that the project must meet the required criteria in order to qualify for the grant.

Flashing Speed Signs – Mr Thompson advised that the County had not forgotten this issue. He advised however that the "Camera Partnership" was responsible for funding such signs. He said that individual county councillors could contribute to the costs but under the contract placed by the County with the Camera Partnership the signs will be mobile and could be moved to other parts of the County. A decision on this will be reached shortly.

SPAM – it was reported that most councillors' SPAM problems through the Stocksfield.org account had been sorted.

Bus Shelter at Branch End - it was confirmed that a letter had been sent to County requesting suggestions for a site for a bus shelter on the west bound side of the A695 at Branch End.

06/76 Public Participation

Over-grown hedge in Apperley Road – the County is to be chased on this matter.

St John's cinderpath – complaints about the condition of the path are to be investigated by Tim Fish, the County Footpath's officer.

06/77 Correspondence

Correspondence had been received regarding proposals for the Local Government Review. Councillors Sayce and Hall are to attend a meeting at Tynedale on 9th January. Other meetings discussing this issue are Prudhoe Community Partnership Members' Meeting 23rd January and a full meeting of the County Council 18th January.

Terry Davey – A letter had been received offering to bring councillors up-to-date with the Code of Conduct. He is to be contacted and a date in May suggested for such a briefing.

Community Action Northumberland (formerly CCN) – a letter had been received requesting grant aid and it was agreed to pay a grant of £100 in 07/08.

Hexham Courant – a letter had been received from the Hexham Courant requesting an entry in this year's Tynedale Visitor. It was agreed to repeat the entry from last year.

Tynedale – Local Development Scheme – The Planning Group is to look at the on-line documentation and make recommendations on comments at the February meeting.

NCC – Consultation on Rights of Way - Footpaths Group is to look at this documentation and make recommendations.

Tyne Rivers Trust – Wild Angling Passport – the Parish Council has no fishing rights and no response was considered necessary.

All other correspondence listed was noted.

06/78 Finance

The Accounts for December had been circulated and were approved.

Precept 2007/08 – A summary of the precept documentation, which had been discussed at previous meetings, was circulated.

Councillor Malcolm Chainey proposed and Councillor Tracy Warhurst-Walker seconded and it was agreed that the precept for 2007/08 be set at £50,400.

06/79 Youth Service and Youth Provision

Sally Jones, recently appointed Senior Youth & Community Worker based in Prudhoe was welcomed to the meeting. There was a wide ranging discussion covering issues raised in the past and also briefly looking to the future. The main topics were:

What does the Youth Service do?

Is it good value?

The Parish Council needs a dialogue with the Youth Service.

Sally Jones advised: She has recently been appointed. The Youth Service in Prudhoe covers the Prudhoe Community High School catchment area. Prudhoe is the only youth service in Northumberland with its own premises and is regarded as a "flagship" service. The Youth Service has to provide a "business plan", a copy of which she left for the Parish Council. The business plan highlights the premise that "every child matters". In some terms there is better attendance than in others. The difference in youth work in Prudhoe and Stocksfield is astonishing. Under 13s pay a small weekly fee as the youth service does not receive subsidies for this age group. 13+ no membership fees is payable. Replacement kit etc. is partly funded by the tuck shop. Trips out of the area have to be paid for. Although one of the Parish Councillors said that he did not know of any other youth club where fees were not charged, it was acknowledged that some people cannot afford fees. At present there are 12 regular attendees at Stocksfield but there are also 5 or 6 regulars from Stocksfield attending the East and others who attend the Skate Club. A lot of young people attend the Prudhoe Youth Football sessions. A lot of youth work is done in school by the youth service staff. Work with under 13s is only done in Prudhoe. The youth service is trying to develop a service for young people. Level 1 meetings with the police suggest that there has only one 101 call since last year and that was not youth related. Inspector Jan Richards has been away from work for some time. With any code of conduct set up

there might be problems of acceptance with young people and there would be little point in trying to set it up if it could not be made to work. It is not possible to put a cost on the support work carried out and the work done by detached workers. Detached workers are very good at handling and liaising with large groups of young people. Youth workers do a valuable service however core funding is continually being cut.

Parish councillors felt that a code of conduct might have been designed to provide guidelines for acceptable behaviour. Whether or not you agree with a code of conduct it is recognised that there is still acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Residents of Mount View Terrace and Brumwell Court had been lead to believe that something was going to happen to solve the problems they were having. The police officers who had promoted the idea were no longer in post. It was felt that the Scouts and Cubs are possibly looking after more young people in Stocksfield than the Youth Service.

Why does the County Council cut back core funding? Both district and parish councils contribute to the youth service. Northumberland is one of the few authorities where the youth service is attached to the schools. Nowadays, youth service staff spend time on completing evaluations rather than on doing hands on work. It was felt that there might be more parental involvement in the youth service and that the County needed to review its expenditure on this service objectively.

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council contribute quite a large proportion of its budget to local youth service core funding. Councillors asked if they could see a breakdown of youth service expenditure. Councillors felt that they should be looking at youth as a whole and debate whether we are making an appropriate contribution.

Ms Jones was thanked for attending the meeting and her contribution to the debate.

06/80 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) General Purposes Group

The General Purposes Group Report had been circulated.

Co-option of a new Parish Councillor – Councillor Hall advised that he had been in touch with John Davison who had indicated his willingness to stand for the Parish Council for the rest of the term. Dave Porter proposed, Lorraine Wade seconded and it was agreed that Mr Davison be co-opted to the Parish Council until the elections in May. Mr Davison had been unable to attend this month's meeting.

Grant Aid

The General Purposes Group had recommended and it was agreed that the following grants be made

In the current financial year

Stocksfield Scouts £500 towards the new hut fund

£500 core funding

in the 07/08 financial year

Mid Tyne Kids Club £200 towards purchase of a computer

SICA £500 towards the cost of the proposed driveway

It was further recommended that all requests for grants must be accompanied by accounts (for general revenue requests) and/or project costs (for capital and one-off expenditure).

Land at 15 Branch End Terrace

Mrs Warhurst-Walker gave a brief resume on the course she had recently attended on the subject of land registration of which they most salient points were:

The Parish Council should consider any land that it owned before the 1st April 2007 when there will be a considerable hike in the fees. The Clerk to check that the Cricket Field is registered.

The Parish Council should also consider registering an interest in other sites, e.g. the former Rifle Club site.

The Parish Council should register its continuing interest in the land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace. Officers of the Land Registry would be happy give advice to councillors.

With specific reference to the land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace

Does the Parish Council know what it wants to do with it at the end of the process.

There is a need to agree what the long-term aim is, although it was suggested that at present this is to provide a managed garden.

These matters are to be pursued further with the Land Registry.

County Council Budgets - the proposed letter was accepted with amendments to reflect concerns over cuts in care and respite services (Mrs Martin declared an interest in this topic) and the fact that it had to be acknowledged that where more than one route to a community was available then priorities may have to be set as to which was maintained.

Speaker at Annual Parish Meeting

After some discussion it was agreed

that the subject at the Annual Parish Meeting might be the provision of services and facilities for young people in Stocksfield.

that rather than a speaker a small panel might be invited to debate the subject with residents

that providers of services for young people might be invited to show-case what they had to offer.

b) Planning & Highways

The Planning & Highways Report had been circulated and a second report was tabled.

It was noted that no response had been received from the County Council querying the proposal to resurface Batt House Road before Meadowfield Road. Mrs Dale advised that she believed this was because Batt House Road problems were caused by structural difficulties where as Meadowfield Road only has a surface problem.

Consultation re Tyne River Crossing – There was a brief discussion on this. It was acknowledged that any provision of a new river crossing could be many years away, but it was stressed that in Stocksfield our major concern was to reduce the weight of traffic, in particular heavy vehicles, using the A695. It was noted that at the Eastern parishes Forum a fourth option had been suggested (i.e. to extend the Prudhoe by-pass westwards past Mickley and Stocksfield.). It was agreed that the Planning & Highways Group would draw up a response to the consultation.

Cade Hill Road - complaints had been received about the dangers of parking outside no. 7. Planning & Highways are to discuss this and make recommendations.

c) Parish Plan

This topic was deferred until the February meeting/.

d) Footpaths & Environment Group

It was agreed that Norman Hooks and Ruth Robson should attend the Joint Local Access Forum Meeting on 18th January.

It was noted that Broomley & Stocksfield was one of the few parishes in Northumberland with an active Footpaths Group.

It was noted that the Footpaths Group had plans to revise the Footpaths leaflet.

Spring Clean – a similar event to last year is to be organised at the end of the Easter holidays.

e) Play Facilities Group

Mr Hall advised that a useful meeting had been held between the Branch End Play Area Regeneration Group and Tynedale officers. Tynedale will advise the group about the criteria for qualification for grant aid under the Big Lottery Scheme.

Comments on Tynedale's Play Strategy document are being prepared. It was noted that this parish comes out quite well in this document, but stressed that we should not be complacent about this.

f) Sensory Garden

Mrs Martin advised that a meeting had been held at which it had been suggested that more people needed to be involved. An appeal for plants for the sensory garden had been published. It was stressed that the Leisure Facilities Group, the Branch End Play Area Regeneration Group and the Sensory Garden Group need to liaise, particularly over the siting of the new access to the Play Area. It was suggested that students at Kirkley Hall might be involved in the Sensory Garden project.

g) Sports Facilities Group

A paper suggesting rental levels for the 06/07 season for the Sportsfield facilities was circulated and these were agreed as follows:

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| Cricket Club West Field | £150.00 |
| East Field | £180.00 |
| Football Club (3 senior and 4 junior teams) | £420.00 |
| Rugby Club | £330.00 |

A draft agreement for the use of the Sportsfield by the various clubs is to be drawn up.

Multi Use Games Area

Mrs Sayce thanked those who had supported the recent fund raising event. She advised that the Football Club was still waiting to hear from the FA – so no further progress had been made.

h) Communication

After a brief discussion it was agreed that future issues of NE43 would be an A4 and not trifold format.

i) Council Representatives

Nothing to report.

06/81 Other business

A notice had been received from Northumbrian Police regarding the next meeting of the Police and Community Forum.

A letter is to be sent to Ivor Grey congratulating him on being awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours.

06/82 Date of Next Meeting: 5th February 2007

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m