

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2011

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Pete Duncan, Diane Hinchcliffe, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Julia Sayce. Mrs M Williams, Clerk, also present: - County Councillor Anne Dale, Mr D Coulter Hexham Courant.

Apologies: - Helen Morris

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing all those present a Happy New Year.

10/95 - Declarations of Interest

Norman Hooks declared an interest in matters relating to SICA.

10/96 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December 2010

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th December were proposed as correct by Maggi Hunt and seconded by Diane Hinchcliffe were agreed with one typographical amendment.

10/97 - Matters Arising

Burnside - no response had been received from Highways regarding the planning application for Burnside.

10/98 - Public Participation

Potholes - Following the recent severe weather potholes are starting to appear on our roads. County Councillor Mrs Dale urged councillors to continue to report all potholes to ask@northumberland.gov.uk

It was agreed to write to County Highways saying that they need to look at doing more permanent repairs rather than cold filling. It was noted that Newcastle City Council were using a new product which can apparently be used in adverse weather conditions.

Councillor Davison raised the problem of residents not clearing up after their dogs. He said that this problem had been particularly apparent on New Ridley Road, during the bad weather. It was suggested that the dog warden be asked to visit New Ridley Road and Branch End, particularly in the mid morning and late afternoon. It was also felt that there was a problem with loose dogs. John Davison proposed, Maggi Hunt seconded and it was agreed to purchase another dog waste bin to be sited somewhere near Ladywell. It was also agreed to put up a "Bag & Bin" notice.

Parking at Branch End had become difficult since part of the garage site had been fenced off.

It was suggested that some residents were parking on the double yellow lines at the junction of Painshawfield Road.

During the recent bad weather, piles of snow had accumulated on areas generally used for parking and were slow to thaw. The Scouts are to be thanked for their efforts to clear snow.

10/99 - Correspondence

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

Hexham Courant - Tynedale Visitor - it was agreed that the Parish Council entry should include a reference to the Stocksfield Festival.

An e-mail had been received from County regarding proposals for bin collections in severe weather. Individual councillors had responded to these suggestions and their comments had been forwarded to the County.

10/100 - Finance

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

The Balance Sheet was accepted

The Bank Reconciliation for December was noted.

The F&GP had not met over the holiday period but would meet this week to discuss outstanding items.

Additional Cheques - it was agreed that the following cheque should be paid:

Northumberland County Council - £1945.31 (inc VAT) for emptying dog waste bins.

10/101 - 2011/12 Precept

Correspondence had been received from County following the publication of the Local Government Review. Queries were raised about the exact meaning of certain headings, i.e. what was local signage and what was covered by litter picking. It was felt that youth provision should be covered by statutory funding. It was felt that the letters had been ill-thought out and gave parishes little time to discuss the issues before setting their budgets.

It was agreed to hold an open meeting of the F&GP on 20th January at SICA at 7.30 p.m. when following the Area West Committee meeting of the County Council members should be in a better position to make decisions.

Decisions need to be taken on whether to take over additional services from the County and if so should the precept be increased accordingly. It was noted that the budget for 2011/12 still had to be finalised but that as it stood expenditure exceeded income.

The provision of a Christmas Tree and Bedding plants is to be discussed in February.

10/102 - Co-option of two new councillors.

An application had been received from Keith Woods.

Pete Barrass proposed and Diane Hinchcliffe seconded and it was agreed that Alan Verheyden and Keith Woods be co-opted to the Parish Council.

10/103 - Young People's Services

It was agreed that the topic at the Annual Parish meeting would be the provision of services to young people and Norman Hooks, Maggi Hunt and the Clerk are to draw up an agenda/programme for the meeting. When looking at young people's services the Council has to decide what age range it is targeting.

10/104 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The Finance & General Purposes Group had not met since the December Parish Council meeting. A meeting is planned for 12th January, when all outstanding issues will be addressed.

Parish office - Norman Hooks outlined the draft proposals that SICA had for the provision of a an office for the Parish in part of the Mary Clayton Room at the Community Centre. He suggested that if approved the work would be done in July/August and might be available for the Parish Clerk in September. SICA is to consider what the charges to the Parish Council might be for such a facility.

(Diane Hinchcliffe left the meeting at 9.00 p.m.)

b) - Transport & Highways

Because of the Christmas holidays, the Transport & Highways Group had not met.

Lorries on New Ridley Road - an e-mail had been received from a resident. John Davison offered to monitor the situation and report back. It was noted that a request for a weight limit on New Ridley Road 16 years ago had come to nothing.

Local Transport Plan - Draft Strategy - this had been received from the County Council - a response is required by 21st January. Councillors were requested to let Pete Barrass have their views on this.

Road conditions in recent severe weather - it was reported that on the evening of 7th January that the roads through the Estate were impassable due to black ice. The previous Wednesday morning had also been particularly bad.

Double Yellow lines - Guessburn - it was suggested that before making a request to County, some kind of public consultation needs to be conducted. It was noted that Mount View Terrace narrows beyond South | Parade and it was felt that this caused some of the problems.

New Ridley Road - in places this was very slippery with road grit.

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

Grit Bin Survey - The Clerk had been endeavouring to do an audit of grit bins in the parish and requested that councillors advise her of the location of all grit bins.

Bus Services along New Ridley Road - following the introduction of the new timetable in November the bus service along New Ridley Road had been changed to a less frequent and convenient service. Mrs Dale is seeking more information on this and is considering looking at a second service, perhaps operated by ADAPT.

c) - Play Facilities

BEPA - Replacement equipment - Completion of the installation is held up due to the recent heavy snowfall and continued bad weather.

Mrs Martin advised that Egger had agreed to provide more bark, but it was suggested that this might be delayed until the weather improved.

Provision of Basket Ball Post - Mrs Dale is to liaise with the Clerk.

d) - Planning

There were no objections to the outstanding planning applications.

Contaminated Land Strategy - It was agreed to make no comment on this, as councillors did not feel competent to make any meaningful comment.

Hoodsclose Opencast - A request had been received to ask our MP, Guy Opperman, to support a Private Member's Bill introduced by Andrew Bridgen proposing a 500 m buffer zone round opencast sites. It was agreed to contact Mr Opperman. It was also agreed to request Northumberland County Council Planning to consider requesting development companies to put up a bond to ensure that the restoration of sites is completed to the satisfaction of all.

e) - Sports Facilities - nothing to report - the next meeting of the Sportsfield Management Group will be held on 24th January.

(Mrs Sayce left the meeting at 9.50 p.m.)

f) - Development of a Village Trust - nothing to report - a meeting of invited residents is to held on 17th January.

g) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

Regional Flood Information - A request had been received from County for information on flooding and a draft response had been circulated and was agreed.

The Rights of Way Group is to meet on 24th January.

h) - Policy Group - Sustainable Communities Act - it was agreed to make no comment on this.

i) - Parish Plan Action Group - nothing to report

i) - Council Representatives - nothing to report - Ian Hall is to attend the NCC West Area Committee Meeting on 18th January.

No one is available to attend the Eastern Parishes Forum meeting on 11th January.

j) - Communications: NE43 News had been well received - it was acknowledged that Dave Porter's standard of production of this was very high.

c) - Community Development - nothing to report.

10/105 - Any Other Business - None

10/106 - Date of Next Meeting - 7th February 2011

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.