

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th June 2011

Present: Councillors Julia Sayce (in the Chair), Pete Barrass, John Davison, Ian Hall, Diane Hinchcliffe, Maggi Hunt, Norman Hooks, Melna Martin, Alan Verheyden. Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: - County Councillor Anne Dale, - Daphne Gilbert.

Apologies: - Pete Duncan, Helen Morris, Keith Woods

11/17 - Declarations of Interest

Norman Hooks declared an interest in topics relating to the Community Association/Centre and the proposal for a Parish Office.

11/18 - Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2011

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th May 2011 were agreed

11/19 - Matters Arising - There were no matters arising

11/20 - Public Participation

Burnside - Mrs Gilbert thanked the Council for its support over the Burnside issue. It was reported that the Planning Inspectorate had advised that the appeal had been withdrawn. It cannot be assumed that further planning applications for this site will not be made. Councillors were advised that the current developers of the site had gone into Administration. It was suggested that the Administrators will have to get the best value for the properties on the site. There are problems with the enforcement of the original planning consent. It is not clear who is responsible for enforcing planning conditions. Mrs Dale is to write to the planning authority raising concerns about the lack of enforcement of planning conditions. The Environment Agency is to let us have a copy of their submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Mrs Gilbert is to purchase a safety mirror to be sited in the field opposite the current exit from Burnside. It was suggested that the cost might go through the Parish Council and be re-invoiced to Mrs Gilbert. Enquiries are to be made to see if this is can in fact be done. It was noted that the County Council do not accept public liability for such mirrors.

Stocksfield Burn - it was reported that a tree had blown down near the bridge to Kates Plain and alleged that someone had taken the wood. Mr Hooks advised that he had walked along the burnside from the A695 with an officer from the Environment Agency and they had noted that several trees needed to be "topped". It was also felt that a lot of the trees along this length of the burn are self-sewn ash, etc. and are not particularly good specimens.

Parking on Pavements - Ian Hall reported that it was virtually impossible to walk on the pavement on stretches of New Ridley Road because cars were parked on the pavement. Alan Verheyden advised that there was special "rapid response" phone number for the police which the public might use to report these problems - it was suggested that this might be publicised in NE43 News and on the website. Mrs Dale is to meet representatives of the housing association to discuss concerns about parking near Ladywell.

Anti-social problems - Mr Hall advised that residents had raised concerns about alleged "trading" and late night traffic movements around nos.51/52 New Ridley Road. The Clerk is to contact the police about this and Mrs Dale offered to raise the matter with the authorities.

Asset Transfer - Mrs Dale reported that the paperwork is still with the County Surveyors Dept. It was felt that it would be polite if the county council officers kept the Parish Council informed of progress.

Speed checks - Mrs Dale advised that speed checks had been carried out on New Ridley Road.

Parking outside Boots - Mrs Hunt asked if it was possible to mark the "lay-by" outside Boots with parking spaces. It was felt that the parking problems had increased at Branch End since there had been a reduction in parking at the Esso Garage. It was suggested that there might be a time limit on parking in this lay-by although it was noted that the area was used by residents of Alexandra Terrace as well as by customers of Boots and the hairdressers. It was also noted that customers of the hairdressers might need the space for some time. Mrs Dale offered to pay for the marking of the lay-by from her Members' Small Improvements Allowance.

Traffic on New Ridley Road - the data had been passed to Alan Verheyden for consideration by the Transport Group.

11/21 - Election of Advisory Groups and Representatives

The 2011/12 lists had been circulated previously and representatives to outside bodies for 2011/12 were agreed.

Prudhoe Community High School Liaison Group - it was noted that it was sometimes difficult for councillors to attend these meetings because of the short notice given. Mrs Dale suggested that the meeting dates were set well in advance and it was agreed to write to the High School and request the dates of future meetings and advise the names of our parish council representatives.

11/22 - Correspondence

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

A list of new publications had been received from the SLCC and it was agreed to purchase a copy of the book on employment Law at a cost of £28.80.

It was agreed to make no comment on the NCC consultation of the Review of the Definitive Map By-Way 18.

Children's Heart Unit Consultation - it was felt that this was a "nightmare" to complete and that it was a poor way to consult the public. It was suggested that the County Council response might be used as a template for the parish council response.

It was noted that Mrs Dale had published a petition on the maintenance of schools.

11/23 - Finance

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

The Bank Reconciliation for April 2011 was noted.

Expenditure for May was approved.

2010/11 Audit - Presentation of unaudited Annual Accounts Sections 1 and 2 - Norman Hooks proposed, Maggi Hunt seconded and it was agreed that the Audit documents and the accounts be approved.

11/24 - Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) - Finance & General Purposes Group

The F&GP Report had been circulated.

Parish Office - Norman Hooks (Stocksfield Community Association) and Ian Hall are to liaise over the lease for the Parish Office. After some discussion it was agreed to install a standard landline. The Clerk has requested quotations from four suppliers.

Grant requests - the recommendation in the F&GP Report was noted and the recommendations accepted

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| a. Highlights Theatre Company | £100.00 |
| b Northumberland Theatre Company | £50.00 |

A request had been received from the Cricket Club for support for the installation of solar panels on the pavilion. Maggi Hunt proposed and Norman Hooks seconded and it was agreed that a grant- of £200 be made.

Banking - Maggi Hunt proposed and Norman Hooks seconded and it was agreed that the recommendation by the Finance and General Purposes Group that the Parish Council open an account with the Co-op Bank, and transfers the funds currently held in the Bank of Ireland to the new account be accepted. Alan Verheyden proposed and Melna Martin seconded and it was agreed that the following would be signatories to the account with the Co-op Bank account and that any two would sign the cheques and other documents.

Julia Sayce, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Keith Woods, Pete Barrass

Magazine Circulation - as noted in the F&GP report, the current system was not working. It was agreed that in future, the Clerk would advise councillors of items of interest and send hard copies to the relevant group convenors. The Clerk requested that in particular she would like to have returned any copies of Local Council Review as these should be filed for future reference. It was also agreed to take out a subscription for the e-version of this publication at a cost of £100.

Focus on Youth - Maggi Hunt advised that talks are being held with the Cricket Club and Golf Club about the possibility of setting up snooker clubs. The advantage of this is that the facilities are already available and there are people on site to supervise the young people. It was agreed that it would be necessary for both organisations to ensure that their volunteers had the necessary CRB qualifications. A brief debate was held about the possibility of setting up a club in the existing snooker/rifle club. It was felt however that this might be a long term objective and that with young people there was a need to achieve something in the short term,

It was agreed in principle to fund taster sessions for zumba/dance.

Both the latter and the proposed snooker clubs needed to be well-advertised and further consultation is to be carried out to try to find out what young people wanted.

Cycle Club - research is being carried out into this possibility - again it may be necessary to have CRB qualifications.

Meeting with NCC Executive Members - this had been attended by Mrs Sayce, Mrs Hunt and Mr Woods and the Clerk. Mrs Hunt had drawn up a report on the meeting and this had been circulated and was noted. Mrs Hunt was thanked for preparing the report.

Revision of Standing Orders - Mrs Hunt offered to look at this over the summer.

Annual Audit - The Internal Auditor's report had been circulated and was noted.

b) - Planning

The Planning Report had been circulated.

Some councillors are to attend NCC training sessions on planning at Newton and Morpeth in June/July.

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

c) - Sports Facilities -

Sportsfield Parking - the Sportsfield Management Group report had been circulated and was noted..

d) - Transport & Highways

It was reported that a meeting with Paul Henry (Northern Rail) and Mr Reisner had been planned. Mr Henry had however advised that Mr Reisner no longer wished to be involved with the care of the flower beds and planting at the station. It was agreed that it was still necessary to have a meeting with Mr Henry to see where we went from here as the station planting had been neglected for over 12 months and was

now a mess. As well as the car park area we need to find out who is to look after the bank on the north side of the track and who might "adopt" the station in future. A letter is to be written to Mr Reisner thanking him for his efforts in the past. The Handyman is to be asked to plant up the bed at the A695 entrance to the station. A letter is to be written to Paul Henry requesting a meeting and outlining concerns.

Alan Verheyden reported that he had had an excellent response to the reporting of a pothole.

Concerns were raised about young people cycling on the pavement particularly between Branch End and the Cricket Club. Although it was acknowledged that it was an offence to cycle on the pavement it was also acknowledged that on a busy road this was probably a safer option for children. Children cycling on the pavement should however be aware of the fact that vehicles could be leaving driveways and that they should respect other users of the pavement. Chris Catnach and Paddy Gascoigne are to be asked to raise the issue with the young people they come across. Pete Barrass is to ask the police for their advice on the issue.

It was reported that the hedge between North View and Birches Nook is overgrown and the Clerk is to contact SITA to ask them to cut it back.

Double yellow lines at Guessburn - Pete Barrass had responded to the County some months ago.

Road signs round the Fords and the B6309 - Mrs Dale reported the comments received from Alan Bawn (County). The Transport Group is to consider these comments although a response from Stefan Bell is still awaited. It was noted that SATNAVS send vehicles from the A695 via the Fords to Meadowfield Road.

It was reported that the lamp post damaged by the motor accident on the railway bridge in November 2010 had not been repaired. It was however suggested that this was not a lamp post and that it was in fact the stump from an illuminated road sign which had been removed some 5-10 years ago.

e) - Communications -

The next issue of NE43 News is at the printers and will be distributed by the Scouts..

f) - Community Development -

Mrs Hunt raised concerns that the Community Development Trust was to review the Parish Plan. It was explained that the Development Trust is to look at the Parish Plan with a view to identifying deliverable projects. Mrs Hunt expressed concern about the way the roles of the parish council and development trust are perceived and felt that this needs to be clarified. Mrs Dale suggested that there are projects which the parish council cannot deliver but which perhaps a development trust can.

It was agreed that the Parish Plan needs to be revisited and progress reviewed by the Parish Council.

(Mrs Dale left the meeting at 9.40 p.m.)

Olympic Celebrations 2012 - next meeting of the Eastern "bloc" of parishes - 6th July to discuss this topic.

Stocksfield Festival - plans are going ahead for the Festival on 10th September.

g) - Footpaths Gardens & Environment -

Fly Tipping on burn banks - The Environment Agency has written to offending residents.

Fly Tipping - Alan Verheyden had reported another incident on the river road to the County and it has been dealt with promptly.

h) - Play Facilities

Branch End Play Area - cracks on the path - Ian Hall had spoken to the consultant who advised that this work is out of guarantee. It was felt that the original repair had been carried out within the guarantee but no response had been received from the contractors. The Clerk is to write to the contractors.

It was agreed to order new seats for the swings.

It was thought that there should be more seats at Branch End Play Area but it was agreed that it would not be practical, and could damage the surface, if they were placed in or on the wetpour.

Kates Plain - it was noted that the surface of Kates Plain is very uneven and concerns were expressed that football players might injure themselves. It was agreed to try rolling the surface after it has rained. It was felt that Kates Plain is not being mowed regularly and the Clerk is to find out if this is so and if so why. The handy-man is to be asked to cut back the self-sewn trees and also the over-hanging branches around this play area.

i) - Council Representatives -

Opening of Eastgate Manor Mickley - Maggi Hunt had attended this event and her report had been circulated.

Councillors Sayce, Hooks and Hunt had attended the recent CAN conference. The presentations had been circulated.

Whittonstall Opencast Proposals - Alan Verheyden had attended a site visit to Shotton Opencast site. He reported that this had been an interesting day; those who attended had gone with pre-conceived ideas; they felt that the operation was not as bad as had been feared; the group had also visited Shotton village. The next stage of the Whittonstall consultation process will be issued in December 2011 There will be large numbers of small contactors going to the Whittonstall site. Traffic rates will be consulted on in December 2011. It is currently planned that the coal from Whittonstall will be sent to Alcan and also south for rail transport to Tyne Dock. Power stations still need huge amounts of coal. The area between Kilnpit Hill and Prudhoe contains the last remaining accessible coal in Northumberland. In the next 20/30 years there will be phases 2 and 3 which will have huge implications for Hedley. The next meeting of the Whittonstall Action Group will be 8th June. Alan Verheyden will continue to represent the Parish Council at these meetings.

Society of Local Council Clerks Conference. - The Clerk had attended this event at Doxford Hall and her report had been circulated

NCC Scrutiny Committee - Mrs Sayce volunteered to attend this meeting on 21st June.

j) - Policy Group - nothing to report

k) - Parish Plan Action Group - nothing to report

11/25 - Any Other Business -

The Parish Council had been invited to nominate up to 8 councillors to attend a Garden Party to be held at Alnwick Castle on 22nd June in the presence of HM Queen to celebrate the role of carers and volunteers. It was agreed to nominate councillors Sayce, Verheyden, Hinchcliffe and Morris. Other councillors were either away or unable to attend.

Hydro Electricity on the Tyne - Maggi Hunt raised the question of the construction of hydro electric plants on the Tyne and in N Yorkshire and suggested that the Parish Council should keep an eye on the Feasibility Study to see if a similar project could be built in Stocksfield. Mr Hooks said that the Tyne Rivers Trust were looking into this and that it would be discussed at the next meeting of the Development Trust Steering Group.

11/26 - Date of Next Meeting - 4th July 2011

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.