

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Monday 6 October 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, Mrs K Pollock, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy, Dr. P Vickers

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

**Also Present:** Ms K Moore, Hexham Courant

**Apologies:** Mr M Parker, Professor R Thompson

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed Mr Parke and Mrs Robson to the council.

**14/60 Declarations of Interest**

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

**14/61 Public Participation**

There were no matters of public participation.

**14/62 Stocksfield Community Association (SCA) presentation**

The Chair introduced Mr N Hooks and Mrs J Robinson, board members of SCA. Mr Hooks referred to a previously circulated document which outlined the history of SCA from its inception in 1958 (under a different name) until the present day and its development as a charitable company. Over 300 households in Stocksfield were direct members in 2014. Mr Hooks listed the range of activities provided or supported by SCA and its links to other bodies. He highlighted the financial commitments of maintaining the building, noting that over £100,000 had been spent on the building over the past 10 years. He said the need to retain reserves of around £20,000 gave SCA's accounts a healthier appearance than reality. Mr Hooks finished by thanking the council for its support over the years and reinforcing the valuable role SCA plays within the community. After a number of questions from members, the Chair thanked Mr Hooks and Mrs Robinson for speaking to the council and they left the meeting.

**14/63 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2014**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2014 were a true record of the meeting (proposed Mrs Pollock, seconded Dr Vickers).

**14/64 Matters Arising**

**a) Patients' Forum**

The Clerk advised that, despite telephone and email enquiries, no update was yet available. It was AGREED to continue the enquiries with the surgery **ACTION: Clerk**

**b) Branch End Play Area (BEPA)**

*Peace Garden.*

The Chair thanked Mrs Dale and Dr Vickers for their attendance at the Peace Garden Service which had been well attended by a wide age range of residents. **DISCHARGED**

*Trees and copse*

Mrs Dale and Mr Duncan had examined the trees and found that two branches were in need of pruning but otherwise all is in order. It was AGREED that the handyman should undertake further pruning. **DISCHARGED**

*Western footpath*

Mrs Dale reported that the footpath has continued to slip and will arrange for Tim Fish (NCC) to attend to give advice and inform the Clerk accordingly for remedial action. **ACTION: AD**

## *Usage Monitoring forms*

After discussion it was AGREED to discontinue submission of the BEPA monitoring forms until a specific need arose. **DISCHARGED**

## *Fencing*

The Clerk reported that some of the tamperproof bolts used on the fence had inexplicably become loose. It was AGREED that the handyman should continue his weekly enhanced physical checks of all bolts, which should then be replaced as soon as any loosening is detected. **DISCHARGED**

## *Kates Plain*

The Clerk reported that the drainage work has been scheduled for completion by Allendale Estates at the end of October 2014. **ACTION: Clerk to Bring Fd.**

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

Mr Parke declared an interest in this item. The Chair referred to the previously circulated correspondence from Councillor Horncastle, Chair of the West Area Planning Committee. He said that changes between the two planning applications enabled him to consider the most recent application acceptable. The Chair further outlined discussions with representatives of Esh Developments and Two Castles Housing Association (TCHA). The opportunity to meet local residents was welcomed by TCHA who intend to arrange a meeting, once building work has commenced, to explain their tenancy arrangements and reassure the concerns of residents.

Dr Vickers said a resident had reported that Sec 106 funding from the development could be used in neighbouring parishes (specifically Wylam) and asked whether it could be restricted to Stocksfield, adding that it was important to know how the money would be spent. Mrs Dale AGREED to obtain full details of the permission and associated conditions. **ACTION: AD**

After discussion it was AGREED not to respond further to Councillor Horncastle.

## **d) Defibrillators**

The Clerk reported that everything is in place in respect of the Golf Club and final arrangements for the Cricket Club should be complete within a week. The defibrillators will then be ordered and installation can be expected within five to eight weeks. **ACTION: Clerk to Bring Fd.**

## **14/65 Finance**

### **a) Bank Reconciliation to 30/08/14**

Members noted the bank reconciliation

### **b) Approval of September Expenditure**

It was AGREED that the accounts of income and expenditure for September be approved (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Duncan).

### **c) Spend v Budget to September 2014**

Members noted the current position.

## **14/66 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)**

Mr Duncan updated members on the developments at the Branch End and Guessburn sites, both scheduled for completion in February 2015. The SCATA website shows weekly photographs of progress. Local publicity will follow and prospective tenants will need to apply using the Northumberland Homefinder process (available from the Northumberland County Council (NCC) website). Regular site meetings take place and all councillors are welcome to attend.

**DISCHARGED**

## **14/67 Advisory Groups**

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

#### *i) Notes of GGAG meeting 15/09/14.*

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:

## BROOMLEY & STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Applicant	Purpose	Award
Stocksfield Cricket Club	Clubhouse and car park development	£4,500 (see below)
Stocksfield Tennis Club	Legal expenses	None (see below)
Stocksfield Methodist Church Hall Coffee Club	Travelling expenses to attend club	£100
1 <sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Guides	Keyfund facilitator training	£185

Mrs Pollock declared an interest in respect of the Cricket Club application, as a member of the club, and did not vote on that application. In respect of Stocksfield Tennis Club, councillors believed that contributing to legal expenses would be an inappropriate use of grant funding. **DISCHARGED**

*iii) Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures*

It was AGREED that the previously circulated procedures be adopted with immediate effect.

**DISCHARGED**

*iv) Revision to Standing Orders*

It was AGREED that the previously circulated revision be incorporated into Standing Orders with immediate effect.

**DISCHARGED**

**b) Planning Advisory Group**

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

<b>14/02755/FUL 04/09/14</b> <b>Warehouse, Apperley</b> <b>Bank House</b>	Change of use with internal and external alterations to create dwelling	No objections to the proposal
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**c) Sports Facilities Advisory Group (SFAG)**

*i) Notes of SFAG meeting 29/09/14*

Members noted the previously circulated notes of the meeting as amended by Mr Duncan.

*ii) Bootcamp*

It was AGREED to undertake a review of the rent structure for all users of the sportsfield and, as an interim measure, charge the bootcamp providers £10 per month until 31/12/14. **ACTION: PD**

*iii) Dogs on Sportsfield*

Mr Duncan reported an increasing problem of owners exercising dogs on the sportsfield, despite the decision of the parish council not to allow dogs onto the fields. The Clerk was asked to investigate the provision of alternative signage. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

*i) Notes of RoW&EAG meeting 15/09/14.*

Members noted the previously circulated notes of the meeting.

*ii) Habitat survey*

It was AGREED not to undertake a full habitat survey due to its complexity but make full surveys of three sites of particular scientific interest. **DISCHARGED**

*iii) Footpath between New Ridley Road and Tynedale Gardens*

It was reported that the footpath is being restricted by overgrown hedges. Mrs Dale AGREED to look at the problem with NCC staff. **ACTION: AD**

*iv) Letter of Thanks*

It was AGREED to write a letter to Peter Askew in view of his work over the years with the Parish Council generally and the RoW&EAG in particular. **ACTION: Clerk**

**14/68 Parish Council Representatives**

The Chair reported having attended the first Northumberland Town and Parish Council Conference together with the Clerk and Mrs Dale in her role as a County Councillor. Future events were outlined in the previously circulated schedule together with attendees.

The Chair drew the attention of members to the Parish Council meeting calendar and reminded those present of the Neighbourhood Watch meeting at 7.30pm on 13 October 2014.

**14/69 Any Other Urgent Business**

None

**14/70 Date of Next Meeting:**

7.30pm 2 November 2014 – Stocksfield Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.