

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on 3rd March 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, Mr M Parker, Mrs K Pollock,
Prof. R Thompson, Dr P Vickers

Mrs M Williams, Clerk to the Council

Also Present: Mr D Parke
Mr K Harrison, Mr N Hooks

Apologies Ms C Jonas, Dr M Mansour, Mr J Roy

13/118 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Dale, as a County Councillor, declared an interest in matters relating to planning applications. Mr Duncan declared an interest in issues relating to Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) and the proposed developments at Branch End and Guessburn. Mr Parker declared an interest in a planning application for a property on South Parade.

13/118 SCATA

Mr Duncan and Mr Hooks gave a presentation on the history of SCATA from 2009 to date, including an update on the first project, information about the future development of the organisation, the proposed next project and the recent Governance Review.

A number of questions were asked and comments made, including:

How would SCATA cover a loss – would they be taken over by the Homes & Communities Agency, or a housing association?

How is risk managed - is a business plan in preparation?

How does the Parish Council proceed with appointing a second representative to the SCATA Board?

The proposed new housing development is quite exciting.

Mr Duncan said that SCATA was evolving and changing and needed to become more of a professional body. He suggested that Councillors consider the skills gaps that had been identified in the presentation, with a view to proposing a Parish Council representative who could make a positive contribution to the next stage of the organisation.

Mr Duncan and Mr Hooks were thanked for their presentation.

13/119 Public Participation

Mr Harrison was invited to speak. He said that when the Parish Plan was being put together in 2009, he had put forward his plans for the development of the site at Merryshields. He said that today the political landscape was different, and the Government was now encouraging the provision of new housing. He suggested that, if the County Council were to put pressure on the Parish Council to agree to additional housing in the village, the Parish Council should again consider the Merryshields site. He stressed that this site had many advantages over others, and the design could include many facilities and attractions. He stressed that he no longer had a vested interest in this site.

Comments on his remarks included:

The Parish Council is well aware of the housing needs of the village.

It is useful to have alternative potential development sites.

The main site at Merryshields is not on the flood plain.

Parts of the site are now a de facto nature reserve.

The Painshawfield Estate can no longer be seen, as the trees have grown up over the last 110 years.

A development at Merryshields would be hidden in 60+ years.

A development on the Merryshields site would probably take years to complete.

Mrs Dale advised that developers wishing to develop particular sites need to put their proposals to the County Council.

Ms Hunt said that it was very helpful to hear Mr Harrison's views and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

13/120 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2014

Mr Davison proposed and Prof. Thompson seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2014 were a true record of the meeting.

13/121 Matters Arising

Patients' Forum - No progress had been made on this issue. Ms Shone has reportedly had a nervous breakdown and therefore no article had been provided for NE43 News.

Hexham Bus Station – the latest situation had been reported in the Hexham Courant. The Parish Council is currently awaiting the consultation documents from the County Council. Mrs Dale had stressed that the views of the Parish Councils whose residents make use of the facilities in Hexham were important.

Provision of a Defibrillator – The provision of a defibrillator was debated further. Prof. Thompson expressed concern that it might be stolen. Mrs Dale suggested that the North East Ambulance Service be asked to give a presentation to the Parish Council. It was suggested that the Clerk should look at the British Heart Foundation website. It was agreed that the Clerk would compare models and prices, and present additional information to the Parish Council at its next meeting.

13/122 Correspondence

An invitation had been received from EDF Energy Renewables to appoint a representative to the Boundary Lane Community Panel, which would make decisions on grant aid for projects within the area affected by the wind farm. Ms Hunt asked for a volunteer but no one came forward.

13/123 Finance

The financial reports had been circulated with the agenda.

Bank Reconciliation – the Bank Reconciliation at the end of January 2014 was noted.

Summary of Accounts for February – the Summary of Accounts was noted.

Spend v Budget – the spend v budget to the end of February was noted.

Expenditure for February – Mrs Dale proposed and Prof Thompson seconded and it was agreed that the Expenditure for February be approved.

Additional Cheques – The following were approved for payment:

Neetfleet	-	ex Contract work	£282
NCC	-	Re-issue of cheque in relation to New Ridley Gateway – original cheque out of date	£300
NCC	-	Re-issue of cheque in relation to grass cutting – original cheque wrongly dated	£9814.40
NCC	-	Asset Transfer – County Council legal fees – to be reclaimed from Isos Housing	£300

The General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG) was authorised to approve expenditure for March in order that as many cheques as possible could be presented before the end of the financial year.

13/124 Community Development

SCATA – The presentation on SCATA at the beginning of the meeting had updated Councillors on the current situation. With regard to the Asset Transfer of the former Toilet Block at Branch End, it was reported that the words “affordable housing” will now remain in the title deeds.

Energy Saving Group – the notes of the recent meeting had been circulated. Although those who attended the meeting had been enthusiastic, there was no strong desire to form an Energy Saving Group. It was agreed that information on energy saving would be disseminated through the website and NE43 News. It was noted that the Government’s Green Deal was essentially a loan.

Community Flood Plan – information had been included in the papers circulated in advance of the meeting. It was confirmed that the Community Centre could be used as a refuge in times of emergency.

Carers' Information Card – no further information was available. Mrs Dale reported that the County Council is also to provide information for carers.

Provision of a new Burial Ground – a report of the meeting held on 7th February had been included in the papers for the meeting. Mrs Dale proposed and Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed by a majority that the Parish Council should write to two landowners, informing them that the Parish Council is considering the possible provision of a new burial ground or an extension to the current one, and asking if they had any suitable land available.

13/125 Consultations -

The following had been received

NCC	17/02/14	Parking/Disc Zones/Off Street Parking etc.	Comments to be returned to the Clerk by 17/3 and to NCC by 28/03/14
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BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

NCC	24/02/14	Consultation on Post-16 Transport	Comments to be returned to the Clerk by 1 May – comments to NCC by 19 May
NCC	26/02/14	Draft Revised Northumberland Town & Parish Council Charter	GGAG to consider – response to NCC by 9 th April

13/126 Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

Review of Advisory Groups

General Governance Advisory Group Remit – This had been circulated with papers for the meeting. Mrs Dale proposed and Mrs Pollock seconded and it was agreed that it be accepted.

Appointment of second Parish Council representative to SCATA Board – Following the presentation at the beginning of the meeting, it was agreed that this issue be deferred until the April meeting. In the meantime, it was suggested that anyone interested in joining the SCATA Board as the second Parish Council representative should discuss any queries with Mr Duncan or Mr Hooks.

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

a. Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group

The notes of the meeting held on 17th February had been circulated.

Mini Soccer Festival - It had been recommended that the Parish Council contribute a trophy for this event -The Ivor Gray Trophy. Ms Hunt proposed, Mrs Pollock seconded and it was agreed that a trophy be purchased and suitably engraved with a maximum cost of £100.

WWI Commemoration – it had been reported in a recent issue of the Hexham Courant that other Parish Councils were commemorating the centenary of WWI with commemorative gardens/planting. Mr Davison proposed and Mr Parker seconded that a commemorative garden be installed in Branch End Play Area, probably in a raised bed, and situated near the bench at the eastern end of the site. It was further recommended and agreed that a suitable plaque be placed on the bench.

Somerset Flood Relief - The Clerk advised that a recent bulletin from Rural Services Network had included an appeal for funds for the relief of those Somerset communities affected by the recent storms and flooding. She asked if the Parish Council would like to make a contribution to this fund. It was agreed to make no contribution to this appeal.

Membership of Advisory Groups – this will be included on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting in May.

Transport & Highways – the report in the papers for the meeting was noted. Mrs Dale advised that the A695 is to be re-surfaced again.

Children & Young People – A report on the Community Garden at Branch End Play Area had been received from Mrs Martin, together with a request for £150 from the funds held by the Parish Council. The report was welcomed and it was agreed to make the payment of £150.

Kate's Plain – it was agreed to authorise the repair to the fence at Kate's Plain.

Rights of Way and Environment Group – the next meeting of the Group is at the end of April.

b. Planning Advisory Group

Hoodsclouse Surface Mine – nothing to report.

Planning Applications

The following proposals were endorsed:

14/00469/LBC 14/00468/FUL 14/02/14 Apperley Farm	Listed Building Consent: Replacement of existing oil fired central heating system with Biomass system housed within timber shed and proposed pellet store	No objections
14/00486/LBC 19/02/14 Apperley Farm	Listed building consent for replacement of timber boarded doors to match existing, replacement of timber windows with timber double glazed windows to match existing, removal of section of internal wall and installation of lintel, installation of insulated ceiling in store and WC, overboarding of store floor with weyroc board, removal of Belfast sink	No objections

BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

14/00293/FUL 03/02/14 8 South Parade	Proposed rear extension	No objections
14/00502/FUL 18/02/14 13 Batt House Road	Demolition of existing single storey extension and construction of new two storey extension	No objections

NCC Core Strategy Feedback Session – Ms Hunt agreed to attend a meeting on this topic at Bardon Mill on 10 March.

New Ridley Development Proposal – Mrs Dale declared an interest in this topic. The developers had appealed against the decision by the County Council's Planning Committee to refuse planning permission. It was agreed that a response to this appeal should be compiled, which would re-iterate what had been said previously, and address the points made by the developer in the grounds for appeal. Any comments should be sent to the Clerk. It was suggested that a census of New Ridley residents would not be particularly productive and that individual letters commenting on planning issues would be more effective. It was agreed to invite representatives of Esh Developments to the next meeting of the Parish Council to explain their revised proposals for the New Ridley site. It was stressed that this would be for information purposes only, and that, although New Ridley residents would of course be welcome to attend the meeting, the issue would not be debated at this stage.

c. Sports Facilities Advisory Group – *nothing to report.*

13/127 Council Representatives – *nothing to report.*

13/128 Any Other Business – *none.*

13/129 Date of next meeting **7th April 2014**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 14th April 2014

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.