

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1st November 2010

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

Apologies: Mr Ian Hall, Mrs Julia Sayce.

In the absence of Mr Hall, Mrs Martin took the Chair.

10/67 - Declarations of Interest

Mr Hooks declared an interest in the request for funding by SICA. Mrs Dale declared an interest in matters relating to Planning

10/68 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October were agreed with correction of certain typographical errors and the inclusion under section 10/58 of a sentence regarding the advice from County Highways on the Burnside planning application.

10/69 - Matters Arising

Burnside - Mrs Dale advised that the Minutes of the County Council West Area Committee had been changed in relation to the imposition of a Grampian condition on this planning application. The answer to the question on Traffic Regulation Orders had also been changed. She also advised that recent legislation had changed the number of houses allowed per hectare. She said that she could not find the information on Traffic usage.

It was reported that the Environment Agency had re-assessed the flooding zones in the light of up-dated data and a majority of the site is now in zone three. Mrs Dale suggested that if the application goes to appeal this could be used as additional evidence. For any new applications for the site the Environment Agency would be consulted. Applications already approved cannot be revisited.

Broomley 30 mph - Traffic counters are to be installed.

Parking problems outside sportsfield - advice had been received that the police did not have the manpower to monitor this problem.

Double Yellow Lines - double yellow lines had been installed at the junction of New Ridley Road and Painshawfield Road. Mrs Dale had had a meeting with Highways regarding the installation of double yellow lines at the junction of New Ridley Road and the A695. She will pay for this from her Members' Allowance.

Damage to School - this was repaired at half term.

VACS Sign - The handyman is to be chased about turning this around.

10/70 - Public Participation

Mr Barrass advised that there are still problems with parking on the pavement outside the Sportsfields. It was agreed to put up notices on the fence requesting that drivers "Do Not Obstruct the Pavement".

Mrs Dale advised that she had received a request for a basket ball post to be erected at Branch End Play Area. Mrs Dale offered to pay for this and it was agreed that its maintenance would be taken over by the Parish Council. Mrs Dale and the Clerk to liaise over the installation and ordering of this equipment.

10/71 - Correspondence

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

Northumberland County Council Parking Strategy - An e-mail had been received requesting comments on the proposed Car Parking Strategy for Northumberland. It was felt that the proposals highlighted the inequities in parking charges across the County and it was agreed that any response should highlight rural isolation and the affect of parking charges on rural economies and accessibility to shopping centres. The lack of public transport from rural areas to shopping centres was also highlighted. It was felt that it was incumbent on the Parish Council to respond and also for individual councillors to complete the on-line consultation response.

A letter is to be sent to our MP, Guy Opperman, requesting clarification on the publication of newsletters.

10/72 - Finance

The Accounts for October 2010 had been circulated, queries raised were answered and the accounts were accepted. The Balance Sheet was accepted. The Bank Reconciliation for October was noted.

The additional cheque listed on the agenda was approved:

Neat Ideas - Stationery	£439.29
Tyne Valley Garden Centre - Winter Bedding	£152.96

Annual Audit - The report from the external auditors, BDO, was noted and the Audited Annual Return approved. The F&GP are to look at the Issues Report and make recommendations.

Concern was raised that tasks such as the Risk Assessment were not completed in time and it was felt that efforts should be made to ensure that such tasks were completed to the timetable.

10/73 - 2011/12 Precept

A draft budget had been circulated and following discussions with the F&GP a precept of £57430 (up 2.5% on 2010/11) had been suggested. A robust debate ensued with the main points being:

On the face of it our expenditure was around £20k over income (excluding amounts in savings accounts.)

The County Council will need to make massive cuts in 2011/12 and parishes may wish to take over some services.

Need to consider having a ring fenced contingency fund.

We are not in a zero inflation environment.

Some felt that in view of the current economic situation we should curtail our expenditure.

A vote was taken on the options for the precept for 2011/12

£56,032 as in 2010/11 - 2 votes for and 7 against

Increase by 2.5% to £57,430 - 5 votes for and 4 against

Increase by 5% or more - 2 votes for and 6 against

It was therefore agreed that the precept for 2011/12 should be set at £57,340.

It was agreed that there was a need to look at the budget for 2011/12 with the aim of balancing income and expenditure so that the balance in the General Fund is in credit at the year end. It was agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the budget (as opposed to the precept) on 22nd November at 7.30 p.m. at the Community Centre.

10/74 - Review of Tender documents

This item is deferred until December.

10/75 - Eastern Tynedale Community Forum

A paper from the Chairman of the Forum, Adrian Hinchcliffe, had been circulated. David Porter was concerned that Mr Hinchcliffe's views do not necessarily represent the views of all Parish Councils. It was

agreed that once the future of Community Forums had been decided by the County Council then that would be the point at which we should decide whether or not we participate in the Eastern Tynedale Forum. Although it is expected that in its current form the Community Forums may cease to operate, they may continue in another guise.

10/76 - Resignation of Councillor

No one had come forward offering their services as a Parish Councillor and the vacancy is to be advertised in the next issue of NE43 News.

10/77 - 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. The History Society is to mount an exhibition on their research into those who fell in World War II and this will be at the Community Centre after the Service.

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

10/78 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

As Mr Hall was absent the report and recommendations from the F&GP were deferred.

The F&GP is to carry out the Risk Assessment and Tender documentation review and make recommendations in December.

b) - Youth Service

A paper from the Northumberland Statutory Youth Service had been received. This contained a proposal for the restructuring of the Statutory Youth Service. It was agreed to defer the discussion until December and in the meantime Norman Hooks and Maggi Hunt are to look at the proposals and draw up a discussion document.

c) - Play Facilities

BEPA - Replacement equipment - The order for the replacement Play Equipment has been placed with Record RSS.

Community Garden - more bulbs had been planted. An application has been made to Egger for more wood chippings.

Play Area Inspection Report - no action needs to be taken.

d) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

The Clerk reported that she had received a donation for the cost of the seat at the Fords. This had been accepted and the donor is to place a plaque on the seat in memory of his wife.

Quiet Lanes - Norman Hooks tabled a paper he had sent to the County. He said no response had been received to date - the proposals come under safety considerations and it was noted that the roads would need to be maintained.

Merryshields to Eltringham Footpath - nothing further to report. The signs relating to access refer to the water and river bank and not the public footpath.

Environment Meeting 27th September - the Minutes had been circulated.

e) - Parish Plan Action Group - The Business Forum had held its first meeting. 6 businesses had been represented - a short article will be included in the next issue of NE43 News - the next meeting will be held in January.

f) - Development of a Village Trust -

A meeting had been held to discuss this issue and had resolved on the initial priorities of such a Trust. The next meeting will be held on 8th November.

g) - Transport & Highways

It was noted that the A695 between Branch End and Mickley had been resurfaced. It was agreed to write to County Highways congratulating them on the speed of the work and expressing gratitude that this work had been done and the hope that it would make a difference to the highway in bad weather.

It was noted that a lot of the gullies had been cleared. Mrs Dale requested that any problems be reported to her.

h) - Council Representatives

Mrs Williams gave a brief verbal report on the recent County Council West Area Committee meeting held with Parish and Town Council representatives.

i) - Sports Facilities

The report on the recent meeting of the Sportsfield Management Group was tabled and noted.

It was agreed to talk to SITA about the possibility of extending the sportsfields further east to provide another football pitch.

Concern was raised about the trees in the eastern hedge and the Estate is to be contacted about this.

Concern was raised about shooting rabbits when children in particular were about and the Clerk is to contact the rabbit catcher.

A letter is to be written to Chris Catnach advising him of the date of the 2011 Stocksfield Festival a notice is also to be put in NE43 News.

j) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated.

14 Batt House Road - A letter of explanation regarding the Certificate of Lawfulness that had been issued against this application had been received. It is the Planning Group's view that this project can now go ahead. Mrs Dale is to ask why this site had permitted development rights.

Mrs Dale is also to ask about the situation on the application for 21 Cade Hill Road.

k) - Communications

The next edition of NE43 News will be distributed during the week commencing 12th December. As in previous years, distribution will be carried out by Churches Together. Concern had been expressed about dog waste bags being left hanging on hedges and trees. It was agreed not to include an item about this in the forthcoming issue but to include an item in the spring issue.

A request had been received from Hedley Parish Council that NE43 News should also be distributed in Hedley. It was agreed in principle that this could be done and that no more than half a page per issue could be devoted to Hedley and that a charge of £50 per issue would be made.

There was also a brief debate about extending the distribution to Bywell and Mickley. However, it was noted that Bywell already had their own newsletter. It was felt that any expansion into Mickley should be initiated by Mickley and not Stocksfield.

l) - Community Development - nothing to report.

m) - Policy Group - nothing to report

10/79 - Any Other Business - none

10/80 - Date of Next Meeting: 6th December

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.