

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2011

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Pete Duncan, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Melna Martin, Helen Morris, Keith Woods, Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale, 4 members of the public

Apologies: Julia Sayce, Alan Verheyden

11/66 Declarations of Interest -

Mr P Barrass re request for grant for Cycle Club

Mr P Duncan re request for grant to Josie's Dragonfly Trust

Ms H Morris re request for grant to Stocksfield Players

Mrs M Martin re the new Social Centre

11/67 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October

Mrs Martin proposed and Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2011 were a true and correct record of the meeting with the changing of one sentence on para. 11/56.

11/68 Matters Arising

Hoodslose - a letter had been sent to the County Council and this is to be circulated to Councillors.

Merryshields Quarry - a letter had been sent to SITA.

Burnside - Mrs Dale reported that the liquidators of the development company had advised the County Council that the site will be sold and described as defined in the current planning application. The Liquidators are not accountable for any enforcement conditions.

11/69 Public Participation

Proposed parking restrictions on Mount View Terrace/Guessburn - the residents present raised concerns about the proposals to introduce parking restrictions on Mount View Terrace and in Guessburn. While all agreed that there was a problem when SICA and the Methodist Chapel were busy, it was generally felt that the current proposals would not solve the problems and might drive the traffic further down into Guessburn. It was felt that currently residents can be prevented from parking outside their own properties, motorists do park across driveways and lanes and also in the private lanes. It was noted that a lot of properties in Mount View Terrace and Guessburn do not have garages.

It was asked if other options had been considered, for example:

Residents' parking area

Widening the footpaths

Parking on one side of the road only

It was felt that users of the Community Centre needed to be educated to park with consideration for residents and other users of Mount View Terrace and to use the Station car park, particularly at evenings and weekends when there were fewer railway users. It was felt that the width of the road in Mount View Terrace was not an issue. It was also suggested that motorists ignore double yellow lines and park on them in any case. It was also felt that double yellow lines could create more problems. Mrs Dale suggested that if residents were unhappy about the proposals for double yellow lines then they should make their

objections known to the County Council. She also added that the cost of providing residents' parking would need to be researched.

Mr Barrass outlined the reason for the County Council making the proposals.

It was suggested that a combination of residents' parking and double yellow lines might work, but the question of how residents' parking would be policed was raised. It was suggested that the Community Centre should have disabled parking bays marked out.

It was proposed by Mr Davison and seconded by Mrs Martin and agreed that a letter be written to the County Council advising that because of representation by residents the proposals need to be looked at again.

Messrs Barrass and Davison are to look at the proposals again and come up with revised suggestions.

The residents were thanked for attending and bringing their concerns to the attention of Councillors.

11/70 Review of Parish Plan & Budget Requirements

Mr Duncan advised that the Green Paper had already been circulated. He took Councillors through the document and up-dated them on the progress of the various action points and plans for future action.

It was noted that there was no longer a resident warden at Ladywell and Mrs Martin is to explore the options for support for residents of this development.

The Footpaths and Environment Advisory Group is to look into sustainable energy options.

It was noted that the current Adapt (North East) service only stops at two places between New Ridley and Branch End. A query was raised as to whether this service meets the requirements of residents. The Parish Council needs to consider the whole picture of the bus services.

A budget is required for the production of the Welcome Pack.

Consideration is being given to the possibility of the Community Centre becoming an information point.

Neighbourhood Plans - Mr Duncan then introduced the topic of Neighbourhood Plans. He said that these were different from Parish Plans in that they were basically about land use and development. He suggested that if the Parish Council wanted to produce a Neighbourhood Plan then work would have to start very soon. He suggested that the County Council would be able to provide officer support but stressed that there would be no funding available from the County Council. Mrs Dale suggested that any Neighbourhood Plan would have to be compatible with the County Strategic Plan. Mr Duncan suggested that there would be a vast amount of work involved in drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan and that the whole community would need to be involved.

The question of funding was raised and it was also noted that the Princes Trust were offering free workshops on the topic (DIS 771).

It was requested that budget requirements for drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan be passed to the F&GP.

Mrs Dale advised that the County Council was currently drawing up the Local Development Framework documentation for consultation.

Mr Duncan is to draw up a summary and it was agreed to debate this topic more fully in December or January.

Mr Duncan was thanked for his presentations.

11/71 iNorthumberland - Local Broadband Plan Vision

Ms Hunt advised that at the recent meeting of Parish Councils with the County Council West Area Committee, Parish Council representatives had been asked to sign the above document. She went on to say that she had felt that she was unable to do this without consulting with the Parish Council. The document had been circulated and councillors were asked for their comments.

A debate ensued and it was agreed that:

- The Vision Statement does not address the key issues of how the County Council is going to do this and how they are actually going to achieve the Vision.
- It was felt that the document might be acceptable as a Vision Statement but it was not an Action Plan.
- The document made no reference to key aims and objectives.
- As a Vision the document was inadequate.
- No mention was made of the need to promote the use of the internet to all Northumberland residents, which was felt to be a serious omission.

Ms Morris proposed, Mr Barrass seconded and it was agreed that the Vision Statement would be signed but that a letter would be sent to the County Council pointing out the inadequacies of the Vision.

11/72 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the October meeting had been listed on the agenda and was noted.

11/73 Finance

The Accounts for October 2011 had been reviewed prior to the meeting by the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group and their acceptance was recommended and agreed.

The Spend v Budget sheet had been tabled. It was noted that there appeared to be some inaccuracies on this and the Clerk was requested to check the figures and send a revised sheet to Councillors.

The Bank Reconciliation for September 2011 was noted.

Additional Cheques - were approved as follows:

Straight 2 Business - Stationery	£45.56
Northumberland County Council - Payroll	£808.41
Cabinlife - Kate's Plain fence repair	£438.00

11/74 2012/13 Precept/Budget

This is to be discussed by the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group on 21st November. Councillors were requested to advise the Clerk of any items to be included in the budget before 14th November.

11/75 Standing Orders

Revised Standing Orders had been circulated previously. Mr Barrass proposed, Mr Woods seconded and it was agreed that these be adopted.

Policy on Vexatious Communications - this had been circulated previously. Mr Hall proposed, Mr Barrass seconded and it was agreed that this be adopted.

11/76 New Parish Councillors

Mrs Diane Hinchcliffe has resigned from the Parish Council due to pressure of other commitments. To date, no one had come forward expressing interest in the vacancy previously created by the resignation of Mr Hooks. Councillors were requested to ask potential councillors to contact the Clerk or Chairman for further information.

[Suspension of Standing Orders - Mr Hall proposed and Ms Morris seconded and it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting should continue until 10.00 p.m.]

11/77 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

The report of the previous meeting of the Group had been circulated.

Review of Membership of Advisory Groups - it was agreed that this topic would be discussed at the December meeting.

Risk Assessment - the documentation had been circulated and Mr Davison proposed and Mr Woods seconded and it was agreed that the contents should be noted and accepted.

Requests for Funding - the recommendations made in the F&GP report were

Tynedale Hospice at Home -

Recommendation to Parish Council: That a grant of £200 be made in April 2012.

Proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Barrass and agreed.

Stocksfield Social Centre -

Recommendation to Parish Council: That a grant of £650 be made from the budget for services to older residents held in the reserves.

Proposed Mr Barrass, seconded Mr Duncan and agreed.

Stocksfield Players -

Recommendation to Parish Council: That a grant of £500 be made, with an offer to underwrite the costs of the production to a maximum of a further £500, this to be funded from the Youth Work budget.

Proposed Mrs Martin, seconded Mr Hall and agreed.

Stocksfield Cycle Club -

Recommendation to Parish Council: That the sum of £88 membership fee be paid by the Parish Council to the British Cycling organisation on behalf of Stocksfield Cycle Club.

Proposed Mr Hall, seconded Mrs Martin and agreed.

The request from the Dragonfly Trust is referred to the F&GP Advisory Group.

Project Funding - The Clerk had put forward a suggestion for a "Regeneration Group" to enable funds to be accessed which were not available to the Parish Council and also as a vehicle through which groups which did not have separate bank accounts might access funds. After some debate, Mr Hall proposed and Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed to pursue the idea.

Suggestions to shorten Parish Council meetings - no proposals had been put forward.

NCC Budget - at the recent meeting between the West Area Committee of the County Council and the Parish Councils a Powerpoint presentation of the County's budgetary planning had been given and a copy of the handout had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

b) Parish Plan Action Group - this topic had been debated earlier in the meeting.

c) Sports Facilities Advisory Group -

Mr Duncan advised that there was nothing to report at present. He reported that on Saturday 5th November there had been 103 cars parked in and around the sportsfields.

A proposal had been made to up-date the existing large sign at the re-cycling area and it was agreed that this would be replaced by two smaller signs with appropriately worded text.

d) Transport & Highways Advisory Group

686 bus - Further, correspondence had been received regarding the withdrawal of the 686 bus from Whittonstall to Prudhoe via New Ridley Road. A meeting is to be held on 21st November with representatives of the County and Adapt (North East), which Ms Morris and the Clerk would attend.

Parking near Tynedale Gardens - Mrs Dale is to put forward a proposal to try to alleviate this problem. It is hoped that this will be put in place in 2012/13.

e) Community Development -

Development Trust - Mr Duncan advised that there was nothing further to report at present.

Olympic Celebrations - the plans for the Eastern Parishes event continue to be formulated. While Mrs Sayce is receiving medical treatment, Mr Hall agreed to "keep her seat warm" at meetings and to keep the Parish Council informed of developments. There is a need to decide what the Parish Council's role in these events is likely to be.

Olympic Torch Relay - It has been confirmed that the Olympic Torch Relay will run through Stocksfield on 16th June. It was felt that this should be commemorated somehow but that any celebration should not clash with plans to celebrate the Jubilee or other events being held during June.

Diamond Jubilee - Ms Morris and Mrs Martin tabled suggestions for ways to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. It was felt that a budget of around £2000 might be needed and Councillors were asked for their views and reactions to the suggestions. An article is to be submitted for inclusion in the next edition of NE43 News.

Skate Park - A paper on proposals for such a facility was tabled and this topic is to be debated further in December or January.

f) Communications Advisory Group -

It was reported that Mr Dave Porter had resigned as webmaster. The group is to consider options for both the future of the website and NE43 News.

g) Play Facilities Advisory Group

Replacement of "The Twist" at Branch End Play Area - discussion of this would be deferred to December.

h) Planning Advisory Group

Consultation on the Draft National Planning Policy Framework - A draft response had been drawn up and circulated and was accepted.

Hoodsclouse - a letter had been sent to the County Council summarising the concerns raised at the October meeting.

i) Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group -

Mrs Dale advised that she had had a meeting with representatives of Northumbrian Water (NWL) regarding the flooding problems on Ridley Mill Road. It was reported that NWL had taken large quantities of "gunge" from the pipes and that this would hopefully resolve this problem.

Habitat and Species Surveys - it was agreed in principle that this exercise should be repeated and that the Footpaths and Environment Advisory Group would be asked to manage the project. It was agreed to make provision in the budget for this but also to seek funding from outside.

j) Council Representatives -

The next meeting of the West Area Committee of the County Council is at Haydon Bridge on 15th November.

k) Policy Advisory Group - it was agreed to make no response to the Boundary Commission on the proposals to change the parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Local Councils Charter consultation - A further draft of this had been received. Ms Hunt offered to consider it and draw up a response for approval by the Parish Council.

11/78 Any Other Business -

Agendas - Mr Barrass said that he felt that too much paper was being sent out with agendas for meetings, and he urged that as many documents as possible be sent to Councillors in electronic format. In order to facilitate this, the F&GP Advisory Group is to investigate purchasing a scanner for the Parish Office.

11/79 Date of Next Meeting - 5th December 2011

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.