

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th April 2013 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

Present: Mrs A Dale (also present as a County Councillor), Mr J Davison, Mr P Duncan,
Mr I Hall, Ms M Hunt, Mrs M Martin, Mr M Parker, Mr K Woods,
Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Also Present: Gemma Brown, Hexham Courant Mr M Easey

Apologies: Mr C Balmer, Mr P Barrass, Mr R Berg Rust,

Ms Hunt opened the meeting by welcoming those present and wishing Mr Hall a Happy Birthday.

12/137 Declarations of Interest – none.

12/138 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th March 2013

Mr Duncan proposed, Mr Hall seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 4th March 2013.

12/139 Matters Arising

Patients Forum – There had been no meeting recently. Mr Hall is to find out when the next meeting is to be held and to keep the Council informed.

B6309 – Road Closure – Mrs Dale advised that the repair work is due to start on 15th April. She had had meetings with representatives from Allendale Estates and the County Council. Construction staff are to be requested not to park in the Station car park. Everyone involved in this project was thanked for their efforts in progressing the work so far.

Northumberland County Council Core Strategy – a response to the latest consultation had been submitted.

Double Yellow Lines – Mrs Dale advised that these are to be installed at Mount View Terrace, Tynedale Gardens/New Ridley Road and Branch End.

12/140 Public Participation

Mrs Dale advised that she had been asked about acquiring a dog waste bin for Guessburn. Costings are to be explored.

Mr Hall expressed appreciation to the County Council for repairing the drain cover at the junction of the A695/Cade Hill Road.

Mrs Dale advised that the County Council and Northumbrian Water had looked into the problem of the continual flow of water down the A695 opposite Branch End Play Area. It had been discovered that the drain had collapsed.

12/141 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the meeting of 4th March was listed on the Agenda and was noted.

12/142 Finance

Mr Woods and Ms Hunt had examined the accounts for March and recommended the approval of the March expenditure. Mr Woods proposed, Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed that the accounts for March should be approved.

The expenditure to date for April (2013-14) had been circulated and was approved.

Additional cheques were approved as follows:

Northumberland County Council	£250	Rent for Branch End Play Area 2012-13
Northumberland County Council	£646	Asset Transfer Costs, Branch End Play Area
Nicholson Portnell	£46.81	Local Authority Search–Asset Transfer Costs, Branch End Toilet Block

Arrangements for signing cheques until new council has appointed new cheque signatories- It was proposed and agreed that cheques for April accounts would be signed after:

The Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April
The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group meeting on 22nd April.

12/143 Annual Parish Meeting

Councillors were reminded that the Annual Parish Meeting would start at 7.00 p.m. on 15th April.

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12/144 Local Government Elections – 2nd May 2013

The County Council had advised that only four nominations had been received from prospective parish councillors in Broomley & Stocksfield. This means that there will be no election in this parish and that the shortfall of eight would have to be made up by co-opting additional councillors. The Parish Council will be quorate but will have to prioritise its work until such time as a full complement of councillors has been co-opted. Councillors were urged to encourage residents to put themselves forward for co-option.

12/145 Community Development

Mr Duncan advised that the planning application for the developments at both the Guessburn and Branch End sites had not yet been submitted. This was because the Guessburn site has been identified as a flood risk. Further discussions are to be held with the Environment Agency and the architect is to make some amendments to the designs. Once approval has been received from the Environment Agency then the planning application can be submitted. It was noted that the Government has released a further £14m for community-led projects.

Mr Hall queried whether the application for the new Scout Hut was affected by the identification of the site as a flood risk. Mr Duncan said that he had no knowledge of the detailed plans for the new Scout Hut but that he believed it was planned to be built on stilts.

12/146 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives

a. **Consultations** – none outstanding.

b. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

The Report from the most recent meeting of the Group had been circulated. Mr Woods outlined the proceedings and the recommendations were endorsed and agreed:

Grants -

1st Stocksfield Scout Group The Scout Group had applied for a grant of £5000 as a contribution to the construction of a new Scout hut. The grant would only be drawn down if planning approval were granted and sufficient funding raised. It was noted that 74 young people aged between 6 and 16 currently participate in Scouting activities in the village. Councillors were reminded that the Parish Council had provided funding in previous years for the construction of the hut. It was proposed that the sum of £500 from the 2012-2013 budget be set aside for this purpose.

Stocksfield Community Association For a number of years the Community Association had received a grant of around £3000 towards the running costs of the Community Centre. The Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group had discussed the appropriate level of grant for 2013-2014, given the pressure on the budget. The point was made that there are approximately 350 members of the Community Association. The Finance and General Purposes Advisory Group had been unable to reach an agreement on this matter, and it was therefore proposed that it should be put to the full Parish Council for decision. After some discussion by the Parish Council, Mr Duncan proposed and Mr Hall seconded that a grant of £3000 be made to Stocksfield Community Association for the 2013/14 financial year, but that they should be advised that, in future years, this level of funding could not be guaranteed. Of those present, 7 voted in favour of the proposal and it was passed.

Stocksfield Golf Club Ltd The Golf Club had requested a grant of c£2000 to replace the decking furniture, but had subsequently asked for a meeting with a representative of the Parish Council to discuss support for their application for Inspired Facilities funding. It was noted that the Club has 660 members, including social and junior members. Mr Davison and Mr Woods volunteered to arrange a meeting with the Marketing and Member Recruitment Director and to report back so that the matter could be considered further.

Mr Woods and Mr Davison had met with Mr Jones of the Golf Club who had submitted a further letter outlining a need for support from the Parish Council for the bid to the Inspired Facilities Fund. It was agreed that a letter of support should be written.

Mr Duncan proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and 5 of those present voted in favour of the proposal to grant £100 to Stocksfield Golf Club towards the cost of their bid for Inspired Facilities Funding. 3 of those present declared an interest as they are members of the Golf Club

Community Action Northumberland (CAN) It was agreed that a grant of £50 be made to CAN.

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) It was agreed that the subscription to the CPRE should be renewed.

Potholes

Members of the Finance & General Purposes Group had generally agreed that the quality and standard of recent repairs to potholes in the village were poor, and that a number of potholes had been missed altogether.

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Ms Hunt had reported that the matter had been raised at a recent meeting of Northumberland County Council (NCC) with Town and Parish Councils. NCC officers were aware of the inadequacy of current arrangements for repairing potholes, but had described planned improvements in the methods to be used in future.

The matter was discussed and it was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should send a letter of complaint to NCC about this issue.

It was suggested that, when the request came for the Local Transport Plan to be up-dated, re-surfacing of New Ridley Road should be included as a priority.

c. Transport & Highways Advisory Group

An invitation had been received for the Parish Council to be represented at the celebrations to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line on 18th June. Ms Hunt and Mr Parker were nominated to attend.

Mr Parker had attended the most recent meeting of the Prudhoe Transport Group. He reported that, unless funding for the Group can be found, the next meeting will be the last. The Group had discussed removing the taxi rank at the Prudhoe Interchange and enlarging the car park.

It was noted that the gullies around the parish had been cleared recently.

d. Children & Young People's Facilities Advisory Group

The recent scheduled meeting had been cancelled.

e. Communications Advisory Group

The report of the Communications Advisory Group had been circulated and was noted and endorsed.

f. Planning Advisory Group

Proposed Development at New Ridley

A draft of the proposed response to this development had been circulated, and was agreed, with some minor amendments.

Hoodsclouse Surface Mine

It was noted that it was now expected that this application for planning permission would be discussed by the County Council Planning Committee in July.

Planning Report for April

This had been circulated and was endorsed. (Mrs Dale as a County Councillor declared an interest).

Other Planning Applications

In view of the fact that Mr Hall was not standing for re-election to the Parish Council, it was agreed that the recommendations of the Planning Advisory Group on the following planning applications should be considered:

Ref. No: 13/00586/FUL **Stocksfield Boy Scouts, Guessburn, Stocksfield**
Description: Demolition of existing hut and erection of new scout hut, comprising meeting hall, kitchen, toilets and showers, meeting/occasional bunk rooms and storage.

Support the Application

The existing building is deteriorating and will shortly be beyond economic repair. The existing building and its proposed replacement meets the needs of both the Scouts and the Girl Guides in the village. It is hoped that the new building will also attract organisations for day time activities.

Ref. No: 13/00792/FUL **Wheelbirks Parlour, Stocksfield**
Description: Extension of existing parlour building to provide alterations to kitchen and WC layout and convert existing farm barns to be used as Ice Cream Parlour children's play areas.

Support the Application

The proposed extension will ensure that the Parlour meets the requirements of toilets as per the recommended ratios. The other alterations will provide better storage for the various products that the Parlour carries for use in their kitchens and for the making of ice cream.

Ref. No: 13/00501/FUL **6 Tynedale Gardens, Stocksfield**
Description: Construction of first floor extension.

Support the Application

The proposed alterations will give the existing building a far better visual appearance whilst at the same time incorporating the existing flat roofed extension into one building with a hip roof.

The recommendations of the Planning Advisory Group on all of the above planning applications were endorsed by the Parish Council.

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Ref No: 13/00469/RENE

Land East of Mickley Grange, New Ridley Road, Stocksfield

Description Proposed erection of 1 x V29 turbine with rotor height of 31.5 m and tip height of 46.5 m

There was a wide-ranging debate on this application and Mr Easey was invited to join in the discussions.

Mr Easey made the following points:

The turbine will be visible from New Ridley Road.

It will be twice the height of the Angel of the North.

The accuracy of the photo montage submitted with the application is questionable, since some of the photos have been taken at locations where the view is obstructed by trees and hedges.

The noise from turbines can be heard from up to 2 km away.

The cumulative effect of multiple applications is worrying.

It is estimated that property prices in the vicinity of wind turbines can drop by as much as 20%.

It was noted that the Parish Council had not been notified about this application or a similar one at Hedley North Farm.

Mr Davison expressed concern that support for this application would open the doors for other similar applications.

The County Council Highways department are to be asked to consider the appropriate route for delivery of the turbine to the proposed site.

A vote was taken and 5 of those present voted in favour of supporting the application. This was therefore agreed.

Planning Applications until May

Mr Hall and Mrs Martin will continue to consider applications until May.

g. Sports Facilities Advisory Group

The Group had met in March and the notes from that meeting had been circulated and were noted.

h. Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group

There was no report from the Rights of Way and Environment Group.

Dumped Tyres – Mrs Dale and the Clerk had attended a meeting with County Council officers to discuss the problem of tyre dumping. The notes from this meeting had been circulated and were noted.

12/147 Council Representatives

Meetings were listed on the agenda.

Mr Hall volunteered to attend the meeting of the East Tynedale Forum.

12/148 Any Other Business

Retiring Councillors.

Ms Hunt expressed thanks and appreciation to those parish councillors who would not be standing for re-election on 2nd May.

Richard Berg Rust	who is leaving the village and thus the parish council
Christian Balmer	who had made a valuable contribution as Convenor of the Children & Young People's Facilities Advisory Group
Keith Woods	who was thanked for his support as Vice Chairman
Pete Barrass	whose contribution to the financial aspects of the Parish Council had been brilliant
Ian Hall	who, during his ten years on the Parish Council, had been responsible for, and involved in, a whole range of topics and projects, including acting as Chairman, and most recently as Convenor of the Planning Advisory Group
Melna Martin	who had been a parish councillor for about 28 years. Ms Hunt said that this was an incredible achievement, and on behalf of the Parish Council, the village and the whole community, she offered thanks and appreciation for all that Mrs Martin had done and achieved in that time. As a mark of appreciation, Mrs Martin was presented with a gift.

12/136 Date of next meeting

13th May 2013

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.