

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th January 2012

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Melna Martin, Alan Verheyden, Keith Woods, Mrs M Williams, Clerk. Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale

Apologies: Pete Duncan, Julia Sayce,

Ms Hunt opened the meeting by wishing those present the compliments of the season.

11/92 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Dale declared an interest as Chairman of the Federation of Broomley & Whittonstall First Schools.

11/93 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2011

Mr Hall proposed, Mr Woods seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes were a true record of the meeting.

Mr Verheyden raised a point of clarification regarding the Advisory Groups, in particular the Footpaths & Environment (F&E) Advisory Group and the Rights of Way (RoW) Group. It was explained that the RoW Group was a sub-group of the F&E Advisory Group and as such could have members drawn from the wider community. The F&E Advisory Group, however, could only draw its membership from the Parish Council. It was agreed that, until such time as more parish councillors were elected or co-opted, the F&E Group would be suspended and its proceedings carried out by the RoW Group. Any recommendations for action by the RoW Group would have to be endorsed by the Parish Council.

11/94 Matters Arising

The BT inspection chamber (near Orchard Vets) has been mended and thanks were extended to all concerned for achieving this.

Concerns regarding the availability of appointments at Branch End Surgery were still to be addressed.

11/95 Public Participation

Mr Verheyden raised concerns about the speed of traffic using the A695 through the village, and particularly near Aspen Bank House and Merryshields Cottages. He advised that there had been an accident two days before Christmas when the wall on the south side of the road was damaged. Since then the drain in the dip has been cleared and the County has arranged for the wall to be repaired. He outlined the background to accidents and incidents in recent years and advised that to date it had not been possible to access the police log to research the reported incidents on the road. He said that he was particularly concerned about the safety of pedestrians. Two letters were tabled, one from a resident of Merryshields Cottages and one from a resident living near Branch End Play Area. Both raised concerns about the need to reduce the speed of traffic between Branch End and the Station. It was agreed that the County Council be urged to look at the situation, and that following further research, Mr Verheyden and Mrs Dale would report back to the Parish Council.

Mrs Dale advised that the drain at the end of New Ridley Road had been cleared. She advised that during the recent cold spell strategic routes only (A695, New Ridley Road and the B6309 through Hindley) had been prioritised for gritting. Due to the economic downturn and the need to cut back on expenditure, minor roads and estate roads would not be gritted on a regular basis. She suggested that if residents required extra grit bins then provision might be considered, but the Parish Council would need to draw up a plan. She pointed out that extra grit piles had been provided.

11/96 Correspondence

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

Ms Hunt and Mr Hall volunteered to attend the forthcoming training sessions on Planning and the Localism Act which were being administered by the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the National Association of Local Councils on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

11/97 Finance

The Accounts for December 2011 had been reviewed prior to the meeting by three members of the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group and their acceptance was recommended and agreed. Mr Davison proposed and Mr Hall seconded and it was agreed that the recommendation be endorsed.

Additional Cheques - were approved as follows:

Northumberland County Council - Dog Bin Servicing	£1457.40
Ashdale Nurseries - winter bedding	£160.00

11/98 2012/13 Precept/Budget

Precept - The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group had recommended that the Precept for 2012/13 be set at £70,000. Mr Barrass proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed to endorse the recommendation.

Budget 2012/13 - The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group recommended that only "regular" expenditure should come from the "General Fund" and be included in the budget, which was set at:

Income	£72240
Expenditure	£72240

Summary sheets and a detailed breakdown had been circulated and were agreed. Any expenditure on "Special Projects" would come from "Savings Funds".

Mr Davison proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed unanimously that the recommendations for the budget be accepted.

11/99 New Parish Councillors

To date, no one had come forward expressing interest in the vacancies for parish councillors. Ms Hunt stressed the need to be proactive in the search for new parish councillors. Mrs Dale offered to put a notice in the Broomley School newsletter.

11/100 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

The revised Advisory Group membership lists had been circulated and were agreed as being correct.

a) Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

The report of the previous meeting of the Group had been circulated and Mr Woods outlined the discussions that had been held and their recommendations.

Remembrance Day Service Review - A meeting had been arranged.

Asset Transfer - The letter to the solicitor still had to be sent.

Stocksfield Regeneration Group - A meeting had been arranged.

Neighbourhood Planning - A meeting had been arranged.

Annual Parish Meeting - It was agreed that the main topic would be Neighbourhood Planning, but it was suggested that residents might also be asked if there were topics that they wished to raise at the meeting.

b) Transport & Highways Advisory Group

An e-mail had been received from the County Council regarding street nameplates, etc. Councillors were requested to list and if possible photograph those needing attention.

Parking at Guessburn - The County Council is looking into this problem again. Mrs Dale offered to organise a meeting between residents and County Council officers.

Consultation draft of Northumberland County Council's Public Transport Strategy - This document had been received, and extension to the consultation time requested and granted. A response is to be formulated and returned to the County Council by the third week of February.

c) Community Development

Development Trust - nothing to report.

Olympic Celebrations/Diamond Jubilee - The report tabled was noted and endorsed. There is a meeting of the County Olympics "Committee" on 24th January. No decision had been made regarding a commemoration gift for school children. No suggestions had been made about a Jubilee Wood. It was also suggested that consideration be given to holding an exhibition of photos of the event and perhaps previous events linked to the Queen later in the summer.

Olympic Torch Relay - A report had been circulated and was noted and agreed

Provision of Skate Park facilities - No progress to report.

Youth - Ms Hunt reported that she had had a meeting with Ashley Brown, Senior Youth Worker for the area, who is investigating the possible use of Broomley Grange Outdoor Activities Centre for County Council Youth Service events for young people. He also agreed to help her to arrange meetings with Stocksfield students at Prudhoe Community High School, and to assist young people with a Key Fund application for a Skate Park.

Ms Hunt had also attended one of the "taster" workshops run by Kiz Crosbie of the Tyne Valley Youth Theatre during the school Christmas holiday, and had spoken to Ms Crosbie about her plans. The two workshops for young people aged 14 and under had been well-attended by both boys and girls, the majority of whom were Stocksfield residents, and Ms Hunt had been impressed by both the professional way in which the workshop she attended was conducted, and by the talent and enthusiasm shown by the young people. Ms Crosbie is planning to run a week-long full-scale performance project at the Community Centre during February half-term. It was agreed that the Youth Theatre performance project and the activities day would need to be well-advertised, probably through the schools.

Ms Hunt went on to report that the Community Association were now affiliated to Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP), which means that all of the young people's groups in the village can benefit from what they can offer. NCYP are planning to run an activities day for young people at the Sportsfields during February half-term which will include a pool competition, a portable climbing wall and a portable skate park. It was suggested that a portable skate park might be something that the County Council's Youth Service might invest in. Ashley Brown is considering the development of a peripatetic facility which could tour the villages.

Tynedale Visitor - it was agreed to repeat the entry, but the dates needed to be checked and the Jubilee Celebrations and the Olympic Torch Relay included.

d) Communications Advisory Group

NE43 News - The Clerk had submitted a suggestion which had been circulated. It was agreed that the March edition would be brought forward by 7-10 days, and that the June edition would be brought forward to the middle of May so that the Jubilee and Olympic Torch Relay information could be well-publicised. It was also suggested that a supplement be issued in the summer, containing photos of the Jubilee and Torch Relay events, which would not be circulated to every household, but would be available online and to pick up in shops etc.

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

e) Planning Advisory Group

The Planning Report had been circulated and was noted. Mrs Dale suggested that the County Council's Planning Department be asked if the application for Hoppers Gill has a Section 106 condition attached to it.

Hoodsclough - a report from the Whittonstall Action Group had been circulated.

Northumberland County Council- Northumberland Local Development Framework - Core Strategy - This document had been received, and extension to the consultation time requested and granted. A response is to be formulated and returned to the County Council by the third week of February.

f) Parish Plan Action Group -.

Nothing to report.

Residents were receiving a Housing Needs Survey from the County Council, and the question was asked if this was necessary.

g) Sports Facilities Advisory Group - Nothing to report.

h) Play Facilities Advisory Group

Branch End Play Area

Dogs - The Clerk reported a conversation she had held with the Dog Warden. It was agreed to put an item in NE43 News stating that dogs were not allowed on the play areas or sportsfields.

A piece of equipment had been damaged and this is to be repaired.

The willow tunnel had been damaged and Mrs Martin is to ask the Community Garden Group to look into repairing it.

Mole Traps - it was agreed that the present rabbit catcher would be asked to look into reducing the problem of moles on Kate's Plain and the Cricket Field. The cost of £30 for the purchase of mole traps was approved.

i) Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group - A report had been circulated and was noted.

j) Council Representatives

The dates of future meetings had been listed on the agenda and were noted.

Councillors were requested to suggest topics to be included in the next joint meeting of Parish Councils and the West Area Committee of the County Council.

k) Policy Advisory Group - Nothing to consider.

11/101 Any Other Business - None

11/102 Date of Next Meeting - 6th February 2012

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.