

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th September 2010

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison (arrived 7.55 p.m.), Pete Duncan, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Helen Morris, Dave Porter, Julia Sayce (left at 9.00 p.m.). Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: Mrs D Gilbert, Mrs H Dixon

Apologies: Diane Hinchcliffe, Katharine Russell, County Councillor Mrs A Dale. Mrs A Lawson, Social Enterprise Northumberland.

Mr Hall opened the meeting by suggesting that as Mrs Lawson was unable to attend and as Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Dixon were present then the question of Burnside Yard should be moved to the front of the Agenda. This was agreed.

10/40 - Burnside Yard

The latest planning application for this site had been discussed at the County Council's West Area Planning Committee. A decision had been deferred and a site meeting of the Committee arranged. At this site meeting it transpired that as part of the provision of a new access road to the Burnside site, it would be necessary to alter the A695 bridge over the Stocksfield Burn. This had come as a surprise to both parish and county councillors and the planning officers. Mr Hooks gave the background to the latest discussions and suggested that in view of the timescale it was unlikely that this application would be discussed at the September meeting of the Planning Committee. The proposals to build the road on "stilts" had overcome the Environment Agency's objections but they had laid down conditions regarding the creation of this roadway and the maintenance of the land around it.

It had been suggested to Parish Councillors that the bridge might be listed. An application for listing has now been made to English Heritage. It was thought that the bridge had originally been built in the 1860s following the destruction of an earlier bridge by flooding. It was believed that the new exit by the A695 bridge would require a Section 278 at a cost of £400K+. Concerns were also raised that the County Highways would need to inspect the bridge to ensure that its strength was not impaired by the proposals.

Concerns had been raised that the Environment Agency's computer modelling of the flood risk had been carried out in 2007 and therefore excluded the 2008 flooding. The Environment Agency had requested more recent data.

Concerns were raised about the ability to police a one-way system on the Burnside site should the roads not be adopted. Concerns were also raised about the future maintenance of the road, particularly the raised road, should the roads not be adopted by the County Council.

It was noted that the floor levels of the proposed new houses for this site have to be above the level of possible flooding but concerns were expressed about the floor levels of existing properties.

It was agreed to write to the Planning Committee outlining the concerns of the Parish Council. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would send a representative to speak at the meeting of the West Area Planning Committee when this matter was next discussed.

Mr Hall thanked Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Dixon for their attendance and contribution to the debate on this topic.

10/41 - New Councillor

Mr Hall welcomed new Parish Councillor Mrs Maggi Hunt to the meeting and asked her to tell the Council about herself and her interests.

10/42 - Community Development Trust

Although, Mrs Anne Lawson had been unable to attend the meeting, Pete Duncan gave a presentation on "A Community Development Trust for Stocksfield". The handouts for his Powerpoint presentation had been circulated to members. Following the presentation a discussion ensued.

It was suggested that "one should not run before one could walk"

The creation of a Community Development Trust could only be a positive step.

How should we progress?

There is a need to do something now and not keep deferring the issue

Mrs Lawson hopes to meet a small group of parish councillors to drive the proposal forward. It was suggested that three Parish Councillors, three representatives of SICA should meet Mrs Lawson. Pete Duncan, Helen Morris and Melna Martin volunteered to attend a meeting and it was suggested and agreed that Diane Hinchcliffe and Katharine Russell should be asked if they were interested in attending. Pete Duncan is to liaise with Anne Lawson

10/43 - Declarations of Interest - None

10/44 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2010 were proposed as correct by Norman Hooks, seconded by Helen Morris and agreed.

10/45 - Matters Arising

Footpath to Welton Close - Norman Hooks advised that the County were hoping to provide a handrail over the first section from New Ridley Road, but that the rest of the path was too narrow. The hedge is to be cut back - reducing the height is difficult because of problems with the ownership of the land.

10/46 - Public Participation

Gates over land at Branch End Garage - A query was raised as to why these had been installed. The Clerk advised that the owner of the land had told her that because of problems on the site he had had to install the gates for insurance purposes.

VACS Machines - it was reported that the machine on New Ridley Road was not registering speeding until around 37 mph. The machine at Brumwell Court picks up vehicles from a long way back.

10/47 - Correspondence

Correspondence received since the July meeting had been listed on the Agenda and was noted.

A letter from NALC regarding the County's Medium Strategy was felt to be long on problems and short on suggestions for solutions.

A letter from the County regarding the Statement of Licensing Policy was noted as was the information that comments could be registered on line. No comments were made.

A draft response to the Communities & Local Government consultation on proposed council tax increase referenda had been circulated and it was agreed that this should be sent.

10/48 - Finance

The Accounts for July and August 2010 had been circulated, queries raised were answered and the accounts were accepted.

A sheet showing the balance in the "savings funds" at the beginning of August had been circulated. A query was raised regarding the balance in the Youth Fund and the Clerk is to look into this and advise councillors.

The minus balance in the Sensory Garden Fund is to be written off over three years.

The Balance Sheet was accepted

The Bank Reconciliation for July was noted.

The Clerk had received a letter outlining queries by the auditor BDO. These had been responded to and were noted.

The Report by the Clerk on the Internal Audit had circulated and was accepted.

The additional cheques listed on the agenda were approved:

Robson Print - NE43 News	£312.00
Loos4Hire (Portable toilets for the Fun Run)	£243.75

A payment had been received from the Motor Insurers Bureau in full settlement, including VAT, for the replacement VACS machine at Brumwell Court. It was agreed that, as the VAT element had been reclaimed from HMRC, the VAT portion - £526.59 - of the MIB payment should be returned.

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

10/49 - Parish Plan Action Group

Pete Duncan advised that Steve Gleadhill had volunteered to continue being involved in the delivery of the Parish Plan. Pete Duncan advised that a meeting had been held to discuss the progress of the delivery of the Parish Plan and up-dated the spreadsheet.

It was agreed that the next issue of NE43 News would contain an article on the setting up of a business forum.

10/50 - Provision of Christmas Trees

A paper had been circulated and noted and the recommendations agreed. It was agreed that the location of Parish Christmas Trees would be debated in full in January/February 2011.

10/51 - Membership of Advisory Groups

Maggi Hunt volunteered to join the Sportsfield Management Group

10/52 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) - Development of a Village Trust - this had been covered in agenda item 10/42 above. A report on a meeting with Haydon Bridge Development Trust had been circulated and was noted.

b) - Community Development - outline details of the Fun Run on 11th September were given.

c) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The report of the most recent meeting of the F&GP was tabled and noted. The recommendations contained therein were endorsed. The draft letter regarding the proposed closure of Hexham Magistrate's Court was endorsed and will be sent.

d) - Council Representatives

Eastern Tynedale Forum - Dave Porter felt that this group should revert to what it was prior to the formation of the Unitary Authority. This is to be discussed in October.

Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group - we now have representation on this group.

e) - Transport & Highways

A request had been made by the County to prioritise items for the LTP for 2011-12. A response is required by 30 Sept.

It was agreed that the VACS machine at Brumwell Court would be turned around.

f) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated.

The update on the Burnside Site application had been covered under item 10/40 above.

A letter had been received from a resident regarding the sign for Fern Hollow at the bottom of Birches Nook Road and was noted.

g) - Sports Facilities - the Group had not met. Pete Duncan to arrange a meeting shortly.

h) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

The County had issued a consultation document regarding the creation of a bridleway from New Ridley to Hindley via Redshaw Foot - responses by horse riders are to be forwarded to the County.

Windfarms - no notes had been taken at the recent meeting on windfarms - it was an interesting meeting - there are a few brochures available and further information can be obtained from a Website - Wind Power -Your questions answered.

It was agreed not to provide a litter bin at the Fords for the time being, but to monitor the situation.

i) - Play Facilities

The S106 Housing Development Fund application for replacement equipment at BEPA had been submitted and the Clerk had been advised that a grant of £7600 would be made and should be spent by the end of December.

The RoSPA Inspection Report had been received and would be considered by the Group.

j) - Parish Plan Action Group - this had been covered under item 10/49 above.

k) - Communications

Compliments had been received on the most recent edition of NE43 News. The next edition will be distributed in early December.

l) - Policy Group - nothing to report

10/53 - Any Other Business - none

10/54 - Date of Next Meeting: 4th October 2010

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.