

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 3 November 2014  
at Stocksfield Community Centre**

**Present:** Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs A Dale (also present as County Councillor), Mr J Davison, Mr P Duncan, Mr D Parke, Mr M Parker, Mrs K Pollock, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy, Dr. P Vickers

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

**Also Present:** Mrs B Hughes, Ms A Hughes, Ms C Hughes and Ms S Warhurst (all 1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Guides)

**Apologies:** Professor R Thompson

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed those present.

**14/71 Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Dale (as a County Councillor) declared an interest in discussions on planning applications, Mrs Pollock on the planning application at Moresby and the Clerk in relation to agenda item 9 (a)(vii).

**14/72 Public Participation**

*Dog Waste Bins*

Dr Vickers had been asked if there were sufficient dog waste bins within the residential areas of the village. Mrs Dale said that additional bins are considered as specific issues arise. The Clerk will circulate details of existing bins to members. **ACTION: Clerk DISCHARGED**

*Vehicle obstruction Batt House Road/New Ridley Road Junction*

Mrs Robson raised concerns of residents about vehicles parking at the above location which restricts visibility at the junction and obstructs pavements. Mrs Dale said that she was looking at the problem with the potential of using double yellow lines. **ACTION: Mrs Dale DISCHARGED**

*Branch End Play Area (BEPA)*

Mrs Robson said that some parents have complained about the use of the wooded area of the BEPA by some adults to allow their children to defecate. After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk would look at the option of a composting toilet and pass information to Mrs Dale who would include the issue in discussion with the working group looking at the refurbishment of play areas.

**ACTION: Mrs Dale and Clerk DISCHARGED**

**14/73 1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Guides Presentation – The Key Programme**

The Chair introduced Alex and Charlotte Hughes and Sarah Warhurst of 1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Guides who described their experiences of stage one of the Key Programme, which exists to help young people develop twelve key skills. The Guides explained how they had developed a proposal to visit Broomley Grange Outdoor Activities Centre and successfully presented their project to a panel of adjudicators which resulted in the award of £250. They discussed the key skills they used and then showed photographs of their day at Broomley Grange. After questions from members, the Chair presented the Guides with their stage one certificates and a cheque from the Parish Council's grant funding to contribute towards the cost of facilitator training. The Chair and members thanked the Guides for sharing their experiences and they left the meeting.

**14/74 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2014**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the Meeting held on 6 October 2014 were a true record of the meeting (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Roy).

**14/75 Matters Arising**

**a) Patients' Forum**

The Clerk advised that the Practice Manager at Branch End Surgery had reported additional interest from patients and a revised Patients' Forum was expected to be established in the near

future. Additionally, it is proposed that specific patient groups (eg Irritable Bowel Syndrome sufferers) would be able to meet to provide mutual support and share best practice. It was AGREED that Parish Council representation on the group should be offered.

**ACTION: Clerk DISCHARGED**

***b) Branch End Play Area western footpath***

The Clerk presented two proposals concerning the distorted footpath at BEPA, the first in relation to the area near the external gate and the second in relation to the area near the gate to the play equipment area. The proposals were to re-route both footpaths to alleviate the issue associated with settling of the land. The costs of the proposals were not yet available. After discussion it was AGREED that, due to the urgent nature of proposal (i) and the potential to save costs in respect of proposal (ii) should the work be done simultaneously, authority be delegated to the next meeting of the General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG) to authorise the work once the cost is known. The Chair reminded members that all are invited to attend the GGAG meeting on 17 November 2014.

**ACTION: Chair and Clerk**

***c) Development at New Ridley***

Mrs Dale explained that 'section 106 agreements' referred to a wide range of requirements placed on developers which can involve restrictions on classes of tenants, tenancy agreements, infrastructure and sport and recreation facilities. In respect of New Ridley, the developers are required to install a play area within the development which fulfils their contribution in respect of recreation. They are also required to pay £14,184 towards sporting facilities. However this money can be spent within Stocksfield or neighbouring parishes and is accessible to sporting groups by making bids. This is a County Council policy which is non-negotiable and Mrs Dale highlighted that Stocksfield had previously benefitted from the development at Castlefields, Prudhoe.

**DISCHARGED**

***d) Footpath New Ridley Road – Tynedale Gardens***

The Clerk reported that he and Mrs Dale met with Tim Fish of Northumberland County Council (NCC) and established responsibility for the hedges on both footpaths leading off New Ridley Road, some are NCC's and other are landowners'. The footpaths are clear and any future problems should be reported to the Clerk.

**DISCHARGED**

***e) Dogs on Sportsfield***

The clerk reported that new signs had been ordered by the Cricket Club and the problem is to be monitored.

**DISCHARGED**

**14/76 Finance**

***a) Approval of October Expenditure***

It was AGREED that the expenditure for October, as listed, be approved (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mrs Dale).

***b) Spend v Budget to October 2014***

The Clerk highlighted the expenditure under Children and Young People's Facilities which showed as overspent. He said that the costs associated with the Peace Garden had been charged against this budget head. Members noted the current position.

**14/77 Consultations**

***Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Update***

The Chair said that the consultation process commences in November and that she hoped the issue could be discussed at the East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils' Forum. It was AGREED that Dr Vickers and Mr Parke would join the Chair to look at the matter and report to the Council in due course.

**14/78 Advisory Groups**

**a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)**

*i) Notes of GGAG meeting 20/10/14.*

Members noted the previously circulated notes of the meeting.

*ii) Grant applications.*

It was AGREED unanimously to endorse the recommendations of the GGAG in respect of grant applications as set out in the following schedule, subject to the condition set out below:

Applicant	Purpose	Award
Stocksfield Junior Players	Support of junior productions	£150
Stocksfield Pokemon Centre	Contribution to room hire	£100 (see below)
Royal British Legion	Section 137 grant – Poppy Wreath	£50

The award to the Stocksfield Pokemon Centre is conditional upon provision of an account of receipts and payments and a short report on their activities.

**DISCHARGED**

*iii) Review of Risk Assessment and Management*

It was AGREED to approve the amended pro forma for 2014. The next review will take place in November 2015.

**DISCHARGED**

*iv) Annual External Audit*

Members noted the conclusion of the external audit.

**DISCHARGED**

*v) Recording of Parish Council Meetings*

Members AGREED that future meetings of the council should be recorded by the Clerk, recordings should be retained for three months before destruction and suitable equipment be purchased.

**DISCHARGED**

*vi) Budget 2015/16*

The Clerk said that preliminary work to establish the level of budget requirement for the next financial year indicated the precept requirement would rise by 4% to £76,200. This takes account of inflation and increased costs in respect of additional training, primarily for the Clerk, and the replacement of outdated computer equipment. Members noted this information and the matter would be considered further at the next GGAG meeting.

**ACTION: Chair and Clerk**

*vii) Clerk's Hours*

The Clerk left the meeting during this item. After discussion it was agreed to allow the clerk to claim up to a maximum of ten additional hours per month as payment, to be agreed in advance with the Chair. The matter will be reviewed at the end of January 2015.

**DISCHARGED**

**b) Planning Advisory Group**

It was AGREED to endorse the response to the following planning applications as outlined:

14/03129/FUL 3 Meadowfield Park South	Build of a 2 tier patio on sloping site, top tier with steps to lower tier at ground level.	30/10/14 No objections
14/03218/FUL 186 New Ridley Road	Proposed two storey side extension	30/10/14 No objections
14/03267VARYCO Land rear of Moresby, Ma Road, Stocksfield	Variation of conditions for application T/20100524 (Construction of two 4 bed dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping)	30/10/14 No objections
14/03415/BT New Ridley Road New Ridley	Proposed removal of telephone box	03/11/14 No objections
14/03417/BT New Ridley Road, Stocksfield	Proposed removal of telephone box	03/11/14 No objections
14/03047/PRUTPO 74 Birkdene Stocksfield	Tree preservation order application to crown, clean dead wood and removal of epicormic growth to 3 trees (T1, T2 T3)	03/11/14 No objections
14/03383/FUL 6 Baliol Road Stocksfield	Two storey extension to comprise ground floor play room utility & WC and first floor master bedroom with dressing room and ensuite.	03/11/14 No objections

Note: Mrs Pollock did not vote with regard to application 14/03267VARYCO

**c) Sports Facilities Advisory Group (SFAG)**

No items.

**d) Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group (RoW&EAG)**

No items.

**e) Communications Advisory Group**

*NE43 News*

The Clerk reminded members that the deadline for submission of items for inclusion is 10 November 2014.

**14/79 Parish Council Representatives**

*Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership AGM*

Mrs Dale reported that the Tyne Valley is now a designated rail line. There is no restriction on community activity provided it has prior approval. £5,000 is available along the whole line but each application must attract matched funding.

*Neighbourhood Watch Meeting*

Members noted the notes from the meeting.

*East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils' Forum*

The Chair updated on items discussed – proposals for Hexham Bus Station and Ovingham Bridge.

*Joint County, Town and Parish Councils' Meeting*

The Chair reported that the meeting had been disappointing and said she would provide personal feedback to the County Council.

*SCA Community Consultation Forum*

The next meeting of this forum is on 28/04/15. Mrs Pollock AGREED to attend on behalf of the council. The minutes of the most recent meeting will be circulated to members.

**14/80 Any Other Urgent Business**

*Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)*

Mr Duncan reported that the Guessburn site is on schedule with front doors having been fitted to the bungalows. The Branch End site is delayed because of a legal complication over the route of the power supply. Later this month ISOS Housing Association will hold a public meeting at the Community Centre to discuss issues such as tenancy arrangements. This is to be a standing agenda item until further notice.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**14/81 Date of Next Meeting:**

7.30pm 1 December 2014 – Stocksfield Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.28pm.