

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st July 2013 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

Present: Mrs A Dale (as County and Parish Councillor), Mr P Duncan, Ms M Hunt, Mr M Parker,
Mrs K Pollock, Mr P Vickers
Mrs M Williams, Clerk

Apologies Mr J Davison

Ms Hunt opened the meeting by welcoming Mrs Pollock to the Parish Council.

13/33 Declarations of Interest

As a County Councillor, Mrs Dale declared an interest in discussions on planning applications.
Mr Duncan declared an interest in discussions relating to SCATA and the proposals for affordable housing at Guesburn and Branch End.

13/33 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd June 2013

Ms Hunt proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 3rd June 2013.

13/34 Matters Arising

Patients Forum – The Forum had not met for some time as the Surgery staff had been working towards GP Commissioning.

Closure of B6309 north of Stocksfield Station following a landslip – An up-date had been received from Ms Amanda Cryer of the County Council suggesting that the road was unlikely to open before early August.

13/35 Public Participation

Ms Hunt reported on the correspondence with the office of Guy Opperman MP. This had been circulated to members. It was noted that Mr Opperman was conducting surveys of residents throughout the constituency. Apparently, he believes that local issues are his business. Ms Hunt advised that she felt that concerns about local issues should be fed back to parish councils. It was agreed that no further action need be taken at this point and that we should wait until the surveys had been completed and feedback received.

Yellow Lines – these had now been installed. It was noted that the “scarecrow” at West Mickley was proving effective!

13/36 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the meeting of 3rd June 2013 was listed on the Agenda and was noted.

Congleton Civic Society – Correspondence had been received from this Group requesting support for a petition to the Government regarding the National Planning Policy Framework. It was noted that parish councils were unable to sign such petitions. After some discussion, it was agreed to write to the DCLG supporting the Congleton Civic Society’s stance. Of particular concern were the ill-defined term “sustainable development” and “rural exception sites”.

NCC – Free Parking – a letter had been received from the County Council about the possibility of free parking in urban centres. While it was agreed that free parking could affect services in our towns, as Stocksfield itself has not a problem, it was decided that no comment would be made on this issue at present.

Ovingham Bridge - it had been reported in the press that Guy Opperman had secured funding for the repair of the bridge to the tune of £3.2 million. Mrs Dale pointed out that the background work for this bid had been carried out by Prudhoe Town Councillors, Bill Garrett and Neil Bradbury and that Mr Garrett in particular should be thanked for his efforts in securing the funding for this project.

13/37 Finance

The discrepancy highlighted in the previous accounts had been explained and resolved.

The clerk was asked to check the contingency spend in the current accounts as this did not appear to agree with the spend v budget.

Expenditure for July – Mr Vickers proposed and Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that the expenditure for July be approved.

Additional cheques were approved as follows:

2BGraphics	£558	for NE43 News
Wylam Nurseries	£389.28	Bedding Plants

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Co-op Bank – It was noted that reports in the press suggested that the Co-op Bank had problems and it was agreed that there was a need to monitor the situation.

13/38 Co-option of Parish Councillors

Ms Hunt asked if any councillor knew of a resident who might be willing to be co-opted to the Parish Council. It was agreed that Gunter Woltron would be contacted in August.

13/39 Community Development

As part of the review of the Parish Plan, it had been agreed that there is a need to conduct a Housing Needs Survey in the Parish. It was noted that the County Council is currently carrying out a survey, but this only covers the need for social and affordable housing. Mr Duncan advised that Eljay Research (who carried out the survey for the Parish Plan) had quoted around £7000 to undertake the kind of survey required. He advised that the Parish Council had £2000 in its budget for this survey and it was expected that Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) would be able to fund the balance, partly via funding from the Homes & Communities Agency. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to carry out such a survey in partnership with SCATA. There is a general view that there is a need for accommodation for elderly residents, but it was acknowledged that it is necessary to gather hard evidence to find out if this is so in reality. There is also a need to ensure that the Parish Council/SCATA survey draws upon the findings of the County Council Survey so that there is no duplication of effort. It was noted that data currently held by the County Council does not include Ladywell or Ford Rise as “affordable” housing.

13/40 Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

Parish Council Representative on Burial Board - Mrs Martin had kindly offered to continue as the Parish Council's representative on the Burial Board.

a. Consultations – None

b. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

No meeting had been held.

Pokemon Play League – Ms Hunt up-dated councillors on the current situation. She advised that Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP) had registered Rowan Hinchcliffe as a volunteer and will apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for him. She also said that NCYP were suggesting that they run an Urban Fun Day during the summer holidays and that the cost to the Parish Council would be £455. It was agreed to go ahead with this event.

Asset Transfer – It was agreed that the Branch End Toilet Block would be transferred to SCATA under the same terms as it had been transferred to the Parish Council. The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings of 3rd September 2012 and 4th February 2013 refer to this transfer.

A letter had been received from Nicholson Portnell advising that the costs of the Asset Transfer had exceeded those originally indicated. Mr Parker proposed, Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that the contents of the letter be noted and the increase in costs accepted.

Arrangements for Signing cheques and authorising actions over the summer break – It was agreed that the Combined Advisory Groups would authorise expenditure over the summer break.

Annual Parish Meeting April 2014 - Councillors confirmed that the Police & Crime Commissioner, Vera Baird, should be asked to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Stocksfield Players – Junior Branch – a request had been received for funding to support the production of a pantomime by young members of Stocksfield Players. It was agreed that the parish council wished to encourage such projects, and that a grant of £150 should be made from the Youth Development Fund.

Annual Audit – the Clerk advised that the External Auditors had raised a query in relation to the Jubilee portion of the 2012-13 accounts and that she had responded with the information required.

c. Planning Advisory Group

New Ridley Development - Ms Hunt had attended the site meeting of the NCC West Area Planning Committee. She reported that the Committee had asked pertinent questions and that the Planning Officer's responses had been appropriate. Mrs Dale had answered questions on the bus services. It is not known when this application will be debated at the West Area Planning Committee Meeting. Ms Hunt advised that she would be away for the meetings scheduled for 17th July and 21st August. It was not thought necessary to hold a further public meeting of residents at this stage to discuss this proposal. It was agreed that residents should be represented by one person at the Planning Committee meeting, and Mrs Dale is to liaise with Mr Easey and Mr Lord.

Hoodsclose Surface Mine - this proposal will be discussed at a meeting of the County Council's Planning Committee in due course. The situation needs to be monitored and a decision taken nearer the time as to whether or not the Parish Council should be represented at that meeting.

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SCATA planning applications for Branch End Toilet Block and Guessburn – It was agreed to request an extension for the return of responses. It was again not felt necessary to hold a public meeting on these proposals as there had been two “drop-in” sessions prior to the submission of the planning applications. Mrs Dale advised that she had been approached as a County Councillor by residents raising concerns about the proposals and said she felt that the Parish Council needed to listen to the concerns raised. Mr Duncan advised that he understood that the concerns related to the letting policy for allocation of the properties and that if this was so, then this was not a planning issue. It was noted that all neighbouring properties would be notified of the planning application. It was agreed that the plans should be put up in the Community Centre and that those who wished to comment to the Parish Council would be able to do so at the start of the meeting of the Combined Advisory Groups on 29th July.

Planning Application 13/01659/FUL 8/06/13 Apperley House *The development concerns the modification of the north gable, and the construction of a double garage, orangery and a link room to the main house.* – There were no objections to this planning application

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

d. Transport & Highways Advisory Group

Mrs Dale offered to represent the Parish Council at the next meeting of the Eastern Tynedale Parish and Town Councils Forum.

A letter had been received from the County Council consulting on the proposal to install a 30 mph speed limit through Broomley Village. Councillors welcomed this proposal.

Transport Working Group – Ms Hunt had attended the most recent meeting of the Group and her report on the meeting had been circulated.

e. Children & Young People’s Facilities Advisory Group

Ms Hunt, Mrs Dale and the Clerk are to meet during August to discuss improvements to Branch End Play Area (BEPA), including the replacement of the “Twist” and the possible installation of adult outdoor gym equipment. It is hoped that it might be possible to have some suggestions available for display at the Stocksfield Festival.

f. Communications Advisory Group

The Group had not met and discussions were therefore deferred until September.

It was reported that Mrs Martin had offered to ask the members of Stocksfield WI to help distribute the Information Cards and NE43 News. The offer was accepted.

g. Sports Facilities Advisory Group

The Group is to meet shortly.

Sportsfield Car Park – The Clerk had circulated a paper on the funding for this project and it was noted that there were three options proposed

- 1 To take out a loan of up to £35,000
- 2 To take out a loan of up to £20,000 and use the reserves for the balance
- 3 To agree to put off the construction of the car park until such time as the financial climate is more promising or the Parish Council has saved or raised the necessary funds

In view of the fact that at the present time funding for this project has not been received or promised, Mr Duncan proposed, Mrs Pollock seconded and it was agreed to put off the construction of the car park until the financial climate is more promising or the Parish Council has saved or raised the necessary funds.

h. Rights of Way & Environment Advisory Group

Correspondence had been received from both the Environment Agency and the County Council on the general topic of flood planning. The Parish Council had been assured that the two organisations were liaising on this topic. Ms Hunt volunteered to be the link between the Parish Council and the two organisations.

13/41 Council Representatives

Meetings were listed on the agenda.

13/42 Any Other Business

None

13/43 Date of next meeting

2nd September

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.