

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

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

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Pete Duncan, 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. Mr D Coulter, Hexham Courant

**Apologies:** None

### **10/118 - Declarations of Interest - None**

### **10/119 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2011**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2011 were proposed as correct by Helen Morris and seconded by Norman Hooks and were agreed with one typographical amendment and two amendments to the text:

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

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.

Hoodsclouse Opencast - 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.

### **10/120 - Matters Arising**

County Councillors Dale advised that the Phil Wardle had replaced Kevin Allan at NCC Highways in Hexham.

Ridley Mill Flooding - it was reported that the sewer is to be repaired and that Northumbrian Water are trying to find out if the water coming into the pipe is surface water or not.

Trees along the burnside - it was felt that the land along the banks of the Stocksfield Burn, particularly behind Mount View Terrace and Guessburn belongs to Allendale Estate.

NE43 News/Website - the Chairman had written to Dave Porter and reported that Mr Porter will continue to look after NE43 News and the website and has agreed to the conditions set out. Mr Hall advised that Mr Porter was looking for 100% backing from the parish council if he is to continue to look after the newsletter and website. It was confirmed that Mr Porter had the 100% backing of the Parish Council.

Tennis - Mrs Sayce advised that more boys than girls play tennis and not the other way round.

Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge - Mrs Sayce is continuing to look into this.

Planting - it was suggested that plug plants might be a cheaper way of providing bedding plants but it was felt that this was not practical as they would require care and somewhere to keep them until they were large enough to plant out.

### **10/121 - Public Participation**

Mrs Dale advised that she had attended a presentation on supporting people and asked if the Parish Plan covered working with people with disabilities.

Councillors were advised that another meeting had been arranged with the Youth Service. Prudhoe Town Council is proposing to get a Service Level Agreement with the Youth Service and is proposing a meeting with neighbouring parishes. It was stressed that in Stocksfield we need outreach workers. Norman Hooks is

to attend a meeting on 28th March at SICA. The youth service and High School are not involved in this meeting. Parishes are getting together to see how the youth service is being delivered.

Concern was expressed that a large vehicle had had problems getting across the railway bridge on the B6309. It was felt that the bridge needs to have its width advertised. It was also pointed out there were no signs indicating the presence of the Fords at the junction with New Ridley Road and the lane leading down to the Fords. These issues were both highlighted as possible SATNAV problems. Mrs Dale is to ask Highways if suitable notices could be supplied. Concern was also expressed about heavy goods vehicles using the C272 from Smithyburn bridge to Broomley and it was suggested that a sign saying ignore SATNAV might be placed at the junction with the A695. Mrs Dale is to ask about this also.

### **10/122 - Correspondence**

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

Northumberland County Council Culture Strategy - Mrs Hunt had looked at this and felt that councillors should respond as individuals. She volunteered to draft a response to be sent on behalf of the parish council.

Two topics regarding the GP Health Commissioning Consortium and the national consultation on children's heart services are to be referred to the Patients Forum. It was noted that as yet there has been no government generated consultation on the former topic but that Northumberland has been designated as a "pathfinder" for the proposals.

It was agreed to make no comment on Northumberland County Council's consultation on taxi licensing.

Circulation of Magazines - Mr Hall asked councillors to make every effort to circulate magazines quickly. It was agreed that if it was felt that this system was not working then it would be looked at again in a couple of month's time.

### **10/123 - Finance**

The Accounts for February 2011 had been circulated, queries raised were answered and the accounts were accepted.

The Balance Sheet was accepted

The Bank Reconciliation for January was noted.

It was noted that 10% of the bill for Sovereign Design had been held back pending satisfactory completion of the installation of the new tyre swing at Branch End Play Area.

### **10/124 - Brief Reports from Advisory Groups & Council Representatives**

a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The Finance & General Purposes report had been circulated.

Grants: The F&GP had proposed a grant of £100 be made to the Methodist Church as a contribution towards the cost of transport to the Wednesday coffee mornings and this was confirmed

Tenders

It was proposed by Maggi Hunt and seconded by Julia Sayce and agreed that the recommendations of the F&GP be accepted as follows:

Grasscutting be awarded to Northumberland County Council for the annual charge of £4,464.46

General Grasscutting be awarded to Northumberland County Council for the annual charge of £2,803.17

Regular emptying of Dog Bins be awarded to Northumberland County council for the annual charge of £797.16

Handyman contract to be awarded to Neetfleet for the annual charge of £15,000

All of the above contracts are let for a 3 year term commencing on the 1st April 2011.

It was agreed that in future years the tenders would be opened by the F&GP meeting, or by a specially convened group of councillors.

As recommended in the report it was agreed to try other formats for the agenda papers in an effort to reduce the amount of paper being used and streamline the papers. Councillors were urged to ensure that all papers were sent to the Clerk, if possibly electronically, no later than 10 days before the meeting. Councillors were also advised that if no written report had been received then the topic would not be discussed at the meeting. This topic would be reviewed in 3 months.

Risk Assessment - The Chairman tabled the Risk Assessment & Management Pro Forma and it was noted and accepted.

Annual Parish Meeting - preparations are continuing..

Parish Office - Mr Hooks, as Chair of Stocksfield Community Association, declared an interest in this topic. Mr Hall outlined the background to the debate. Mr Hooks said that the provision of a Parish Office and the suggestion that it should be built at SICA whilst the Mary Clayton Room was being re-roofed had been on the agenda for some time. He said that SCA had grants in place, contractors selected and expected the work to be carried out in July/August. He said that SCA needed to know fairly quickly and preferably by April, whether or not the Parish Council wished to go ahead with this proposal so that it can set its budgets and finalise discussions with contractors. It was noted that even with a Parish Office at the Community Centre, Parish Council meetings would continue to be held in the Richardson Room. Mr Hooks is to clarify the position with regard to the payment of rates. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would draw up a paper for discussion by councillors at the April meeting.

Grants - the recommendations made by the F&GP in their report were accepted. It was agreed to discuss how grant aid should be prioritised at the May meeting.

b) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated..

12 Batt House Road - (County Councillor Mrs Dale declared an interest and left the meeting) A site meeting by the County Council West Area Planning Committee had been held to discuss this application for this site and since then further documents had been received. Parish Councillors still regretted the loss of trees on this site and expressed concern about the plot being divided and precedents for "garden grabbing" being set. Concern was expressed about changing the character of the area. It was noted that the southern side of Batt House Road was not part of Painshawfield Estate. (Mrs Dale returned)

21 Cade Hill Road - Mrs Dale advised that she had written to Steve Quartermain in Local Government Planning, seeking clarification on strategy.

Hoodsclouse Opencast - the Clerk had received correspondence regarding the proposals for an opencast mine near Whittonstall. It was agreed that a letter would be written to the Action Group expressing support for their opposition to the proposal.

c) - Sports Facilities - the Sportsfield Management Group Report had been circulated. This confirmed the verbal report given last month. Discussions continue as to the possibility of providing a car park on the sportsfield. Suggestions were made as to possible sources of funding for such a project.

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

d) - Policy Group -Get Active Northumberland Physical Activity Strategy - no comment to be made.

e) - Transport & Highways

Station Car Park - a meeting had been held with Northern Rail and a report on the meeting had been circulated. The gate to the track has now been chained up and this will hopefully reduce incidences of fly

tipping. Mr Hooks had had two phone calls from Mr Reisner and Paul Henry (NR) has been asked to speak to Mr Reisner to clarify his position with regard to care of the planting at the station. It was reported that there was to be another re-organisation at Northern.

Lorries on New Ridley Road - Mrs Dale has asked for a traffic counter to be provided on New Ridley Road. There is a feeling that there are HGVs using the route late at night. Building work at the top of Batt House Road may be causing additional HGV traffic on New Ridley Road.

Double Yellow lines - Guessburn - Pete Barrass has talked to residents and the general feeling is that some form of traffic control is necessary. Concerns were raised about access for emergency vehicles and the bin wagon. The major problem is where the road narrows near South Parade. Vehicles are visiting the shop, Community Centre, Methodist Church, Tennis Club, etc. What alternatives are there? Mrs Dale suggested that Alan Bawn or Paul McKenna at County be consulted and a meeting is to be arranged.

Bus Services along New Ridley Road - Mrs Dale is continuing to look into this but her efforts to arrive at a solution have been frustrated as the officer at County she was discussing this with is leaving.

f) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

Ridley Mill Flooding - see Matters Arising above.

Stocksfield Burn - Correspondence had been received from the Environment Agency regarding potential flood problems. Mr Hooks gave the background to these and it was agreed to send the letter addressed to residents to all households in Guessburn, Temperance, Burnside, Ridley Mill and Brumwell Court. It was thought that at some time a similar letter might be sent to the owners of properties backing onto the Wallock Birkdene (i.e. Birkdene, Tynedale Gardens, etc.)

Spring Clean - arrangements are in hand for a Spring Clean week 16-22 April.

g) - Community Development - Development of a Village Trust - Notes on the meeting held on 21st February were circulated. The next meeting will be held on 21st March. Norman Hooks and Pete Duncan are to have a meeting with the surgery.

h) - Play Facilities

Kates Plain - nothing to report.

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. The Clerk is to meet the representative of Record RSS. The Basket Ball post has been installed.

Community Garden - The planters are being replanted. The chippings for the path will be picked up shortly. The willow tunnel has been weeded. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the group looking after the community garden.

i) - Communications

NE43 News - Mr Davison said that he felt that the article about the precept should have said that this had been increased from £56032 to £70000 and his comment was noted. However, it was pointed out that few comments had been received from councillors when the draft of the newsletter had been originally circulated.

j) - Parish Plan Action Group - members had been tied up with the need to progress the Development Trust but it was agreed that the Action Group needed to have a meeting.

k) - Council Representatives -

The next meeting of the County Council West Area Committee will be held on 15th March in Haltwhistle.

Mr Hooks had attended the Big Society Summit on 11th February. He gave a brief report on the proceedings and said that he felt Stocksfield was doing the right thing in setting up a social enterprise company.

### **10/125 - Any Other Business -**

Councillors were reminded that items discussed in camera should remain confidential to the meeting.

Gullies - Mrs Dale said that the County Councillor Portfolio holder had visited the area with her. She said that she felt that he did not understand that residents had to travel from their homes to reach "strategic routes" and that it was important therefore that minor roads were also repaired. She said that although council officers understood this, they do not have the resources to carry out the repairs they should. She is keeping the pressure on.

Ordnance Survey Map - Mrs Sayce proposed that a letter be sent to the Ordnance Survey suggesting that the maps be revised to remove Painshawfield and ensure that the whole area is named Stocksfield.

Society of Local Council Clerks - a conference is to be held in Alnwick in May. The Clerk had advised that she will probably go and asked if any councillor wished to accompany her.

Clerk's Employment Status - at present the Clerk is self-employed and invoices the Council for her services each month. Advice has now been received that from April 2011 Parish Clerks have to be employed directly by the Council. Further advice is to be sought on this.

### **10/126 - Date of Next Meeting - 4th April 2011**

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.