

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2nd July 2007**

Present: Councillors Julia Sayce, Pete Barrass, Lizzie Clark, John Davison, Ian Hall, Diane Hinchcliffe, Barbara Gravenor, Norman Hooks, Dave Porter, Tracy Warhurst-Walker. Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: District Councillors Argent, Dale (from approx 8.10pm), County Councillor Ray Thompson. Bill Richmond (Resident Birkdene). Will Green, Hexham Courant

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs Melna Martin, District Councillor Mrs E Drew

Mrs Sayce welcomed Mrs Gravenor to the Parish Council.

### **07/29 Declarations of Interest – None**

### **07/30 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2007 were agreed as a true record.

### **07/31 Matters Arising –**

It was unclear exactly what Mr Dryden's concerns had been and it had not proved possible to contact him – the Clerk is to write to Mr Dryden seeking clarification of his concerns.

Yellow lines

County Councillor Thompson advised that following the advertisement in the local press of the proposal to install yellow lines on Birches Nook Road, two complaints had been received. These responses knock back the implementation of the proposal. Councillor Thompson thought that a compromise had been reached earlier in the year, and felt that in spite of the belated objections the order should go Committee in August, and be raised again in September.

The general feeling of the meeting was that as a minimum remedy to the problems, yellow lines should be installed at the junction of Birches Nook Road and the A695, and that the situation should be reviewed once the installation had been made.

The order for yellow lines on Cross Street was now going ahead.

The whole process for the provision for yellow lines at the junction of Painshawfield Road/New Ridley Road should be gone through again. Councillor Thompson personally felt that this proposal should go ahead.

Entrance to the Cricket Field – a representative of NEDL had met with Norman Hooks and had agreed with him that NEDL would pay for the materials for an appropriate gate if the handyman would do the installation.

Re-surfacing Meadowfield Road Councillor Thompson advised that the drains and pavements were being replaced during this operation.

### **07/32 Public Participation**

Concern was expressed about the condition of the footpaths between Meadowfield and Apperley Roads and residents are to be asked to cut back the hedges.

Mr Richmond, a resident of Birkdene, was attending the Parish Council meeting to represent the views of other residents of Birkdene on the proposal in NE43 News to provide hard standing at the entrance to Birkdene for parking. He said that residents felt that this would devalue their properties, spoil the entrance to the estate and give properties a poor outlook. John Davison confirmed that there was total opposition to the proposal which had been suggested as a way of reducing the number of parked cars at the top of Painshawfield Road. Councillors accepted the views of residents and agreed to look at alternatives to this problem and to take this suggestion no further. Mr Richmond was thanked for attending.

It was drawn to Councillors' attention that where cars were being parked on pavements (Birches Nook Road and Cade Hill Road were cited in particular) users of electric wheelchairs and parents with buggies were then unable to use the pavements.

Flood Damage - Councillor Thompson reported on the flood damage caused by the recent cloud bursts. It was noted that twice in the space of 10 days, debris from the gallops at Mickley Grange Farm had come down onto New Ridley Road and into Tynedale Gardens. Councillor Thompson thanked the Council workers for their prompt responses to these events. He said that the gully cleaner had come out and cleaned the drains (and those in Cade Hill Road). He said that any householder whose property had been affected should contact their insurance company who would liaise with the farmer's insurance company.

District Councillor Colin Argent advised that this was thought to be a long-standing problem and he has spoken to the Environment Officer at Tynedale, who is to look into ways of minimising this problem in future. It was thought that the chippings from the gallop had blocked the drains and that the cattle grid below the gallop had been filled in. It was also thought that this particular gallop was no longer used.

The footpath from New Ridley Road to the bottom of Tynedale Gardens had been cleared.

Anyone with any relevant information on this matter should contact Councillors Thompson or Argent on this matter.

(District Councillor Mrs Dale arrived at this point)

Colin Argent also advised that he had been contacted by the resident of the first cottage on Birches Nook Road. Apparently this cottage has continuous problems with flooding. Colin Argent has asked the Environment Officer to look at this, as there is subterranean water at this point. It was felt that there was little the Parish Council could do on this matter.

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it was alleged that the new provider (Classic Coaches) of the service from Whittonstall to Newcastle had restructured the fares, that the drivers would not give return or concessionary fares, and that different drivers charged different fares. Councillor Thompson is to take this up with the County.

Dog Litter Bins

Colin Argent asked if a dog litter bin could be provided east of Branch End. It was agreed that that he would take this matter up with Prudhoe Town Council as it was within the boundary of Prudhoe Parish.

Ponds near Broomley Grange

Councillor Norman Hooks advised that concerns had been raised about the apparent creation of a pond between the Five Lane Ends and the entrance to Broomley Grange to the west of the road. It had been suggested that a shooting pond was being created. It was noted that no planning application had been received about this. It was thought that ownership of this land had changed recently. Mrs Dale offered to find out more on this subject.

### **07/33 Correspondence**

NALC – A letter had been received requesting nominations to the Standards Committee – no one was nominated.

Tynedale – A letter had been received inviting members to a meeting regarding the new Code of Conduct. Mrs Sayce and Mrs Gravenor volunteered to attend

Tynedale - A letter had been received regarding advertising acceptance of the revised Code of Conduct. This is to be deferred until after the meeting above.

Tynedale - A letter had been received regarding the Tynedale Local Development Framework Site Allocations consultation. It was agreed that the proposed site allocations need to be assessed in the light of Tynedale's Core Strategy and the Parish Council response will be considered after the public meeting to discuss this matter on 30th July.

Tynedale – A letter had been received inviting members to the Tynedale Parish Council Forum on 9th July. Mrs Sayce, Mrs Walker-Warhurst and Ms Clark volunteered to attend.

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

### **07/34 Finance**

The Accounts for June had been circulated and were accepted.

It was agreed to hold the transfer of monies from the Recreational Development Fund to the BEPA Phase 1 to clear the deficit until clarification on grant aid for this project had been received from Tynedale.

A letter had been received from the Branch End Play Area Regeneration Group requesting that the Parish Council underwrite any shortfall (at the time of the meeting around £11,000) in funding for Phase II. The group is to continue to raise funds for this project. Dave Porter proposed and Norman Hooks seconded and it was agreed that the Parish Council underwrite any shortfall in funding.

### **07/35 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives**

#### **a) Play Facilities Group**

Branch End Play Area – Diane Hinchcliffe confirmed that the project would receive a £50,000 grant from the BIG Lottery through Tynedale's Play Strategy bid.

Section 106 – The Clerk explained the process of receiving Section 106 funds.

Tynedale will issue a spreadsheet from time to time advising how much is likely to be paid under Section 106. They will then invite the Parish Council to apply for the funds which cannot be used retrospectively, so for instance could not be used to pay the shortfall on Phase 1 of BEPA. Use of Section 106 funds is restricted by the terms of the Play and Open Spaces Strategies. The funds are outwith any other funds applied for from Tynedale (in effect they are a bonus). They can only be spent within our Parish, but presumably if the Parish Council had no use for them at the time the funds could be applied for by other organisations whose projects qualified. If they are not spent, they are held until needed.

There could be a steady trickle of funds, as individual houses and not just developments over 5 properties have to make a payment.

The main thing is that it is not possible to budget for these funds as it is not possible to say when they will be paid. So for instance we could not budget in the BEPA project for say £2000 from the Broomley development as it may not be paid for some time.

BEPA New Access – Ian Hall and Norman Hooks are to look at the tenders for the Project Manager and make a recommendation.

Kate's Plain - It was reported that there were still holes in the fence.

Dave Porter advised that recently there had been youths under 18 in Kate's Plain with alcohol. He had rung the 101 service. An hour later the toddler area had been trashed and one youth had left by the hole in the fence. The police had spoken to the youths, taken their names, and made them clear up the rubbish. Dave Porter said that the damage to the fence was nothing to do with footballs but was regularly being used to access Kate's Plain from the field.

It was agreed to keep the situation under regular review and in particular at the end of the summer holidays.

#### **b) Sensory Garden**

The Sensory Garden Group is to meet later in the week.

#### **c) Sports Facilities Group**

Sportsfield Management – Agreement with Sportsfield Users – this matter to be deferred to September.

Multi Use Games Area – It was reported that a grant had been promised by SITA for £50,000 towards the cost of this project. It was noted and accepted that as the Contributing Third Party, the Parish Council would be required to pay £5278.50.

Cricket Field Grass Cutting – The outer area of the Cricket field had not been cut this summer. Mrs Sayce advised Councillors of the background to the Cricket Field Grass cutting arrangements, and reported that Broomley First School had terminated the contract (a Service Level Agreement between the School and the County Council) but had overlooked informing the Parish Council. No grass-cutting contract had therefore been in place since March. It was noted that the Cricket Club would look after the grass cutting for the remainder of the season, once the heavy growth on the outfield had been cut.

#### d) Communication

Dave Porter advised that he would be away in August and would therefore not be able to do much work on the website.

#### e) Council Representatives

SCA – Ian Hall had attended the most recent SCA Forum meeting. He gave the Clerk a copy of the Forum Constitution for the file. SCA have expressed interest in what happens in the community.

SCA Forum – Ian Hall had attended the most recent meeting and advised that the road issue had been raised. The next meeting is on 15th October. Councillors were asked to advise Ian Hall of any issues they wished to raise.

#### f) General Purposes

Regional Spatial Strategy – Mrs Gravenor gave the background to this document. She said that she felt that the Strategy would on the whole be of benefit and referred to our correspondence in 2005. She is to respond on line. She was thanked for taking the time to read and respond to this document.

g) Policy Group - Nothing to report.

#### h) Planning & Highways

The Planning Report had been circulated.

Concerns were expressed about the hedge at Burnside. It was stressed that this was a safe route to school and Allendale Estate is to be requested to cut the hedge.

#### i) Transport & Highways

Railway Masts in Tynedale – Pete Barrass offered to act as the Council's representative on the Storm 29 Group.

Traffic Calming Measures – It was felt that the Parish Council should look seriously at the costs of providing and maintaining our own Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Sign (VATCS), possibly a movable one. Other makes and the regulations for installing are to be researched. Dave Porter proposed and John Davison seconded and it was agreed that in principle the Parish Council should “go it alone” on this issue. Ray Thompson is to be asked for further information.

Local Integrated Transport Programme – John Davison and Pete Barrass are to draw up a response.

j) Parish Plan - Nothing to Report.

#### k) Footpaths & Environment Group

South Bank Footpath – draft letters to SITA and Land Factor had been circulated, referring to earlier correspondence on the provision of a footpath from near Bywell Bridge towards Prudhoe on the south bank of the river, and it was agreed to send these.. Norman Hooks advised that Tim Fish (County Footpaths officer) is to look into the possibility of funding a bridge across the Stocksfield Burn.

Climate Change – it was agreed to defer discussion on this matter.

Tree Preservation Orders - it was agreed to defer discussion on this matter. The Clerk to send a copy of the current list to all councillors.

It was noted that Google Earth now covers our area.

### **07/36 Other business**

Co-options to the Council – The Chairman asked the Council if they were prepared to discuss this matter although it had not been on the Agenda, and it was agreed. Mrs Sayce advised that Steve Gleadhill had offered to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. Barbara Gravenor proposed and Norman Hooks seconded that Steve Gleadhill be co-opted as a Parish Councillor and it was agreed.

A letter had been received from the County Council regarding the Minerals & Waste Development Framework Consultation - Julia Sayce and Barbara Gravenor are to look at this and formulate a response.

It was agreed that over the summer break the Chair and Vice-Chair had authority to sign cheques and to take appropriate action.

### **07/37 Date of Next Meeting - Parish Council 3rd September**

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m