

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6th February 2012

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

Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale, Mr M Parker, a resident of Guessburn.

Apologies: Julia Sayce,

11/103 Declarations of Interest

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

11/104 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th January 2012.

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

11/105 Matters Arising

Broomley School

Mrs Dale advised that following an interview and selection process Mrs Jacqui Lorimer, currently the Acting Executive Head Teacher of the Federation of Broomley & Whittonstall First Schools, had been appointed the Executive Head Teacher. It was agreed to write to Mrs Lorimer offering the Parish Council's congratulations on her appointment and stating that the Parish Council looked forward to working with her.

A695 Speeding – Mrs Dale advised that there was no development to report.

Remembrance Sunday

A meeting had been held to discuss the arrangements for last year's Remembrance Day Service. Generally everyone had been happy with the arrangements. Ms Hunt proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would fund the provision of a PA system in future years.

Stocksfield Regeneration Group

Ms Hunt gave a brief report on the discussions held and advised that at present it was felt that there was no advantage to be gained in setting up an additional group.

11/106 Public Participation

Double Yellow Lines in Mount View Terrace and Guessburn

It was noted that in projects such as this, one of the largest cost factors was consultation with residents and other interested parties. It was agreed that there were differences in opinion as to the best solution to the problem. It was also agreed that there was a need to discover what residents' parking requirements were. Mrs Dale has arranged a public meeting at the Community Centre on 5th March to discuss this issue. She is also to issue a questionnaire to residents seeking information on their parking requirements.

Speeding Traffic

Mr Verheyden asked if it might be possible to get together a group of volunteers to operate "speed guns". It was agreed to look further into this and come back to debate the issue at a later date. It was thought that the VATS machines could count the number of times they were activated if the appropriate software were fitted. The County Council is looking into the possibility of fitting another machine at the east end of the A695 somewhere near Branch End/West Mickley.

11/107 Correspondence

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

An e-mail had been received from Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council/Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding empowering local councils. It was agreed to write to our MP, Guy Opperman, asking him to support the proposals put to the DCLG under the Sustainable Communities Act.

11/108 Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee

It was agreed to send a Loyal Address to the Queen on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of her accession to the throne. It was felt that this was particularly appropriate as the Accession date was 6th February 1952.

11/109 Finance

The Accounts for January 2012 had been reviewed prior to the meeting by three members of the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group and their acceptance was recommended and agreed.

11/110 New Parish Councillors

To date, no one had come forward expressing a definite interest in the vacancies for parish councillors. However one person had expressed an interest and he is to be contacted again. It was agreed that the text suggested in the papers for the meeting be used in an article in NE43 News with the addition of interests in local transport, business and communication.

11/111 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

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. Mr Duncan proposed and Mr Verheyden seconded and it was agreed that the recommendations contained in the report be noted and endorsed.

Annual Parish Meeting – it was agreed that David English (County Council Planning Officer) be asked to give a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning. Mr Duncan agreed to arrange this.

Requests for funding

Tyne Valley Youth Theatre – it was reported that TVYT is planning to run a performance project over half term at a cost of £100 per child. This was felt to be expensive. TVYT had requested a donation towards the cost of running this activity. It was noted that they had already been granted £100 for workshops during the Christmas holiday. It was however agreed that a further grant of £100 would be made but that this would be paid direct to Stocksfield Community Association towards the cost of room hire.

Urban Fun Day – This is being run at the Cricket Club and Multi Use Games Area by Northumberland Clubs for Young People. The cost will be around £600 which will cover staff costs and the supply of a portable climbing wall and a portable skate ramp. Participants will also be able to take part in a pool competition and the youth workers will take the opportunity to consult them on what they would like to be available in the village, and advise them about applications for grants to the Key Fund. Ms Hunt offered to make a donation of her Chairman's allowance towards the cost which would mean that the cost to the Parish Council would be in the region of £430. Ms Hunt was thanked for her generosity and it was agreed to fund this event. Ms Hunt will report back on the success of the day. Concern was expressed at the short notice for this event and it was hoped that future events could be given greater publicity.

b) Transport & Highways Advisory Group

Consultation draft of Northumberland County Council's Public Transport Strategy – A response had been drafted and circulated and was agreed.

Hedges – concern was expressed at the amount of hedge cuttings and leaves on the pavements, particularly on the Bywell Road and Apperley Road. Mrs Dale offered to ask the County Council to sweep the pavements.

Mrs Dale is looking into the problem of the hedge on New Ridley Road (near Tynedale Gardens).

c) Community Development

Development Trust – Mr Duncan had prepared a Confidential Report on the Development Trust which had been circulated. This document was discussed. One of the questions debated was whether or not the Parish Council should have more than one representative on the board of the proposed Community Land Trust. Mr Duncan was thanked for preparing the report.

Olympic Celebrations/Diamond Jubilee – The report tabled was noted. It was agreed that the Parish Council wanted to support the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in principle. The F&GP Advisory Group are to discuss this issue and make a recommendation. Nothing had been heard from the school regarding a suitable Jubilee commemoration. The Clerk is to contact the Head Teacher regarding this.

Provision of Skate Park facilities – No progress to report.

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

d) Planning Advisory Group

The Planning Report had been circulated and was noted. Mr Hall expressed concern that hedges appeared to be “disappearing” in favour of walls and fences.

Neighbourhood Planning – a report on the recent meeting had been circulated and was noted.

SITA – a letter had been received from SITA responding to the Parish Council’s queries about the Review of Mineral Permissions (ROMP) planning application for Merryshields Quarry. From the response it seems unlikely that the quarry will be re-opened in the near future for sand and gravel extraction. A follow-up article is to be prepared for NE43 News.

Protected Trees – a letter had been received from the County Council regarding protected trees. It was noted that trees in a conservation area are automatically protected.

Northumberland County Council – Northumberland Local Development Framework – Core Strategy consultation - A response had been drafted and circulated and was agreed.

e) Communications Advisory Group

NE43 News – the deadline for copy for the next edition is 17th February.

Website – Tenders had been issued for the appointment of a Web Manager and quotations were being received.

f) Sports Facilities Advisory Group

Nothing to report. The next meeting of the Sportsfield Management Group will be held on 13th February.

g) Play Facilities Advisory Group

Branch End Play Area

The damage to the willow tunnel will be repaired in the spring.

40th anniversary – Mrs Martin is to look into suitable planting to mark this occasion. Residents are to be asked to provide photos of the use of the Play Area over the past 40 years.

i) Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group

Spring Clean – it was agreed that a Spring Clean week should be arranged for 14th-21st April and that a skip would be requested for locating in the Sportsfield Car Park.

f) Parish Plan Action Group – Nothing to report.

k) Policy Advisory Group - Nothing to consider.

j) Council Representatives

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

Mr Hall agreed to attend the next meeting of the West Area Committee of the County Council on 14th February.

Ms Hunt will attend the meeting of the West Area Committee Meeting on 13th March.

11/112 Any Other Business

Mrs Martin asked for material which could be used for bunting at the Jubilee celebrations.

11/113 Date of Next Meeting – 5th March 2012

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.