

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12 May 2014 in the Community Centre, Stocksfield

Present: Ms M Hunt (in the Chair), Mrs A Dale (also present as a County Councillor), Mr J Davison, Mr P Duncan, Dr M Mansour, Mr M Parker, Mr J Roy, Dr P Vickers, Mrs M Williams, Clerk to the Council

Also Present: Mrs J-A Garrick, Spatial Policy & Delivery Manager and Mr J Nicholson, Senior Planner of Northumberland County Council

Apologies Mrs K Pollock, Prof. R Thompson, Mr G Young

14/01 Declarations of Interest

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

14/02 Northumberland County Council Core Strategy

Ms Hunt welcomed Mrs Garrick and Mr Nicholson to the meeting and said that the Parish Council had particular concerns in relation to the Core Strategy on the following topics

1. Green Belt Review
2. SCATA developments
3. Housing Needs Survey
4. Previously Developed Land
5. Current and future - Renewable Energy Policy
Housing Policy

Mrs Garrick then up-dated councillors on the current status of the County Council's Core Strategy document consultation and made the following points.

The County Council had received 12000 comments on the Strategy and these will take some time to process.

The next stage is to have further consultation on the full draft plan in the late summer of 2014.

The comments received have been mixed, with developers feeling that there should be more development while individual communities felt differently.

There had been a high level of comment from the "Central" area particularly on the relationship between the economy and housing.

There had been a lot of opposition to the proposals for the Green Belt and concerns that the Plan was aspirational and had not demonstrated the need to change the Green Belt.

There have been suggestions that the whole of the Green Belt should be reviewed, but the County Council believes that the review should be deliverable and should be concentrated on the larger towns.

Newcastle and Gateshead had carried out a partial review of the Green Belt, and the County Council needs to consider the response from the Planning Inspectorate on this decision.

There is a need to engage with town and parish councils.

It is felt that 600 dwellings need to be provided in Eastern Tynedale over the 20 years of the Plan. Most of these 600 houses would be built in the larger settlements. It was agreed that the East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils Forum needs to consider this.

The planners had considered a top down approach, looking at twelve alternative development scenarios across Northumberland.

The County Council does not wish to see a decline in the population of Northumberland.

The County Council has to take into account the fact that East Tynedale is largely a commuter area.

There is a need to ensure that there is a balance between housing and the economy.

The plan suggests that 1600 more dwellings will be provided in Prudhoe in the 20 years covered by the Plan. There are, however, issues with the Green Belt around Prudhoe which means that there is not a lot of scope for large scale development.

It is suggested that 900 more dwellings would be provided in Hexham over the period but again there are constraints around Hexham.

Council officers appreciate that there is more analysis to be done.

Mrs Garrick was asked what the purpose was of building more houses when there was no clear plan for economic development. She replied that Northumberland County Council has to consider the relationship between Northumberland and the neighbouring authorities. The Plan will cover the whole picture, and has to include provision for economic growth. The County Council needs to attract working age residents to Northumberland. Ultimately, the Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the Plan complies with national

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policies. The Planning Inspectorate looks at how the Plan complies with national policies.

Other comments included:

There is a major concern about Stocksfield losing parts of the Green Belt.

There is a need to identify what is an appropriate level of development.

Affordable housing needs to be accessible to public transport.

Residents are not parochial or hostile to affordable housing but any development needs to be in an appropriate location.

Can the North East gain economic growth?

East Tynedale residents cannot get to South East Northumberland by public transport, nor is it an easy destination by car.

Stocksfield has a lot of employment opportunities compared with other villages of its size.

Ms Hunt closed the session by thanking Mrs Garrick and Mr Nicholson for attending and said that councillors appreciated that they do not have an easy job. Mrs Garrick promised to look at the issues raised. She advised that there will be Renewable Energy Workshops as part of the consultation.

14/03 Public Participation - No matters were raised under this topic.

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council Annual General Meeting

14/04 Election of Chairman

Ms Hunt as Chairman of the Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council in 2013/14 called for nominations for Chairman for 2014/15.

Dr Vickers proposed and Mr Duncan seconded Ms Hunt as Chairman and she was duly elected.

14/05 Election of Vice Chairman

Ms Hunt asked for nominations for the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. Mr Roy proposed and Mr Parker seconded Mrs Dale as Vice Chairman. Mrs Dale was duly elected.

14/06 Advisory Groups and Representatives

Membership of the Advisory Groups was discussed and agreed, and is listed on the attached document. Ms Hunt stressed that meetings of the General Governance Advisory Group were open to all councillors.

Mrs Pollock is to be asked if she is able to be a member of the General Governance Advisory Group and the Sportsfield Management Group. Mr Young is to be asked if he would be willing to be on the Rights of Way and Environment Group. Mrs Melna Martin had expressed willingness to continue to represent the Parish Council on the Burial Board. Mr Dennis Parke had expressed willingness to continue to represent the Parish Council on the Whittonstall Action Group, which is currently meeting weekly as it is expected that the Planning Application for the Hoodsclouse Surface Mine will be considered in June.

14/07 Finance

Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer – Ms Hunt proposed and Dr Vickers seconded and it was agreed that the Clerk, Mrs Williams, should be confirmed as the Responsible Financial Officer.

Appointment of Internal Auditor – Ms Hunt proposed, Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed that Mr Peter Basnett be appointed Internal Auditor.

14/08 Calendar for 2014/15

The Clerk had circulated the proposed schedule of meetings for 2014/15 and it was agreed that this be accepted.

14/09 Management of Land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace

It was noted that during 2013/14 Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council had continued to maintain this site, keeping the grass cut and the planting and shrubs cared for appropriately.

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council Meeting

14/10 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April, 2014

Mr Davison proposed and Dr Mansour seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th April 2014 were a true record of the meeting.

14/11 Matters Arising

Patients Forum – an article had been received from Branch End Surgery on this topic for inclusion in the next edition of NE43 News. Dr Mansour was thanked for his input into this matter.

Hexham Bus Station – the consultation process had yet to be finalised.

Street Golf – an invitation to take part in this initiative had been received from Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP). However, in order for this to happen, there would need to be an existing Youth Club

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in the village. It was noted, however, that Stocksfield Golf Club were planning to run coaching sessions for young people in June.

MUGA Rates for Young People – this is to be on the agenda of the next meeting of the Sportsfield Management Group. It was noted that most of the bookings for the facility were by Groups and that hiring by individual teenagers was expensive. The Parish Council might consider subsidising individual teenagers. Mr Duncan is to discuss the issue with Mr Catnach.

14/12 Correspondence

Correspondence received since the meeting of 7th April was listed on the agenda and was noted. It was noted that the introduction of Superfast Broadband to Stocksfield had been delayed until June 2014.

14/13 Finance

Dr Mansour proposed and Dr Vickers seconded and it was agreed that the Accounts and Income and Expenditure for April be accepted.

Additional Cheques:

The following were agreed for payment:

Dr Syntax	-	Room Rent for New Ridley Public Meeting	£54.00
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Internal Auditor's Report – A report from the Internal Auditor for the Accounts for the year ended 31/03/14 had been received and was noted. No areas of concern had been raised.

Internal Audit Report – The Clerk had submitted a report on the Council's relationship with the Internal Auditor. This had been circulated and was noted.

Approval of the Annual Return to the External Auditors – This had been circulated and was noted. However, it was pointed out that the figures did not balance and the Clerk was asked to look into this and bring the Return to the June meeting.

[Suspension of Standing Orders – Mr Duncan proposed and Mr Roy seconded and it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting should continue beyond 9.30 p.m.]

14/14 Community Development

SCATA – Mr Duncan advised that there had been a meeting of all of the solicitors involved in the project and their clients, just before Easter. He advised that the documents had now all been finalised and that all parties are now in agreement.

Flood Planning – The project is now complete and the remaining items to be concluded are:

Siting of the bins

Ordering the sandbags

Posting the final plan on the website

Circulating the summary of the plan to residents of Guessburn and others as appropriate

Carers Information Card – This is in the final stages of checking.

Provision of new Burial Ground – Mrs Dale advised that a meeting would be arranged for the end of the month.

Memorial Garden - the Clerk reported that she has consulted with Mr Verheyden and a site at Branch End Play Area has been selected. It is suggested that one dozen Peace Hybrid T Roses be bought and suitable under-planting be undertaken. Mr Verheyden is to work with Mr Stewart on the construction of the garden, and a suitable plaque will be put in place.

14/15 Consultations

The proposed responses to the following consultations had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting and were endorsed:

Northumberland County Council draft Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017

Harmonisation of school transport eligibility criteria for children aged 8 to 11

Transport to schools chosen for reasons of religion or belief

Post-16 Transport Policy for 2014-15

New Ridley Development - The notes of the Public Meeting held at the Dr Syntax on 6th May were tabled. The draft response to the latest planning application was tabled and Mr Duncan proposed and Dr Vickers seconded and it was agreed that the proposed response be endorsed and sent to the County Council.

14/16 Advisory Groups & Representatives

Advisory Groups Remits and Standing Orders Revision

The full set of revised documents had been circulated with the agenda for the General Governance Advisory Group meeting. The recommendations were noted and accepted. Mrs Dale thanked and congratulated Ms

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Hunt for preparing these documents.

a) General Governance Advisory Group

The notes of the meeting held on 28th April had been circulated and the following were noted:

Electronic Banking - It was noted that, following changes in regulations, parish councils are now able to use electronic banking. There was some discussion regarding the practicalities of this and it was agreed that the Council should ask the Clerk to look into the processes involved.

Co-op Bank - The Clerk had proposed that, in order to protect Parish Council funds, the majority of the monies in the Co-op Bank should be moved to another account, probably the Bank of Ireland. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation but to consider the possibility of opening an account in another bank.

Grant Aid - Community Action Northumberland (CAN) - it was agreed to make a grant of £50 to CAN.

Development Control Policy - It was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to develop a development control policy for Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council with a target for approval, completion and publication of the policy and documentation by May 2015. It was further agreed that the Planning Advisory Group would carry this out in the first instance.

Parish Plan Review - It was agreed that a Working Group should be set up to review the 2009 Parish Plan and subsequent reviews and report back to the Parish Council in September 2014. The following volunteered to be members of this Group - Mrs Dale, Mr Davison, Mr Duncan and Ms Hunt.

Provision of Solar Panels – it was agreed to defer this item until June.

Workplace Pensions - The Clerk had drawn councillors' attention to the advice received from Northumberland County Council and this was noted.

Play Area Regeneration - The proposed constitution and remit for the new group were noted and approved.

Memorial at the Fords - The Clerk had been approached about the possibility of another seat being provided at the Fords in memory of a resident who had died recently. It was agreed that, rather than another seat being provided, a memorial plaque should be placed on the existing seat. Concerns were raised that flowers etc. placed on memorial seats can become an unsightly problem.

Transport & Highways –

B6309 through Hindley – Mrs Dale advised that, as a County Councillor, she has this matter in hand and that a proposed project is being costed by the County Council's Highways department which she hopes will resolve the current problems. She has met with residents on this topic.

Energy Policy – it was agreed to defer this item until June.

Rights of Way & Environment Advisory Group

The notes of the most recent meeting of the Group were tabled and noted. Mrs Dale, as a County Councillor, offered to look into the problem of leaf mould on the Estate paths.

b) **Planning Advisory Group** - The responses to recent planning applications had been circulated and were endorsed. It was noted that concerns had been expressed about the size of the extension for application no: 14/01083.

c) **Sports Facilities Advisory Group** - The notes of the most recent meeting were tabled and noted.

With regard to the trophies for the Mini Soccer Tournament, it was suggested that the Parish Council might provide shields in 2015. It was further suggested that the shields might be presented in memory of individual residents, as an alternative to memorial seats.

14/17 Council Representatives

Northumberland County Council, West Area Committee – the next meeting is on 10th June in Ponteland.

East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils Forum – the next meeting is on 14th July in Newton. Mrs Dale advised that she would attend.

14/18 Any Other Business

It was agreed that the meeting of the General Governance Advisory Group scheduled for 19th May would be cancelled.

14/19 Date of next meeting

2nd June 7.30 p.m. Community Centre
The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.