

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd September 2012 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

Present: Mr C Balmer, Mr P Barrass, Mrs A Dale (also present as a County Councillor),
Mr P Duncan, Mr I Hall, Ms M Hunt, Mr M Parker, Mr K Woods

Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Apologies: Mr J Davison, Mrs M Martin, Mr A Verheyden

Ms Hunt, in the Chair, welcomed councillors to the meeting following the break in August.

12/41 Declarations of Interest None

12/42 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd July 2012

Mr Parker proposed, Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 2nd July.

12/43 Matters Arising

Burnside Hedge – County Councillor Mrs Dale advised that this hedge had been cut back. She advised that the County Council had written to the developer's Liquidators pointing out that they have responsibility for this hedge.

2 Apperley Road – County Councillor Mrs Dale advised that the County Council Enforcement Officer had visited the site and believes that all is being completed within the terms of the planning permission. She confirmed that he was happy with the width of the pavement on Apperley Road outside this property.

Patients' Forum/Patients' Reference Group (PRG) – Clarification had been sought from Branch End Surgery with regard to the two organisations. It is thought that the PRG was formed as part of a Government initiative. It is thought that the two groups work in tandem. Mr Hall and Mrs Martin were asked to clarify the situation at the next meeting of the Patients' Forum.

Flooding – it was suggested and agreed that Northumberland County Council should monitor flooding incidents on New Ridley Road.

12/44 Public Participation

At the start of the new session, Ms Hunt clarified matters which should be included under Public Participation. She said that primarily, the Public Participation agenda item was an opportunity for those members of the public present at the meeting to raise concerns with councillors, and for councillors to bring to the attention of the Council items which residents had raised with them.

Bywell Road – Mr Barrass raised concerns about the nettles etc. blocking the pavement, particularly on the bend opposite the station entrance. Mrs Dale said that the hedge along the Bywell Road needed cutting.

Pedestrian Crossing – the crossing by the station is out of order. It was thought that this had been reported.

Branch End Play Area (BEPA) – it was reported that dogs were being exercised on BEPA, particularly in the late evenings. It was suggested that the offenders could be reported to the Dog Warden, although there was some doubt as to whether he worked out of office hours.

Broomley School - Mrs Dale advised that the School had received an "Outstanding" OFSTED report. It was agreed that Ms Hunt should write to the Head Teacher congratulating her on this achievement.

Mr Barrass said that there is a general feeling among residents that the County is not caring for hedgerows and verges and is not providing the services expected.

12/45 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the meeting of 22nd July was listed on the Agenda and was noted.

12/46 Finance

The Finance & General Purposes Group had not met and had not therefore reviewed the accounts for July/August. However Ms Hunt and Mr Woods had reviewed the documentation and are content that the summaries accurately reflect the detail. It was noted that the Open meeting of the Finance & General

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Purposes Group had agreed the expenditure for July. Mr Hall proposed and Mr Balmer seconded and it was agreed that the expenditure for August be approved.

The additional cheques listed on the agenda were approved.

Neetfleet – balance - £123.00
BounceBack Play Surfaces Ltd - £132.00
NBT – stationery - £4.68

External Auditors Report – This had been received from BDO, had been circulated and was noted. There were no matters requiring attention.

12/47 Community Development

The meeting was closed to the public for this item and the notes on this topic are appended at the end of these Minutes.

12/48 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a) Consultations

Northumberland County Council Core Strategy – the response to this consultation had been drawn up and submitted. The response had been circulated to members and was noted.

Review of Parish Plan – Advisory Group convenors were urged to look at those parts of the Plan which referred to their particular group to consider what progress had been made since the Plan had been published in 2009 and what further action should be taken. The Groups were asked to report back to the November meeting of the Parish Council.

It was suggested that Advisory Groups may also wish to consider the “Olympic Legacy” in relation to the Parish Plan.

Diamond Jubilee – the final report on this event had been circulated and was noted.

Hoodsclough Opencast Proposals – It was agreed that it was important that the Parish Council be represented on the Whittonstall Action Group to ensure that the views of Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council are taken into account. It was wondered if Mr Verheyden would be able to attend the Action Group meetings. Ms Hunt also suggested that she might be able to attend some of the meetings. The latest stage of the consultation process was discussed. Mrs Dale said that she thought there were two main issues relating to traffic. She was concerned that the coal traffic would be travelling both north and south on the A68. There were concerns that a crawler lane was to be introduced at the Broomley turn off. It was also felt that there was a need to have rumble strips installed at the approach to the A68/A695 roundabout at Riding Mill from the south. Mr Woods and Mr Hall are to draw up a response to the consultation document.

[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.]

Sustainable Communities Act – a response had been drawn up to this consultation, had been circulated and was agreed.

b) Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

The notes of the most recent meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group had been circulated and were noted.

It was agreed to accept the recommendation

To agree to expenditure of £45 for insurance cover of up to £100,000 for Chancel Repair Liability.

Flooding in June – As noted in the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group Report

JD asked if MW had replied to the letter of 4 July 2012 from James Hitching of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Team at Northumberland County Council requesting detailed information about the flooding that had occurred at the end of June 2012 and any evidence which could support future flood alleviation measures. MW replied that she had not yet replied, but would do so as quickly as possible.

Localism Act – Code of Conduct – Ms Hunt gave the background to this topic and it was agreed that she and Mrs Williams would look at this and report back to the October meeting.

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Remembrance Day Service – The Clerk had outlined the brief and this had been circulated. It was agreed that she should make the appropriate arrangements and that the Parish Council would pay for a PA system for the event. It was agreed that Mr Hall would lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that Richard Woods, who might have been asked to lay the wreath, would in fact be in Afghanistan in November.

Christmas Tree and lights - Mrs Dale declared an interest in this topic

It was agreed that one tree would be supplied for the Dr Syntax as last year, It was also agreed to look into the cost of purchasing new LED lights for the tree at the School.

Provision of new Burial Ground – It was agreed to set up a Working Party to look into this.

Grass Cutting – it was felt that the quality and frequency of grass cutting in the parish in 2012 has been very poor. It was noted that some grass was cut through the contract with the County Council, some was cut by the County Council and some by ISOS contractors. The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group is to look at the contract and recommend the course of action to be taken.

Transfer of funds to Play Areas - The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group is to look into this and recommend the course of action to be taken

c) Transport & Highways Advisory Group

The following items are currently out for consultation:

- a. Parking restrictions (double yellow lines) at Mount View Terrace
- b. Parking restrictions (double yellow lines) at Branch End and Cross Street.

County Councillor Mrs Dale is in contact with Northumberland County Council regarding a new activated speed sign to be erected at Branch End on the A695. She advised that she and County Councillor W Garrett have agreed to pay for a speed gun to be used by Northumbria Police in Prudhoe, Mickley and Stocksfield.

Gateways - New Ridley Village.

A resident from New Ridley village has requested gateways at the entrance to the village. It was agreed to support the Transport Working Group in further developing these gateways.

Flood information report for Northumberland County Council - The Parish Council recommends to the County Council that the gullies are cleaned out at least twice a year.

New Ridley Road pavement (No 160 onwards) -It is recommended that the Council adds the resurfacing of this pavement (including higher kerbs) to the Local Transport Programme.

Road junction sight lines - The Council recommends that the grass is cut more frequently to ensure safe access at junctions.

d) Planning Advisory Group

The Planning Report had been circulated and was noted.

Those who wished to attend the County Council Core Strategy Workshops were asked to advise the Clerk.

e) Children & Young People's Facilities Advisory Group

The Report of the Group was tabled at the meeting.

It was recommended and agreed that Northumberland Clubs for Young People should be asked to carry out consultation work and outreach work in the village to find out what our young people want and need, and support them in raising funds. This would cost around £2000 in the current financial year.

Mr P Barrass proposed and Mr P Duncan seconded and it was agreed by 7 votes to 1 (with one abstention) that this course of action be undertaken. It was however felt that a Business Plan should be produced.

Water damage at Kate's Plain – it was felt that this was not the problem of the Parish Council as the water had run off the surrounding fields.

f) Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group – the report had been circulated and was noted.

g) Sports Facilities Advisory Group

It was agreed to register both Branch End Play Area and the Cricket Field with Fields in Trust.

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

h) Communications Advisory Group

The latest NE43 News was currently being distributed. It was agreed to ask 2BGraphics for a quote for the design and production of the newsletter for the next 12 months.

12/49 Council Representatives

Mr Hall and Mrs Dale are the Parish Council representatives to the East Tynedale Forum. Mrs Dale also attends as a County Councillor.

County Council West Area Committee

Mrs Dale attends these meetings as a County Councillor.

Joint Meeting with County Council and Parish Councils, 9th October. Mr Hall is to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Meetings with County Council Executive – the date is to be confirmed but in the meantime, the Charter between the County and parishes is to be checked.

The Clerk, Mrs Williams, is to attend a training course organised by the Northumberland branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

12/50 Date of next meeting

1st October 2012

The meeting closed at 10 p.m.