

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th October 2010.**

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison (arrived 7.45 p.m.), Pete Duncan, Maggi Hunt, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Helen Morris, Dave Porter, Diane Hinchcliffe. Mrs M Williams, Clerk. Also present: - Mrs D Gilbert, County Councillor Anne Dale, David Coulter, Hexham Courant.

**Apologies:** Councillor Ian Hall, Councillor Julia Sayce.

### **10/55 - Declarations of Interest - None**

### **10/56 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2010**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September were agreed with the deletion on page 3 of the words Youth Service..

### **10/57 - Matters Arising**

Branch End Play Area - replacement equipment - County Councillor Mrs Dale is to contribute £4000 from her Members Small Schemes Allowance and was thanked for her generosity.

Mr Duncan advised that the Business Forum is to hold its first meeting on 14th October.

Parish Plan - a compliment had been received on the amount achieved so far.

VACS Machine at Brumwell Court - has still to be turned around.

### **10/58 - Burnside Yard**

Dave Porter said that councillors were sorry to lose Katharine Russell and that 99% of the presentation to the recent County Council Planning meeting had been carried out by Norman Hooks and Mrs Russell who had done a splendid job. It was noted that the latest planning application for the Burnside site had been refused but that work on the approved sites in Burnside Yard were going ahead. It was felt that the developer was likely to appeal against the decision and that the paper councillors had prepared was a response to a possible appeal. Councillors were concerned about the advice given to the Planning Committee by County Highways regarding this application.

The Environment Agency had now up-dated their information to contain data from the 2008 flooding and they now also have evidence, thanks to Dave Porter, of the 1993 flooding. The EA is looking at whether or not they should revise the flood zones for the Burnside site. The EA has apologised for not including the up-to-date data and for not visiting the site following the 2008 flood. It was suggested that a letter should be sent to the EA requesting that in future when flooding had been reported the report should be acknowledged.

Access to the Burnside site - It was felt that the Highways decision appears to fly in the face of common sense and the question was asked if Highways are tied by statutory guidelines. Norman Hooks had estimated that between 900 and 1000 vehicles go over the bridge between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. It was suggested that Highways Officers be urged to acquire local information and visit the site at times when the road is at its busiest. Mrs Dale suggested that she had figures for traffic usage on the A695.

Mrs Dale had had to declare an interest at the County Planning Meeting but had asked why a Highways Officers had not been in attendance. She had enquired if a Traffic Regulation Order took precedent over other legal matters and had been advised "yes". However, subsequent enquiries had revealed that this was not correct. The "Grampian" condition says that building cannot commence until the condition has been agreed. New Government Guidelines have changed and although it was suggested that the Tynedale Core Strategy still stands, Mrs Dale is to seek clarification on this.

Mrs Dale suggested that a letter be written to Alan Thompson at County Highways to ensure that the area is contained within the new flood risk zone.

Mrs Dale also suggested, and it was agreed, that a letter be written to Planning Enforcement asking that condition regarding access to the Burnside site be dealt with immediately. The letter to be sent to Richard Robson with copies to Richard Stewart (Planning Enforcement West, Graeme Robbie (Development Management Manager West) and Anne Dale.

All the Flooding Reports should also be sent to the Planning Dept.

Mr Hooks raised concerns about the bridge and asked if the Parish Council should ask Highways to check it. It was also asked if Highways could justify their comments in relation to the bridge. It was suggested that the route of the Stocksfield Burn had changed and that when in flood the water does not hit the main arch but hits the western arch. It was noted that Network Rail have protected the base of the railway bridge and reinforced it. Mrs Dale suggested that Simon Rudman at County be contacted and recommended to look at the bridge.

Mrs Gilbert asked if it was felt that residents should write to Planning at this stage and it was suggested that at present this was not necessary.

Mrs Gilbert and her sister were thanked for their assistance with this matter. Norman Hooks, Mrs Dale and the Planning Group were also thanked for their contributions. Appreciation was also expressed that county councillors had gone against the advice of county officers when arriving at their decision on the most recent planning application for this site.

#### **10/59 - Public Participation**

Mrs Dale advised that Broomley School had been partially closed for a collapsed ceiling to be made safe. It is expected that the damage will be repaired during half term.

#### **10/60 - Correspondence**

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

A response had been received from County regarding installing 30 mph signs in Broomley. It was felt that Broomley is a "rat run" to the A68 and that a traffic counter should be installed.

#### **10/61 - Finance**

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

The Balance Sheet was accepted

The Bank Reconciliation for September was noted.

The additional cheque listed on the agenda was approved:

Turnock - bulbs for the Christmas Tree	£93.99
--	--------

#### **10/62 - Resignation of Councillor**

It was confirmed that Katharine Russell had resigned as a Parish Councillor due to pressure of work and other commitments. Regret was expressed at her decision. Ian Hall had written to her thanking her for her contribution towards the work of the Parish Council. It is hoped that she might return to the Council at some future date.

Mrs Russell's resignation means that there is now a need to find another Parish Councillors. It was agreed that the vacancy should be advertised in SCAN, the Parish Magazine and on the Notice Boards.

#### **10/63 - Remembrance Day**

It was confirmed that Dennis Wellings would lay the Parish Council Wreath. Members were advised that Dr Tony Trapp, Deputy Lord Lieutenant would lay a wreath on behalf of the Queen.

### **10/64 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives**

a) - Development of a Village Trust - a meeting held been held with Anne Lawson (Social Enterprise Northumberland, which had been very useful. She had suggested ways of how to achieve the setting up of a Village Trust. It was stressed that there is a need to base the aspirations of such a trust on the Parish Plan and that a list of priorities need to be drawn up from the Parish Plan noting which can be delivered by the Parish Council and which might be delivered by a Community Development Trust. There is then a need to set up a steering group. Mrs Lawson had stressed that the members of the steering group will be people who are recognised for their skills rather than who they represent. It was noted and agreed that SICA will be involved somehow. Mrs Hunt expressed concerns that the Parish Council might be seen to be imposing the setting up of a trust from above. It was felt that because the setting up of a Village Development Trust was one of the aspirations of the Parish Plan this was not a top down action.

The next meeting of the Parish Council "Steering Group" is on 11th October at 9.30 a.m.

b) - Parish Plan Action Group - A paper outlining the agreed actions at the September meeting had been circulated and was noted.

c) - Community Development - a brief report on the Fun Run on 11th September was given. It was felt that this had been a great success - there had been about 150 runners and around £800 had been raised for Pump Aid and money was still coming in, It costs around £500 for one pump and Mrs Martin suggested that a coffee morning be held to bring the balance up to £1000 in order that two pumps could be paid for - this was agreed in principle. Norman Hooks advised that the Festival Committee had felt that the purchase of the marquee had been a good investment. The Committee is to purchase storage bags for the marquee and is to consider applications for hiring it to other users.

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

d) - 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 Clerk reported that she had had a conversation with Nick Yeeles at the County Council who had intimated that the asset transfer of the Toilet Block at Branch End and Branch End Play Area would be going ahead subject to legal requirements. It was noted that rates would have to be paid on the Toilet Block. It was also agreed that Nick Yeeles would be requested to clarify whether or not it might be possible to transfer the toilet block and/or BEPA to a Village Trust at some time in the future.

Concerns were raised that the gardens and planting at the Station had been neglected this summer. Norman Hooks is to bring this up at the next meeting of the Community Rail Partnership on 5th October.

e) - Transport & Highways

A report on the most recent meeting of the Transport & Highways Group had been circulated and was noted.

A request had been made by the County to prioritise items for the LTP for 2011-12. A response is required by 30 Sept. This had not been sent and a discussion ensued on the whys and wherefores of the LTP. Several items were put forward for inclusion:

Repairs to the West Hill to Hedley

Repairs to the road to the Fords

The pavement on New Ridley Road

Quiet Lanes

Dropped Kerbs

Parking on Eastern Sportsfield - Mrs Dale agreed to take the problems of parking outside the sportsfield on the pavement to the next meeting of the LMACS. Mrs Hinchcliffe had said that parking on the pavement at a recent event at the Cricket Club had meant that the pavement had been impassable for a young mother with a twin buggy.

It was agreed to write to Allendale Estate requesting the use of the Eastern Field as a temporary car park.

Parking on New Ridley Road - Mrs Dale offered to arrange for the County Safety Officer to have a meeting with the Transport & Highways Group to discuss the problems and write a report. It was stressed that any visits to New Ridley Road to consider the parking problems should be made in the evenings and weekends when residents are at home and parked on the road.

West bound bus shelter at the station - the roof of this shelter needs repairing/replacing and it was agreed to seek three quotations for this work.

Gully outside Quaker Meeting House - it had been reported that following the use of a high pressure hose and the removal of two drainage rods this gully and drain was now clear and working properly.

f) - Council Representatives

Eastern Tynedale Forum - Dave Porter said that the role of the Forum had expanded from that originally envisaged prior to the formation of the Unitary Authority. He felt that it cost the County a lot of money to run the Forums and that they did not represent good value for money. Concern was expressed that the work of the Forums was duplicated by that of the County Area Committees. It was thought that the County may withdraw the funding for the Forums in which case they may cease to exist. He felt that representation on this group was not a good use of time. It was agreed that a decision on whether or not to continue being represented on the Eastern Tynedale Community Forum should be deferred until November and if it was then agreed not to continue being represented on the Forum we should formally advise the Chairman of our decision.

Mr Hall and Mrs Williams are to attend the Parish/Town Council meeting of the County Council West Area Committee on 12th October.

Patients Forum - Mrs Martin is currently the Parish Council representative on this body.

Community Rail Partnership - Mr Hooks is to attend the AGM and report on the Station Car Park Project and our experiences with Northern Rail.

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

It was noted that the Football Club had signed the agreement for the use of the Sportsfield and this was countersigned on behalf of the Parish Council

h) - Play Facilities

BEPA - Replacement equipment - A paper had been circulated and it was agreed that the replacement Play Equipment should be purchased from Record RSS.

It was felt that grass cutting this past season on Kates Plain had been erratic and that the grass under the picnic tables at BEPA had not been strimmed.

Community Garden - this was looking good. The volunteers were looking at managing the weeding. The Willow Den is maturing well and has been extensively repaired by the small group of volunteers however more volunteers are needed to care for the community garden.

Play Area Inspection Report - recommendations are to be made in November.

i) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated.

The update on the Burnside Site application had been covered under item 10/58 above.

j) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

The Rights of Way & Environment Group had met on 27th September and a report on the meeting will be circulated in November.

Merryshields to Eltringham Footpath - nothing to report.

k) - Communications

The next edition of NE43 News will be distributed in early December and copy will be required by mid-November.

l) - Policy Group - nothing to report

**10/65 - Any Other Business - none**

**10/66 - Date of Next Meeting: 1st November**

The meeting closed at 9.59 p.m.