

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 3rd June 2013 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

Present: Mrs A Dale (as County and Parish Councillor), Mr J Davison, Ms M Hunt, Mr P Vickers
Mrs M Senior, acting Clerk

Apologies Mr P Duncan, Mr M Parker, Mrs M Williams

Ms Hunt opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

13/21 Declarations of Interest

As a County Councillor, Mrs Dale declared an interest in discussions on planning applications.

13/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2013

Mr Davison proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 13th May 2013

13/23 Matters Arising

Patients Forum – Nothing further to report.

Closure of B6309 north of Stocksfield Station following a landslip – The following updates had been received:

- Heavy rain at the weekend had resulted in the works being inundated and the river moving back out of its diversionary channel. It is estimated that the works will have been delayed by one week assuming that the flows return to normal in the next day or so.
- The badger licence had been issued and the badger gates installed across the sett entrances. Further monitoring with remote cameras is continuing.
- Sewer diversion could cause further delay as this needs to be carried out in 2 stages.

13/24 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

Kathleen Pollock attended the meeting to express an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Mr P Vickers proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed to co-opt Mrs Pollock as a Parish Councillor. Ms Hunt will send an informal letter confirming the co-option to Mrs Pollock. The clerk will confirm this formally on her return.

13/25 Public Participation

Several members of the public had raised the issue of the Conservative Party Leaflet "Stocksfield Matters" which had been distributed throughout Stocksfield by Guy Opperman MP. The leaflet included a resident's survey dated summer 2013 asking residents what their priorities are and what is the biggest problem facing them. It suggests an Action Plan to fight for improvements to Stocksfield. Ms Hunt expressed concerns as the leaflet had been distributed without the knowledge of or consultation with the Parish Council. It was agreed that Ms Hunt would contact Guy Opperman MP advising that Stocksfield have a Parish Plan based on the views of the residents, which is reviewed each year, and expressing disappointment that the Parish Council were not contacted before the leaflet was distributed.

13/26 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the meeting of 13th May 2013 was listed on the Agenda and was noted.

Ms Hunt pointed out that the Secretary of State is promoting legislation to make the Publicity Code, currently only 'recommended practice', into a statutory requirement. The Code applies not only to a council's own publications but also to community newsletters which receive financial support from a council, whether through a direct grant or less directly (eg via advertising). The Code appears to rule out the expression of opinions. 'Where local authorities do commission or publish newsletters, newsheets or similar communications, they should not issue them more frequently than monthly. Such communications should not include material other than information for the public about the business, services and amenities of the council or other local service providers'. This applies to web-based communication as well as to hard-copy publications.

This would appear to rule out much of the rich context which makes community newsletters more interesting: competitions, recipes, local history articles, opinionated letters to the editor, the results of the local raffle, births/marriages/deaths announcements, and so on. Unfortunately the consultation period has passed and the Parish Council was unable to comment. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

13/27 Finance

Mr Davison noted a discrepancy between the closing balance of the April accounts and the opening balance of the May accounts. The clerk will be asked to clarify on her return. Ms Hunt proposed, Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed that the expenditure for May be approved.

13/28 Community Development

Nothing further to report.

13/29 Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

Ms Hunt proposed, Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed that for the next few months a meeting of the Combined Advisory Groups is held between Parish Council meetings. The meetings will start at 6.30pm and will be held in the Parish Office. The Advisory Groups meeting will not be open to the public and its decisions have to be endorsed by the full meeting of the Parish Council. The following dates were agreed:

24th June

29th July

12th August

16th September

21st October

The clerk will send a reminder of the meetings in advance and a list of recommendations agreed by the Combined Advisory Groups will be prepared for the following Parish Council meeting.

a. Consultations – None

b. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

No meeting had been held.

Request received from Rowan Hinchcliffe requesting funding to set up a Pokemon Play League. There is a group of 8 young people who have expressed an interest in joining this league. A fee of £3 per registered player per week will be charged. He is looking for a grant to cover the hire of the space which will be £35 per week. Mr Davison proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed in principle to fund 3 sessions paid directly to SICA on the condition that all checks are in place and the Parish Council is satisfied with the set up. Ms Hunt will contact Rowan for further information and also Ash Brown, Northumberland County Council Youth Service.

Asset Transfer – It was noted that the transfer documents had been received and 2 Parish Councillors were required to sign. Mr Davison and Ms Hunt to endorse the documents.

Transfer of Toilet Block to SCATA – the Parish Council needs to formally agree to transfer the site to Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm. This was deferred to the July meeting.

Preliminary review of the budget – Mr Davison proposed, Mr Vickers seconded and it was agreed that Ms Hunt and the Clerk would undertake a mid-year review of the budget.

c. Planning Advisory Group

No planning applications had been received and no information on the current position with regard to the New Ridley and Hoodsclouse proposals had been received.

(Suspension of standing orders – Mr Davison proposed and Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting should continue after 9.30pm)

d. Transport & Highways Advisory Group

The Tyne Valley Railway Line celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. Mr Parker is to attend the event on 19th June 2013 in SICA.

Prudhoe Transport Group

Ms Hunt is to attend a meeting on 5th June. Prudhoe Community Partnership are no longer able to provide services to the group. The current quarterly costs are room hire at £16.80 and administration costs of £40.00. Mr Davison proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that at the meeting on 5th June, Ms Hunt was authorised to offer a financial and/or in-kind contribution up to a cost of £100 from Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council to enable the Group to continue to meet.

e. Children & Young People's Facilities Advisory Group

The RoSPA inspections of the play areas will be undertaken in June.

f. Communications Advisory Group

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

g. Sports Facilities Advisory Group

Nothing to report.

h. Rights of Way & Environment Advisory Group

Northumberland County Council are looking to work with other flood risk authorities, such as the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water to develop Community Agreements for areas that are at risk of flooding. Norman Hooks had been contacted by the Environment Agency advising of 'Flooding Champions' who work in local areas. Mr Hooks had invited a representative from the Environment Agency to attend the next meeting of the Rights of Way Group. The Parish Council would like to know how the County Council initiative relates to the Environment Agency's plans. The Clerk will be asked to check.

13/30 Council Representatives

Meetings were listed on the agenda

Ms Hunt is to attend the meeting of the Prudhoe Transport Group on 5th June.

Ms Dale will attend the next meeting of the County Council's West Area committee on 11th June.

13/31 Any Other Business

None

13/32 Date of next meeting

1st July 2013

Combined Advisory Groups meeting on 24th June at 6.30pm (Mr Davison and Mrs Dale sent their apologies for this meeting).

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.