

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2007

Present: Councillors Sayce, Barwick-Bell, Chainey, John Davison, Drew, Hedley, Porter, Wade, Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: District Councillor Dale, County Councillor Ray Thompson, Mr P Barrass

Apologies: Councillors, Melna Martin, Ian Hall, Tracy Warhurst-Walker, District Councillor Mike Collins

06/102 Declarations of Interest – None

06/103 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2007 were agreed, as a true record.

06/104 Matters Arising

Hexham Hospital – it was noted that when the new part of the Hospital was finished the hospital will have cost £6.2 million pfi which will be paid back over 20 years. Mrs Drew said that as a member of “Patients Voice” she had visited the Hospital and of the 20 patients interviewed, none had made negative comments. Of these 20 some had had their operations and treatment in other hospitals and been sent back to Hexham for further treatment. It was acknowledged that some patients and their families do complain about having to travel great distances to North Tyneside or Wansbeck.

It was noted that patients can elect to have their surgery in Hexham and suggested that Hexham might become the “private” wing of the Trust. The same consultants cover all the hospitals within the Trust. It was noted that patients and their families are unwilling to complain about their treatment. It was felt that the Trust should publicise the fact that there are funds which enable patients and their families get to the other Hospitals within the Trust.

It was noted that Hexham can no longer offer a full A&E service and can only treat minor injuries. It was suggested that the road signs need to be changed and it was asked if the Ambulance Service was aware of this.

Mining Strategy – it was noted that all the areas under discussion are covered by a preservation order until 2008. It was suggested that the County might receive applications towards the end of 2007 but that no activity was expected until 2008.

SICA – Councillor Thompson advised that he had been able to give grant aid towards their vehicular access project.

06/105 Public Participation

Councillor Davison had been asked why there was not a skate park in Stocksfield, and it was explained that no acceptable site for such a facility had been identified in the parish. It was alleged that children going to the facility in Hexham are being bullied. Mrs Dale hinted that it a possible site had been identified in a neighbouring parish.

06/106 Correspondence

Community Action Northumberland – it was agreed to take no action on the Village of the Year project.

Northumberland County Council – Proposed Diversion of FP13 - Councillor Chainey advised that this proposed diversion regularised the map and what is on the ground. It was agreed to support the proposal.

All other correspondence had been listed on the agenda and was noted.

County Councillor Thompson left the meeting at this point.

06/107 Finance

The accounts for March had been circulated and were accepted.

The Preliminary Income/Expenditure Report to year end had been circulated and was accepted.

The Expenditure on the Handyman Contract had been circulated and was accepted.

06/108 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) Play Facilities Group

The Play Facilities Group Report was tabled at the meeting.

Kate's Plain – It was agreed that the Handyman be asked to look at the fence where it adjoins the Brumwell Court fence to see if this corner could be tidied up.

Branch End Play Area – the comments in the Report were noted. It was reported that Phase II of Branch End Play Area Regeneration would receive an additional grant from Tynedale.

Broomley Play Area - A letter had been received from Tynedale confirming that the play facility included in the plans for the development at Broomley would be for public use and that the Parish Council would not be held responsible for the up-keep, maintenance and refurbishment of the facility.

One condition of granting the planning application (2006 0895) states

“A Section 106 Agreement was also drawn up as part of the previous planning application, for a requirements of £7,298 to be paid toward off-site sports facilities within the area of the Parish of Broomley & Stocksfield. This agreement is to be amended so it now refers to this application. The proposal therefore accords with meet the requirements of Policies LR11 and LR 15 of the Tynedale Local Plan.”

and it was agreed to ask Tynedale for clarification in principle as to how Section 106 funds are notified to the parishes and granted to them.

b) Sports Facilities Group

The Report of the Sports Facilities Group was tabled and noted. It was reported that discussions are on-going with the Rugby Club with regard to the level of rent to be paid for use of the rugby pitches.

c) Communication

NE43 News and the Annual Parish Report are available for delivery.

Website – Dave Porter advised that the website is being continually updated and urged members to let him have items for publishing on it.

d) Council Representatives

Nothing to report

e) General Purposes

The General Purposes Group had not met.

Local Elections May 2007 – Councillors were unaware of any candidates having put their names forward other than those previously suggested. It was recognised that, order to bring the full complement of parish councillors up to 12, it would probably be necessary to co-opt new members.

It was stressed that the advisory groups would have to do some of the “heavy lifting” for councillors. Councillors would also need to prioritise work and projects. It was felt that some of the current projects should be completed sooner rather than later thus reducing some of the current workload

Annual Parish Meeting – councillors were urged to attend this meeting and to think of questions to put to the panel on the provision of facilities for young people.

Land Registry - The notes on the meeting with representatives of the Land Registry held in February had been circulated together with proposals for the way forward.

Mrs Barwick-Bell reminded members that she lives in Branch End Terrace.

15 Branch End Terrace – Malcolm Chainey proposed, Jodie Barwick-Bell seconded and it was agreed that a caution should be registered on 15 Branch End Terrace.

Cricket Field - Malcolm Chainey proposed and Lorraine Wade seconded and it was agreed that ownership of the Cricket Field be registered.

Former Rifle Club at Guessburn – the Parish Council has been concerned about this site for several years and attempts to identify the trustees have been unsuccessful. It is believed that this site is ear-marked as a recreational site. The 8 councillors present agreed that steps should be taken by the Parish Council to register a caution on this site. It was recognised that this should be done with great sensitivity and that those with known interest in the site should be kept informed at all times.

Funding requests

Tynedale Sports Council – a letter requesting grant aid had been received and it was agreed to grant £50.

Stocksfield Golf Club – John Davison declared an interest. A letter requesting grant aid had been received and it was agreed to grant £100.

Local Government Review – it was reported that the Government is? to consult further regarding the possibility of introducing Unitary government Northumberland. It was agreed that the new Parish Council should debate this in May or June.

f) Planning & Highways

The Planning & Highways Report had been circulated. It was noted in particular that an objection had been made to

Application no. 2007 0172

5 Apperley Road

Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of new dwelling

Objection

Owing to the substantial size of this development we feel that the proposed plan would not be in keeping with the surrounding area. The extensive size of this build would detract from the existing properties.

and this was confirmed

g) Parish Plan

A meeting had been held with a representative of Community Action Northumberland to discuss ways of taking this project forward. It was stressed that there needs to be a “steering committee”, and some form of questionnaire in order to gauge the opinions of residents. It was agreed that the new Parish Council should look again at this project with a view to restarting the process and that the views of residents should be sought, particularly in relation to the “Local Development Framework”

h) Footpaths & Environment Group

The next meeting of the Footpaths Group will be held on 16th April. Among the topics to be considered are:

One remaining action from 1817 Inclosure Award (BOAT)

Mr Dryden’s concerns re Apperley Track

Way Marking

Forest Stewardship Application

Joint Local Access Forum – Parish Pride -

With regard to the Apperley Track problem, it was agreed to write to the Trail Riders' Association and the 4wd Association and point out that this route is not a public right of way. It was also noted that the County will, in due course, be making an order for this route to be a restricted by-way

Spring Clean Event 21st April – Councillors were urged to support this event.

Hall Farm Close – It was agreed that the fence at Hall Farm Close be replaced.

i) Sensory Garden

Nothing to report

06/109 Other business - None

Mr Davison requested that the subject of traffic on New Ridley Road be placed on the next agenda.

06/108 Date of Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council – 14th May

Parish Council 4th June

Mrs Sayce closed the meeting and wished those present a very Happy Easter.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.