

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th February 2011**

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Diane Hinchcliffe, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Helen Morris, Julia Sayce, Alan Verheyden, Keith Woods. Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: - County Councillor Anne Dale. Mrs D Gilbert.

**Apologies:** - Pete Duncan

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming new councillors, Alan Verheyden and Keith Woods to the Parish Council and asked them to introduce themselves to councillors.

### **10/107 - Declarations of Interest - None**

### **10/108 - Public Participation**

The Chairman invited Mrs Gilbert to speak.

Mrs Gilbert raised concerns about the sewage overflowing from the manholes on Ridley Mill Road and also that someone has been cutting trees down on the burnside behind Mount View Terrace.

With regard to the problem on Ridley Mill Road, Norman Hooks advised that this matter had been reported regularly to the Environment Agency and that Northumbrian Water know what the problem is. The large tank put in some time ago acts as a reservoir and should it overflow then the sewage would be diluted. NW have said that the tank has never overflowed. However Mr Hooks advised that the EA will start enforcing action to get NW to sort the problem. County Councillor Mrs Dale offered to contact NW in an effort to solve this problem.

Trees along the burnside- these are believed to be the property of Allendale Estates.

Mrs Gilbert was thanked for bringing these matters to the attention of the Council.

### **10/109 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2011**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2011 were proposed as correct by Melna Martin and seconded by Maggie Hunt and were agreed with one typographical amendment.

### **10/110 - Matters Arising**

It was reported that the Dog Warden had visited New Ridley Road and that the new dog waste bin had arrived.

### **10/111 - Public Participation**

Mrs Dale advised that a resident had asked if the double yellow lines outside the Post Office could be extended back eastwards towards the bus stop and Graham House. It was however pointed out and reiterated here that this would have a detrimental effect on the business of the shop and should not be pursued.

No 10 bus - Mr Hall raised the question of the irregularity of the bus service. Currently at times two arrive together or not at all. It was agreed to write to Go Ahead welcoming the frequency of the new service but raising concerns that this does not seem to work all the time.

### **10/112 - Correspondence**

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

It was agreed to make no response to the Northumberland Fire & Rescue Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan.

Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge - Mrs Sayce had more information on this and it was suggested that the Parish Council might work with Allendale Estates in relation to the Sportsfields and also look at whether Branch End Play Area might be nominated. Mrs Sayce agreed to look further into this.

### **10/113 - Finance**

The Accounts for January 2011 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 is to look at the "savings" funds and make recommendations as to their continuation in the future.

Additional Cheques - it was agreed that the following cheque should

Sovereign Design Play Systems (deposit on Basket Ball Posts for BEPA - it is expected that the full cost of this equipment will be reclaimed)	£222.96
Allendale Estates v sportsfield rent	£575.00
Glasdon - Dog Waste Bin	£281.90
NALC - stationery	£3.59

### **10/114 - 2011/12 Precept**

A special meeting of the F&GP had met to discuss this issue and recommended that:

The previous decision to set the Precept at 5% above the 2010/11 be rescinded and that the precept for 2011/12 be set at £70000.

A debate ensued during which the following points were made:

Currently the Parish Precept is not capped but might be in future.

An effort is to be made to reduce the deficit in the general fund between income and expenditure.

25% on Band D is approximately £30 pa

The County might ask the parish council to take on the responsibility of additional services in the future and this request will not be followed by funds.

Need to build in monies for a possible move to a new parish office.

The Clerk's salary is being reviewed.

It was proposed by Mrs Sayce and seconded by Norman Hooks that the proposal to increase the precept agreed in December (Min. 10/88) be rescinded. A vote was taken

For - 8 - Abstain - 3 - Carried

It was proposed by Pete Barrass and seconded by Maggi Hunt that the precept for 2011/12 be set at £70000.

For - 7 - Against - 2 - Abstain - 2 - Carried

It was agreed that the F&GP would look at the budget for 2011/12 at the end of February.

Provision of Christmas Trees - it was agreed that a tree would continue to be provided at the Dr Syntax and that the system of lighting the tree at the school would continue. When the cable for the lights at the school needed replacing consideration would be given to providing LED lights which should be more effective.

Bedding plants & Hanging Baskets - It was agreed that hanging baskets would be provided again this year with the baskets being planted up by volunteers. Norman Hooks is to liaise with the volunteers. It was stressed that those who received the hanging baskets must be asked to care for them.

It was also agreed to get quotations for bedding plants from several suppliers.

### **10/115 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives**

#### a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The Finance & General Purposes report had been circulated.

Grants: it was agreed to pay the grants recommended and if possible include these in the current year's accounts.

Action for children	£50.00
Tynedale Hospice	£200.00
Air Ambulance	£100.00
Tennis Club	£100.00
SICA building project - to be paid if required in 2011/12	£1,000.00

Scouts - As requested it was agreed that rather than receiving a grant, the Scouts could transfer a previous capital grant to next year's general revenue.

The Chairman had proposed that the grant budget be banded so as to indicate more closely whether the monies were being spent locally, regionally or nationally.

Clerk's Salary Review - it was proposed and agreed that an independent appraisal panel be appointed. Mr Peter Kemp had agreed to join this.

Risk Assessment - The Chairman is to send the documents to the Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting - a paper had been tabled and noted. It was suggested and agreed that the Players and the Baptist Church be included in the list of invitees. It was also agreed that Maggi Hunt would chair the item on young people.

Parish Office - The F&GP are looking at this and will make a recommendation to the Council.

b) - Sports Facilities - the Sportsfield Management Group had met and it was reported that there were three specific issues to discuss.

Sportsfield Charges - the Cricket Club were not happy about the proposed charges and this is to be looked at again

Sportsfield Parking - the proposals were welcomed in principle.

Make-up of the Group - Stocksfield Striders are to send a representative and the School Governors be asked to send a representative.

MUGA Usage - a spreadsheet showing the latest usage figures was tabled. Comment was made about the lack of use by women. It was noted that in Stocksfield there were strong women's netball and cricket teams. There is an active women's football team based in Prudhoe. It was felt that more girls than boys play tennis.

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

#### c) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated..

Hoodsclouse Opencast - it was felt that it was up to the County Council to make the decision on this proposal based on the current Mineral Strategy. It was asked if the Parish Council wished, as a body, to object to the

proposals. The East Tynedale Community Forum had suggested a response but it was felt that the Forum was too widely based to be able to speak for the whole area. Broomley & Stocksfield had looked at the proposal on planning grounds only. Mr Davison had concerns about the level of dust that might be produced, but it was felt that UK Coal had to meet regulations and that these have improved since the previous extraction. It was noted that the proposal will bring jobs to the area. It was stressed that the reclamation and re-instating of land should be carried out properly at the end of the project. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the views of the majority of residents if and when it was necessary and that the Chair of the East Tynedale Community Forum should be advised of this.

#### d) - Transport & Highways

Lorries on New Ridley Road - an e-mail had been received from a resident. John Davison offered to continue to monitor the situation and report back. To date he has not noted anything out of the way. It was noted that the current building work at the top of Batt House Road might increase traffic. It was felt that the condition of New Ridley Road was poor in places and that proper repairs need to be carried out. Mrs Dale said that very few large vehicles are currently travelling along the B6309 through Hindley but is to ask for a traffic count to be carried out.

Double Yellow lines - Guessburn - Pete Barrass had produced suggestions for double yellow lines in Guessburn. Before making a request to County, residents' opinions are to be sought..

Grit Bin Survey - This had been completed. A bin is required at Brumwell Court and Mrs Dale offered to ask the County to provide one.

Bus Services along New Ridley Road - Mrs Dale is continuing to look into this and is to hold a meeting with possible users.

#### e) - Play Facilities

Kates Plain - the handyman had reported that one of the seats on the swing had been damaged - probably by frost and it was agreed to replace it.

BEPA - Replacement equipment - the new swings and tyre swing have been installed. However, the grass matting under the tyre swing still needs to be monitored.

Steps down to play area - concerns had been raised about the slippery slope to the eastern end of the new play area. Enquiries are to be made about providing steps.

Community Garden - Mrs Martin advised that there would be a planting day on Mother's Day and that more chippings would be provided when the weather improved.

#### f) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

A report on the recent meeting of the Rights of Way Group had been circulated.

Spring Clean - it was agreed to go ahead with this. It was reported that some residents had concerns about children (cubs) being asked to litter pick. Perhaps the cubs could be asked to tidy the sportsfields. Alan Verheyden advised that there is a group of people in Prudhoe who tidy up every week.

#### g) - Communications

It was unanimously agreed that Dave Porter be asked to continue to look after NE43 News and the website. It was agreed that the final copy for NE43 News must be approved by the Council before it goes to the printer. Mrs Sayce offered to proof read and it was agreed that the Chair would have the final say about content. Mr Hall is to write to Mr Porter advising him of the decision.

h) - Community Development - Development of a Village Trust - nothing to report - a further meeting is to held on 21st February.

i) - Policy Group - Pete Duncan has volunteered to consider the Get Active Northumberland Physical Activity Strategy.

j) - Parish Plan Action Group - nothing to report

k) - Council Representatives -

Mr Hooks is to attend the Big Society Summit on 11th February.

Mr Hall had been unable to attend the NCC Meeting at Stannington on 25th January.

East Tynedale Community Forum - it was agreed to make a decision about representation on this group at a later date.

**10/116 - Any Other Business**

Mrs Dale advised that the Highways Inspector, Kevin Allen, based at Hexham was no longer employed by the County Council.

It was reported that New Ridley Road had not flooded during the recent heavy rain.

**10/117 - Date of Next Meeting - 7th March 2011**

The meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.