

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th February 2008

Present: Councillors Julia Sayce, Pete Barrass, John Davison, Steve Gleadhill, Ian Hall, Diane Hinchcliffe, Norman Hooks, Barbara Gravenor, Melna Martin. Mrs M Williams, Clerk.

Also present: District Councillors Colin Argent, Mrs Anne Dale, Mrs Eileen Drew, Four members of the public, Gemma Sommerville, Hexham Courant Reporter

Apologies: Councillor D Porter, County Councillor Ray Thompson.

07/90 Declarations of Interest -

Mr Hooks declared an interest in SICA.

Mr Gleadhill declared an interest in discussions on the development at Burnside.

Mr Hall declared an interest as a member of the Traffic Action Group.

07/91 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2008 were agreed and signed by the Vice Chair Mr I Hall who had chaired the meeting.

07/92 Matters Arising

Burnside Development - Mr Gleadhill advised that the development was up for sale again and said that he had written to the developers requesting more information.

Welton Close - A draft letter to residents on the problem of parking on the recreation space at Welton Close had been tabled and it was agreed to send this to the residents of Welton Close apart from those who live in the "terraced" part of the street. It was agreed to amend the letter to say that the recreation space is owned by Tynedale Council.

Tynedale are to be asked to put up a sign saying that this is a play space.

Residents were thanked for bringing this problem to the attention of the Council.

Shooting in Broomley Woods - Ian Hall had had a meeting with the police and their comments had been noted. It was noted that the police were willing to visit the Estate and other land owners to discuss the question of shooting near public footpaths and bridleways and it was agreed to ask the police to contact the Estate and the various syndicates shooting in the area.

07/93 Traffic Calming Measures - Provision of Vehicle Activated Signs

As members of the public were present who were concerned about this matter it was agreed to bring the item forward.

Letters had been received from two residents raising concerns about traffic levels and speed. One letter reported a recent incident at Merryshields and it was stressed that such incidents should always be reported to the police.

Mr Barrass will take on board the comments when making recommendations regarding Vehicle Activated Traffic Signs. Notes on the inaugural meetings of the Traffic Action Group had been tabled. It was noted that this Group is not an advisory group of the Parish Council. A meeting is to be held with the traffic police. It was however stressed that there is a need to co-ordinate the efforts of the Transport Group of the Parish Council and the Traffic Action Group.

Mrs Gravenor is to meet Alan Bawn of the County Council to discuss the siting of VATS. Mr Hooks is also to attend this meeting.

Mrs Dale advised that the School Governors were to meet with the police to discuss issues relating to Broomley School. She also advised that Faber Maunsell are currently preparing a report on the source and destination of traffic.

John Davison proposed and it was supported that the Parish Council was in principle in favour of the introduction of VATS subject to agreement of the Highways and Police.

Mrs Gravenor advised that Inspector Brayshaw of Northumbria Police in Prudhoe is to contact her regarding meeting to discuss the siting of VATS. It is possible that a member of the TAG might also be invited to attend this meeting.

It was suggested that the whole village needs to be looked at when considering traffic problems and Mrs Gravenor said that it is hoped to achieve this through the Parish Plan which is currently being drawn up.

07/94 Public Participation

Closure of rural Post Offices - press reports had suggested that consultation on closure of post offices in Tynedale would take place in July/August. Mrs Dale reported that Tynedale is to write to the Parish Councils regarding this and also to ask the Post Office to re-schedule the consultation period.

It was stressed that when closure of one post office is discussed and there is strong opposition then while post office A might be averted, the next one along the line is threatened. It was suggested that a petition be drawn up supporting both post offices in Stocksfield.

Mrs Gravenor advised that she had produced a paper on our Post Offices ten years ago.

Points to cover when supporting two post offices in our community might be:

Stocksfield is a physically divided community.

The A695 is a dangerous road.

What would be the knock on effect on the other businesses carried out in the post office building

It was noted that the Post Office considered the turnover of the post office business only when considering closures.

Gritting - concern was expressed that during recent snowfalls, grit bins had been emptied and not refilled. After some discussion it was agreed that it would not be right to ask the Handyman to grit the pavements both from a practical (the current handyman does not work for the Parish Council every day) and possibly an insurance point of view. It was agreed however to write to the County and ask them to provide an extra grit bin at Branch End and to ensure that it and other grit bins are kept filled.

07/95 Correspondence

The Correspondence received had been listed on the agenda and was noted

A letter had been received from the Dept of Communities & Local Government regarding Consultation on Orders and Regulations - the Parish Council had no comment to make.

A notice had been received from Northumbria Police regarding a meeting at Prudhoe on 13th February - Mrs Sayce said that she would attend if she could.

A notice had been received from the Community Transport Association regarding a Road Show in Newcastle on 3rd April - Mrs Gravenor volunteered to attend.

07/96 Finance

The Accounts for January were accepted, however the payment to the Youth Service was queried and this matter was discussed later in the meeting.

07/97 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

a) Play Facilities

Branch End

A report on the most recent meeting of the Branch End Regeneration Group had been circulated and was noted.

Concern was expressed that Branch End Play Area should not be "over-pathed". It was agreed to leave the decision on the route of the paths to the Regeneration Group.

Care should be taken that when considering planting, which should be low and not tall growing, the play area should remain visible from the road.

Goal Posts - it was reported that boys would like larger (as opposed to 5-a-side size) goals. Mrs Hinchcliffe is discussing this with Kompan.

The entrance to the new area is still very muddy and it was noted that Kompan have still to re-instate the ground.

Official Opening - the decision of the Regeneration Group was noted but it was stressed that the requirements of the Big Lottery should be borne in mind.

Signage - It was agreed that one sign was sufficient. It was noted that Anne Davison was keen to have two signs. It was stressed that the names of all funders should be included on any sign. The layout/design and number of signs is to be left to the Regeneration Group.

Sensory Garden - nothing to report

Kates Plain

Tyre - Mrs Hinchcliffe had spoken to some of the mothers and a meeting is to be held to discuss whether or not a seat should be put round the tyre and the tyre then filled with suitable plants.

b) Local Government Re-organisation

Correspondence had been received on this matter over the past few weeks and this had been circulated. Mrs Sayce and Mr Gleadhill had attended a meeting at Tynedale on this matter on 29th January. It was reported that there was still concern about what the responsibilities of Belonging Communities might be. It was agreed that there will be opportunities but it is not clear what these might be. Tynedale will try to accommodate the wishes of parish councils. Community Forums may be delegated to provide local services. It was asked if parish councils should provide local services. There is a need to ensure that parish councils are in control of local services. Richard Robson and Andy Dean of Tynedale are to meet with the Community Forums.

c) Sports Facility Group

The Sportsfield Management Group had met and the report on the meeting was tabled.

The rents proposed for the three clubs was noted and agreed.

Agreement with Clubs on use of Sportsfield - this matter was still under discussion

Proposed new Football Pitch - the recommendations proposed by the Group were accepted.

d) General Purposes Group

The General Purposes Group had met and their report had been tabled.

The recommendations on grants were accepted:

07/08 SICA	£100.00
08/09 Stocksfield Scouts	£500.00
Age Concern Northumberland	£50.00
Stocksfield Cricket Club	£500.00
Community Action Northumberland	£50.00

Ayton Close Play Space - Mrs Dale reported that Tynedale were looking at this space. It was noted that in the past the Parish Council had agreed that it was not suitable for play equipment. It was agreed not to accept the recommendation of the Group. It was however agreed to ask the Handyman to tidy it up and remove any debris.

Youth Work - A report on the meeting with the new Senior Youth & Community Worker at Prudhoe, Lucy Roberts, had been circulated. Councillors felt let down that currently there appears to be little youth work done in Stocksfield and expressed the view that the expectation was that grants given would be used to provide a youth service for Stocksfield. It was reported that a lack of male youth leaders meant that it was not possible currently to provide a youth club in Stocksfield. It was likely to be the end of March before any additional youth leaders were appointed. Ms Roberts seemed to take on the idea of working with 11-13 year olds and was also keen to continue to work with the youth club in Stocksfield.

It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council needs to have some form of contract in return for the grant it gave to the youth service. Councillors need to feel they are receiving value for money. It was agreed that Councillors Hall, Hooks, Hinchcliffe, Gravenor and Gleadhill would draw up this "Service Level Agreement/contract".

It was noted that the provision of youth services relates to the production of the Parish Plan.

Primary Care Funding -It was noted that doctors are still negotiating with the Care Trust. The Parish Council needs to continue to keep in touch with the Surgery.

e) Policy Group

Older People's Strategy - Councillors had drawn up a response and it was accepted - councillors were thanked for looking into this question.

f) Parish plan

A paper had been circulated. It was agreed to accept the proposals made in the paper.

g) Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated and was noted.

h) Transport & Highways

Station Car Park - A proposal had been circulated and it was agreed to investigate the cost of enlarging the car park. It was also agreed to write to Northern Rail ? to say that the Parish Council would not support the introduction of pay and display at the Station Car Park.

i) Footpaths, Gardens & the Environment.

A report on a recent meeting of the Rights of Way Group had been circulated. It was agreed to pursue the question of the South Bank Footpath. It was also agreed to re-open the question of designating Quiet Lanes within the Parish.

j) Communication

Nothing to report

k) Council Representatives

Mrs Sayce advised that she had attended the County Council Area Committee Meeting - a report on this had been circulated.

Eastern Parishes Forum - The Minutes of the most recent meeting had been circulated.

07/98 Other business

None

07/99 Date of Next Meeting - Parish Council 3rd March 2008.