

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4th April 2011**

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, 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

**Apologies:** Pete Duncan, John Davison

### **10/126 - Declarations of Interest**

Norman Hooks declared an interest in topics relating to the Community Association/Centre.

### **10/127 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2011**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2011 were proposed as correct by Julia Sayce and seconded by Norman Hooks and were agreed. It was noted that Norman Hooks, Ian Hall and Maggi Hunt had all attended the meeting relating to the Service Level Agreement for the Youth Service in Prudhoe. It was further noted that the Ridley Mill Flooding was technically a problem with the sewage outflow and that this had now been resolved.

### **10/128 - Matters Arising**

Grants - the banding for grant aid had been discussed by the Finance & General Purposes Group (see notes of their meeting on 13.1.11) and the final recommendation for banding is to be made at the May meeting of the Council.

Road signs - County Councillor Mrs Dale had asked county officers about the signage to the Fords. She advised that there was no official sign that suggested that drivers should "Ignore SatNav".

Youth Service - it had been agreed that Prudhoe Community Partnership and the Youth Service would look after "hard to reach young people" and village "hot spots". County Councillors Bill Garrett and Anne Dale are to look at the County Youth Budget. In real terms the County Council is paying for 18 hours a week while 61 hours a week are being paid for by Prudhoe Town Council and the Charity Shop. Prudhoe Town Council has stipulated that their contribution would only be used in Prudhoe while the Charity Shop contribution could support other youth work. Mrs Sayce said that councillors should bear in mind that the focus on funding for youth services has a different focus to the historical emphasis. Tom Martin (Chair Wylam Parish Council ) is keen for Wylam and Stocksfield to work together. It was asked what do young people in each village actually want. It was suggested that some sort of event could link with the Olympics and it was also noted that Stocksfield Festival is also looking at a Sport related event for 2012. Schools in Northumberland are also looking at linked Olympic Events.

Planning - Mrs Dale advised that she had written to Steve Quartermain regarding "garden grabbing" and she read out his response. She is also seeking clarification on "sequential testing".

Traffic - it was reported that a traffic counter had been installed on New Ridley Road.

### **10/129 - Public Participation**

B6309 - The Clerk reported that a resident of Hindley had raised concerns about the number of vehicles using the B6309 and also the fact that some vehicles appeared to be too large for the road. It was noted that the sign near the junction to Wheelbirks was partially obscured and it was felt that at the very least there should be signs indicating the width of the bridge over the railway and if possible consideration be given to introducing a weight limit on the stretch of road between the A695 and the Wheelbirks junction. Mrs Dale is also chasing the provision of signs indicating the presence of the fords. It was agreed that a letter be written by the Parish Council to the County on these issues.

Parking outside the Sportsfields - Alan Verheyden raised concerns about the parking outside the sportsfields. He said that he had received complaints that a resident had been unable to use the pavement because of the parked cars. It was stressed that parking is not a problem at school times. Confirmation was given that councillors were now actively looking at providing on-field parking at the sportsfields and steps are being taken with a view to completing this, this summer.

Mrs Hunt requested and it was agreed to order copies of the Good Councillors Guide as advertised in NALC's DIS Extra.

### **10/130 - Correspondence**

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

Mrs Hunt volunteered to review the County Council's consultation on Licensing Policy for Sex Establishments.

### **10/131 - Finance**

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

The Balance Sheet for March was accepted. The Balance Sheet for the Year ended 31st March 2011 was noted.

The Bank Reconciliation for February was noted. A debate ensued on the presentation of the bank reconciliation and the Clerk is to look at this.

Expenditure to date for April was approved.

Following discussions on the Accounts presentation, the F&GP is to make recommendations as to how the accounts should be produced in order to be clearly understood by councillors.

### **10/132 - Parish Office**

Papers had been circulated relating to this topic.

A debate was held on the proposal that a Parish Office be set up. It was agreed that the Council had to decide whether to continue with the present arrangement whereby the Clerk used a room in her house from which to operate a parish office or whether a permanent office should be provided in another location.

It was felt that as the responsibilities of the parish councils increased and that the workload and responsibilities of the clerks also increased then the need for a dedicated parish office would become more and more pressing.

Currently the Community Association is looking to do work on the roof of the Mary Clayton Room at the Community Centre and at the same time could take the opportunity to divide this room to provide office space for a suitable tenant. Mr Hooks, speaking on behalf of Stocksfield Community Association, said that SCA saw this as an investment which would pay off in 3/5 years. While some felt that a site at Branch End might be more suitable for a parish, it was agreed that any development there would be several years ahead.

Pete Barrass proposed and Diane Hinchcliffe seconded that a parish office be set up at Stocksfield Community Centre as a base for the clerk to the parish council.

It was agreed that Ian Hall and Keith Woods would negotiate with the officers of Stocksfield Community Association the terms of the lease for the Parish Office.

### **10/133 - Advisory Groups & Council Representatives**

a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The F&GP Report had been circulated.

PAYE for Clerk - The Clerk reported that she had been advised that the County Council could provide this service for £2.00 per month. She was awaiting confirmation from the County Council. It was agreed that unless the County Council was more than £120 then the payroll services for the Clerk should be provided by the County.

Hexham Courant - the Clerk confirmed that the reporter received papers for the meeting and it was suggested that these might be e-mailed rather than posted.

Prioritising Grants - as agreed above this is to be discussed at the May meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting - the draft report had been circulated. The meeting had been widely advertised within the parish. No indication had been received as to the likely number of residents attending. Mrs Hunt outlined the ideas for the item on "Focus on Young People". Ashley Brown, the Youth Worker at Prudhoe has been invited to attend.

It was reported that Brian Wade from Prudhoe Community High School is to give a talk at the Community Centre on Internet Security.

Grant Aid - requests for support had been received from Age Concern Northumberland and the Credit Union for South East Northumberland and the F&GP are to consider these and make recommendations.

Banking - the F&GP are to make a recommendation on Parish Council banking.

Vexatious Communications - F&GP are to consider a policy for the Parish Council.

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

b) - Sports Facilities - The Sportsfield Management Group Report had been circulated. It was noted that the Sustainable Transport Fund was not an appropriate source of funding for the proposed Sportsfield Car Park, other sources of funding are to be researched.

c) - Transport & Highways

Guessburn Traffic problems - a meeting had been held with the County Officer - he has visited Mount View Terrace at a busy time to see for himself what the problems are.

Buses from Whittonstall - Mrs Dale has met with officers who are looking into this topic.

Electric Vehicles Charging Points - the Clerk had circulated information on this and it was agreed that it was worth investigating the possibility of providing a charging point within the parish,

d) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated.

Mrs Sayce is to attend a seminar on the Localism Bill/Neighbourhood Plans.

e) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

Ridley Mill Flooding - see Matters Arising above.

Emptying Litter Bins - The Clerk outlined the problem with emptying litter bins outside Boots and the paper shop at Branch End. A paper on this item had been circulated. It was agreed that the bin outside Boots should be moved to be near the bollards and that the County Council be informed of this. It was also agreed that the County should be requested to continue emptying this bin while further options were explored.

The Rights of Way Group are to consider the possibility of setting up a working group to litter pick on a regular basis.

Mrs Dale suggested that [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk) should be advised of litter "hot spots".

The letter from the Environment Agency about tipping on the river bank is to be distributed this week.

The next meeting of the Rights of Way Group is on 11th April.

f) - Community Development - Development of a Village Trust - at the most recent meeting of the steering group on 21st March two people agreed to chair the meetings. The question of how the Community Development Trust will report to the Parish Council was raised.

g) - Play Facilities

Kates Plain - nothing to report.

BEPA - continues to be well used.

Community Garden - a group of residents had met to plant primulas etc. on 2nd April

h) - Communications - nothing to report

i) - Council Representatives -

The next meeting of the County Council West Area Committee will be held on 12th April in Stocksfield.

Whittonstall Action Group - proposals for Hoodsclough opencast mine - the next meeting is on 6th April. The Clerk is to ask the group to continue to keep the Parish Council informed of the proceedings of the group and to ask for greater notice to be given of the meetings.

Community Action Northumberland - Spring Conference will be held at Ponteland on 11th May - main theme - Community Lead Planning

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership - Stakeholder Meeting at Hexham on 5th April.

Eastern Tynedale Community Forum - Next meeting 6th April - main agenda item - Future of the Forum - John Davison is to be asked if he can attend.

j) - Policy Group - Northumberland Culture Strategy - Mrs Hunt had drawn up a response to this consultation. With minor amendments this was supported. Mrs Hunt was thanked for pulling this together.

k) - Parish Plan Action Group - nothing to report

#### **10/134 - Any Other Business -**

Mrs Martin raised the issue of "personal budgets" and wondered if this was something the Parish Council should be discussing. It was agreed that the issue of possible provision of day centres or similar services might better be discussed by the Community Association and Churches Together.

#### **10/135 - Date of Next Meeting - 9th May 2011**

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.