

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1st September 2008**

Present: Councillors Steve Gleadhill, Ian Hall, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Julia Sayce, Mrs M Williams, Clerk.

Also present: District Councillor Mrs Eileen Drew, County/District Councillor Mrs Anne Dale, Mrs Katherine Russell, Mrs G Brown (Hexham Courant), Ian Jopling & John Lewer, Northumberland County Council.

**Apologies:** Councillors Dave Porter, John Davison, Pete Barrass, Diane Hinchcliffe, District Councillor Colin Argent.

### **08/36 Improvements to Station Yard**

With the permission of the those present, the item on Improvements to the Station Car Park was brought to the start of the agenda in order that Messrs Jopling and Lewer (County Council Highways Officers) could outline proposals for the Station Car Park.

Mr Hall welcomed Messrs Jopling and Lewer to the meeting.

Mr Hooks brought members up to date with progress on this topic since July and said that positive meetings had been held with both representatives of the railway companies and the County Council.

Mr Jopling then explained that the under the Local Transport Plan, the authority was committed to improving facilities and services and officers are currently looking to see what can be done to improve quality and ease of access at railway stations all along the Newcastle-Carlisle line.

He asked why at Stocksfield we were not considering a larger project. He said that there was an opportunity to apply for Government "Access for All" funding which allowed £1 per passenger per year and that this year this would equate to £62,000 for Stocksfield Station. He said that bids for this funding had to be submitted and suitable projects would then be funded.

Mr Jopling then went on to say that he had discussed ideas for the Station Yard with County engineers and had come up with a three phase scheme.

Phase 1 would be to increase the parking as outlined by the Parish Council with the addition of improving access and parking on the area of land to the north of the station.

Phase 2 would increase the area of parking within the station yard and within the area of the station lease.

Phase 3 would include the old loading bay area and would possibly provide a pull in area for eastbound buses.

These three phases were clarified on a plan of the station which was circulated.

One major problem was the gas substation near the current bus stop.

The original suggestion by the Parish Council had been costed by County Engineers at £57,000 as opposed to the £15000 price received by the Parish Council.

Nothing had yet been shown by County officers to the railway companies.

Mr Jopling felt that there was nothing to prevent going ahead with Phase 1 straight away.

After some discussion the following was agreed:

1 Steve Gleadhill proposed and Julia Sayce seconded and it was agreed that:

Phase 1 (the original proposal for the car park, plus the extended area, improvements on the north side of the station, lighting to the new parking area [taken from the highway], a dedicated footway from the platform to the A695 and improvements to the entrance from the A695) should go ahead immediately.

2 Ian Jopling & John Lewer would complete the application form for funding from Access for All and send it to the Parish Council for comment. It was noted that the bid had to be submitted by the end of September and that notification as to its success or not would be received around the turn of the year. It was suggested that should the bid not be successful then the County would look again at the original suggestion for Phase 1

3 Steve Gleadhill proposed and Julia Sayce seconded and it was agreed that Norman Hooks should take on lead responsibility for this project.

It was also agreed that further consideration should be given to proposals for phases 2 and 3.

The plans showing the extent of the proposals are attached to these Minutes.

Messrs Jopling and Lewer were thanked for attending the meeting.

Following the departure of Messrs Jopling and Lewer, the meeting reverted to the agenda.

### **08/37 Declarations of Interest - None**

### **08/38 Minutes**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July was proposed by Norman Hooks and seconded by Julia Sayce. The Minutes were agreed.

### **08/39 Matters Arising**

Hedge at Welton Close - A letter had been received from Tynedale advising that they could not take over the maintenance of this hedge. It was agreed to write to Tim Fish, NCC and ask if he had heard from the original builders of Birkedene, Wimpey regarding maintenance of this length of hedge.

### **08/40 Public Participation**

Fence opposite Cade Hill Road - County Councillor Mrs Dale raised the question of the condition of this fence. She was advised that the Clerk is currently in correspondence with SITA who are thought to be the owners of the field.

Trees at Burnside - Some of the trees are overhanging the pavement and need cutting back - contact is to be made with Adamson Developments.

#### **Station Footbridge**

Mrs Drew raised concerns about the condition and safety of the footbridge over the track.

### **08/41 Correspondence**

The correspondence received had been listed on the Agenda and was noted.

NALC Training - no one expressed an interest in the current NALC Training courses on offer.

### **08/42 Finance**

The accounts for July/August were accepted.

### **08/43 Sustainable Communities Act**

A paper had been tabled and a discussion ensued.

It was agreed to study this topic further and to consider the implications in relation to the Parish Plan. It was suggested that a Parish Forum/Development Trust should be considered but that its role should be defined.

It was also agreed to press the primary authority (Northumberland County Council) to opt into the Sustainable Communities Act.

A small group of Councillors (Ian Hall, Julia Sayce and Dave Porter) are to look further into the implications of the Act and report to the October meeting.

## 08/44 Brief Reports from Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

### a) Parish plan

Mr Gleadhill brought councillors up-to-date with the Parish Plan. He said that the two Action Events in July had been quite well-attended. Brief articles on progress will appear in the September SCAN and the issue of NE43 News currently being prepared. A doorstep survey of 250 households will take place week commencing 28th September. All the information then needs to be collated, the Parish Plan and an Action Plan drawn up. The plans then need to be regularly reviewed. There will also be feedback meetings with the public.

Mr Hall thanked Mr Gleadhill and his group for all their hard work.

### b) Transport & Highways

Improvements to Station Car Park - see 08/36 above.

VACS - this project is now complete, but training for the Handyman in moving the signs is to be pursued.

Railway Masts - still awaiting installation

Tyne Bridges Study - data was still being analysed - it was hoped that a report would be available for the next meeting of the Eastern Parishes Forum.

Bus Shelter Maintenance - a letter had been received from County advising that responsibility for maintenance of the bus shelter at Birches Nook now reverted to the Parish Council

Northumberland County Council - Local Transport Plan - it was noted that the list for submission to the County should not contain items of minor maintenance such as potholes. It was however agreed to submit the list as tabled pointing out that these were items which had been brought top the attention of the Parish Council.

Mrs Dale asked if the list could be prioritised and it was agreed that recommended priorities would be submitted to the October meeting for forwarding to Mrs Dale.

Flash Flooding - Flooding had again occurred on New Ridley Road, and it was noted with appreciation that both Tynedale Council and the Fire Brigade had attended very promptly to alleviate the problem. Mrs Dale advised that Tynedale are currently looking at land drainage issues within parts of the village.

### c) Finance and General Purposes Group

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

Grants to the following organisations were agreed:

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Mencap      | £50 |
| Samaritans  | £50 |
| Age Concern | £50 |

It was also agreed to make a grant to Stocksfield Netball Team of £100.

It was agreed in principle to give a grant to the Stocksfield Junior Football Club for new goal posts. However, before considering the amount, Councillors felt that they need to know the cost of the goal posts, and that the Football club should submit accounts, etc. supporting their application. Mrs Sayce is to meet representatives from the Football Club.

Mrs Dale explained that Tynedale Council had been awarded Beacon Status and as a result would be able to share the cash with Parish Councils. This would be paid on a per capita basis and might be able to be used to fund the BEPA Access.

**[Suspension of Standing Orders -it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting should continue until 10.00 p.m.]**

It was agreed to defer discussion on grants to the Youth Service until the October meeting. Comments and suggestions should be given to Steve Gleadhill. Ian Hall, Norman Hooks, Steve Gleadhill and Diane Hinchcliffe are to consider this matter further and make recommendations to the October meeting.

#### War Memorial

No response had been received from Albemarle and the CO is to be contacted by letter. It was felt appropriate to invite the local ministers to the service. SICA will be booked for refreshments.

#### Post Offices Closures

Ian Hall had attended the meeting at County and he and Steve Gleadhill had attended the meeting at Tynedale which had discussed this issue. It was difficult to establish the criteria for closures.

It was expected that the result of the consultation would be announced shortly.

#### Christmas Trees

It was suggested that Allendale Estates should be approached again to see if trees could be purchased from them.

It was proposed by Mrs Sayce and seconded by Mrs Martin and agreed that expenditure up to £620 could be made on Christmas Trees.

#### d) Sports Facility Group

All items under this heading are deferred until October.

The official opening of the Multi Use Games Area will be on Friday 19th September

#### e) Play Facilities

##### Welton Close

The F&GP Group had discussed this issue and a letter had been written to Tynedale suggesting three options for this area. Once a response had been received from Tynedale appropriate action would be taken.

##### Branch End Play Area - New Access.

The F&GP Group had also discussed this issue and recommended that the quotation for £15000 for the provision of the new access be accepted. It was stated that the contractors could be on site within 8/10 days of being appointed and that the work should take around 3 weeks.

Mrs Martin proposed and Mr Hall seconded and it was agreed that Guy Rawlinson's recommendation to accept Atkinson's quotation of £15000 be accepted.

BEPA Phase 2 - Mrs Hinchcliffe is currently collating data for the outcomes report.

##### Kate's Plain Tyre

Stanleys of Blaydon have been contacted regarding removal of the tyre.

#### Play Area Inspections

RoSPA had submitted their report on the play area inspections. The Play Facilities Group are to study this and make recommendations on action to be taken in October.

f) Sensory Garden - no further progress on this until the new access has been completed.

A "display" day is to be organised once the path is complete and it is hoped that residents will be able to donate plants for the garden.

g) Policy Group - A letter had been received from NSP regarding proposed Area Partnerships. Steve Gleadhill, Ian Hall, Dave Porter and Julia Sayce are to look at this and compile a response to be submitted by 26th September..

#### h) Planning

The Planning Report for July and August had been circulated.

Killen/Petty Review - no comment.

i) Council Representatives

The next meeting of the Eastern Parishes Forum is in October.

Calor Village of the Year

Stocksfield have won the Northumberland Competition. There will be a presentation in November at the CAN AGM. Appreciation was expressed to all those who came to support Norman Hooks and Margaret Williams when the judges visited Stocksfield. Stocksfield will now submit an entry for the National competition.

j) Footpaths, Gardens & the Environment.

It was agreed to purchase a larger dog bin for Birkdene and to consider at a later date what to do with the existing bin.

k) Communication

The next issue of NE43 News to be distributed in mid-September is now in the final stages of preparation.

l) Local Government Re-organisation

A letter had been received from the Boundary Commission regarding changes to wards in Northumberland. The Parish Council had no comment to make.

#### **08/45 Other business -**

Land Registry

The Clerk reported that she had now completed the forms to register the following parcels of land as agreed some months ago

Cricket Field

Land adjacent to Branch End Terrace

Former Rifle Club site

Institution of New Vicar

As both the chair and Vice Chair were away, it was agreed that the Clerk, Mrs Williams, would represent the parish Council at the service of Institution on 9th September.

Apologies - October - Mrs Martin

#### **08/46 Date of Next Meeting - 6th October 2008**

The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.