

# BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2013 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

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

**Also Present:** Mr & Mrs Webster  
Mr A Samuel, Community Engagement Officer, Flash Flood Team, Environment Agency  
Mrs G Brown, Hexham Courant

**Apologies** None

Ms Hunt opened the meeting by welcoming councillors and visitors to the Parish Council after the summer break.

### 13/44 Planning for Flood events

Ms Hunt welcomed Mr Andrew Samuel, Community Engagement Officer, Flash Flood Team, Environment Agency (EA). Mr Samuel gave the background to the Flood Planning Project. He tabled leaflets explaining the project. Points raised included:

- The Project aims to help communities in Rapid Response Catchments where flash flooding can occur.
- The question of how communities develop a flood plan.
- Mr Samuel can help put together a Community Flood Plan
- Stocksfield is not in the EA Floodline area
- Whether the EA can carry out flood prevention measures at Burnside, as the bed of the burn at Burnside is reported to be higher than it was many years ago.
- The proposed Flood Plan covers the whole of Stocksfield which has been identified as being vulnerable.

Concern was expressed about the flash flooding which had occurred 2 or 3 times in recent years on New Ridley Road.

Mrs Dale expressed the hope that the Project and the County Council's Community Agreement would complement one another, and Mr Samuel confirmed that this was the case.

It was agreed that, in principle, councillors supported the establishment of a Community Flood Plan for the village. Ms Hunt offered to act as the Council's contact with Mr Samuel. It was hoped that there would be positive responses to articles in NE43 News and that residents would come forward to take part in the project and volunteer to act as Flood Wardens.

Ms Hunt said that the Project matched the aspirations of the Parish Plan.

Ms Hunt thanked Mr Samuel for attending the meeting. and it is hoped

### 13/45 Declarations of Interest

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

### 13/46 Public Participation

Ms Hunt welcomed Mr & Mrs Webster to the meeting and invited them to outline their concerns regarding Planning Application No: 13/02443/FUL – Construction of a single dwelling house, etc at Hindley Hall. Mr & Mrs Webster had tabled a paper outlining their concerns.

Among the points raised by Mr & Mrs Webster and councillors were:

- The site for the new house was thought to be in the green belt.
- There is concern in general about development in the green belt.
- Protection of the green belt is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
- There is a feeling that the residents of Hindley are resigned to this proposal.
- It was felt that the design of the proposed property did not match that of Hindley Hall.
- Trees on the site had been cut down 18-24 months ago allegedly because some were deemed to be dangerous.
- Widening of the B6309 at the "pinch point" would not ease traffic problems as traffic would go faster down an already hazardous road.
- Mr & Mrs Webster's property had been hit by passing vehicles in the past.
- There were fears of creeping development in Hindley.

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Residents were encouraged to comment individually on the proposals and advised to include the words "support" or "object" in their response.

*Sportsfield* - Mrs Pollock raised concerns about the condition of the Under 10s pitch. She said that rabbits were burrowing under the pitch and thought that there had been a sandpit in this area at some point.

It was agreed that Mr Duncan and the Handyman would look at the pitch and advise the Clerk on the recommended course of action.

In addition to this concern it was felt that the grass had been left too long for playing football.

*Pedestrian Crossing at Station* – this has been repaired.

### **13/47 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013**

Mr Vickers proposed, Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

### **13/48 Matters Arising**

*Closure of B6309 north of Stocksfield Station following a landslide* – The B6309 had now re-opened and appreciation was expressed to the County Council for the way this repair had been carried out and the Parish Council kept informed of progress. Mrs Dale advised that residents had written to the County Council expressing appreciation of the work.

It was felt that the bend in the road was potentially dangerous, especially in icy or wet weather, and it was agreed to request that reflectors be put on the fence posts to indicate the bend.

### **13/49 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the meeting of 1st of July 2013 was listed on the Agenda and was noted.

### **13/50 Finance**

It was agreed to ask advice from Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) with regard to the national situation with the Co-op Bank.

*Expenditure for July/August* – Mrs Dale proposed and Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that the expenditure for July/August be approved.

Additional cheques were approved as follows:

Neetfleet	Balance	£360
Swarco	Traffic Repairs to VATS Machine	£134.40
Abbey Press	Information Card	£320

*External Auditor's Report* – This had been received and it was noted that no matters of concern had been raised. The Clerk was congratulated on the way in which the accounts had been kept.

### **13/51 Co-option of Parish Councillors**

No further applications had been received. Councillors were requested to encourage residents to apply to be co-opted as parish councillors.

### **13/52 Community Development**

A report on the current position regarding developments in Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) was tabled.

*Christmas Trees* – Mrs Dale declared an interest in this topic as a Governor of Broomley County First School.

After some discussion Mrs Dale proposed, Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that two Christmas Trees would be provided in 2013 – one for the Dr Syntax and one for Broomley School. It will be necessary to check that there is still an electricity socket in the school grounds.

*Remembrance Day* – It was agreed to make the same arrangements as in previous years. It was agreed that Jack Musgrove, Joe Bennington or a Parish Councillor would lay the wreath on behalf of residents.

*Energy Saving Group* – A meeting is to be arranged early in the New Year to see if there is any interest in setting up an Energy Saving Group. Alison Vipond, who has set up an Energy Saving Group in Newton, will be asked to speak.

*Parish Plan – Activities* – A meeting is to be arranged with the representatives of relevant organisations to look into what support is required by vulnerable residents within the parish.

Initial thoughts are that the following areas might be considered:

A carers' support group

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Support groups for the elderly and/or disabled  
Help for the unemployed in general but perhaps focusing on the 16-24 age group

The meeting will be chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council and the initial agenda will include:

What is provided already?  
Where are the gaps?  
How can they be addressed and by whom?

It was agreed to invite Social Services to a later meeting.

*World War I Commemoration* – It was agreed to see if the History Society had any suggestions as to how this might be commemorated.

### **13/53 Advisory Groups and Council Representatives**

#### **a) Consultations**

A response had been submitted to the Transport Select Committee of the House of Commons regarding their Enquiry into Passenger Transport in Isolated Communities.

Northumberland County Council had issued a request for items to be included in the 2014-15 Local Transport Programme. It was suggested that the following be included:

Re-surfacing of the pavement on New Ridley Road between Tynedale Gardens and Branch End on the North side of the road

A survey by the County Council of all pavements in the Parish with a view to reporting on their condition and drawing up a plan for their repair and re-surfacing

Other suggestions should be sent to the Clerk.

#### **b. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group**

The notes of the meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August had been circulated and the recommendations were noted and endorsed.

*Setting up a Regeneration Group* – Mrs Dale proposed and Ms Hunt seconded and it was agreed that “a suitably constituted group be set up to fund-raise for improvements to the Parish Council owned and managed recreational facilities”.

*Review of Clerk’s Salary* – Mr Davison proposed and Mr Parker seconded and it was agreed that the pay award of 1% applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, which had been agreed by the NJC for Local Government Services, be implemented as soon as possible. It was pointed out that an increase of 1% in the Parish Clerk’s salary had been included in the 2013-2014 budget.

*Handyman’s Contract* – The Parish Clerk having sought advice from NALC on this subject, and been advised that the contract could be extended, Mr Duncan proposed and Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that the Handyman’s contract be extended for one year.

*Codes of Conduct* – *Grievance Procedure*  
*Disciplinary Procedure*

Draft papers had been circulated. Ms Hunt gave the background to the thinking behind these procedures.

Ms Hunt proposed and Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed to adopt both procedures with a review in September 2014.

*Clerk’s Personal Development Review* – The Chairman and Vice Chairman had completed the annual review with the Clerk and her objectives for 2013-14 were noted.

Ms Hunt proposed and Mr Duncan seconded and it was agreed that an additional Specific Responsibility should be added to the Parish Clerk’s Job Description, as follows:

To take overall responsibility for the Parish Council’s communications, including the production of the Parish Council newsletter and regular updating of the content of the Parish Council’s website.

It was proposed that this should be added as Specific Responsibility 19, and subsequent Specific Responsibilities should be re-numbered accordingly.

#### **c. Planning Advisory Group**

The decisions taken in relation to planning applications received since the Parish Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July had been listed in the notes of the Combined Planning and Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group meetings and were endorsed.

The following planning applications were discussed:

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**Application No: 13/02403/FUL**      5 Cade Hill Road  
Proposed replacement Orangery

There were no objections to this application.

**Application No: 13/02443/FUL**      Land South West of Sewage Works, Hindley Hall  
Construction of single dwelling house, highway access and installation of package sewage treatment plant

The following points were made:

- The site is in the green belt
- There are concerns over road safety
- The proposed property will be overlooked by the nearest property
- There are concerns over the cumulative effect of the development of the Hindley Hall site
- There are concerns over the creeping development of the Hindley settlement

Mr. Duncan proposed, Mr. Parker seconded and it was unanimously agreed by those eligible to vote that Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council objected to this planning application.

**Application No: 13/02385/PRUTPO**      33 Meadowfield Road  
Tree Preservation Order – Removal of large lower limbs by 10% to row of conifers

It was agreed that there was insufficient information on this application to enable councillors to make an informed comment. More detailed information is to be sought.

*Hoodslose Surface Mine, Whittonstall* – it is understood that this application will be debated by the County Council Planning Committee in either October or November.

*New Ridley Development* – this application had been refused planning permission by the County Council's West Area Planning Committee in July.

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

### **d. Transport & Highways Advisory Group**

Mr Parker is to attend the meeting of the Prudhoe Transport Group on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

*New Ridley Gateways* – Mrs Dale gave the background to the proposal for these gateways.

*Local Bus Review Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> August* – Mrs Dale gave a brief report on this meeting.

### **e. Children & Young People's Facilities Advisory Group**

Ms Hunt and Mrs Dale are to meet with the Clerk to discuss what action needs to be taken following receipt of the Annual Inspection Report of the two play areas by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

*Branch End Play Area* – comments were made that despite there being notices requesting motorists not to block the pavement, vehicles continue to be parked on the pavement.

*Urban Fun Day* – it was disappointing to note that only 10 children and young people had attended this event. A report from Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP) had been circulated. It was agreed that these events were not proving to be particularly popular and that for the next six months the group would focus its attention and efforts on developing the play areas.

### **f. Communications Advisory Group**

It was agreed to defer this item until October.

### **g. Sports Facilities Advisory Group**

A meeting of the Sportsfield Management Group is to be arranged.

Funding for the Sportsfield Car Park is to be pursued.

A report on the MUGA usage to the end of June had been circulated and was noted.

### **h. Rights of Way & Environment Advisory Group**

The next meeting of the Rights of Way Group is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> September.

It was agreed that there is a need to revise/up-date the Habitat Survey.

### **13/54 Council Representatives**

Meetings were listed on the agenda.

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Any Councillor able to attend the West Area Committee Joint Parishes meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October should advise the Clerk.

### **13/55 Any Other Business**

It was noted that the Golf Club had been unsuccessful in its application for a £50K grant from the National Lottery's Inspired Facilities Fund, but is to re-apply.

### **13/56 Date of next meeting**

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.