

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 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, Dr M Mansour, Mrs K Pollock, Prof. R Thompson, Dr P Vickers,  
Mr G Young,  
Mrs M Williams, Clerk to the Council

**Also Present:** Mr Greg Denward, Two Castles Housing Association  
Mr Ian Cansfield, Cundall  
Ms Rosalind Saul, Hexham Courant

**Apologies** Mr P Duncan, Ms C Jonas, Mr M Parker, Mr J Roy

**13/130 Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Dale, as a County Councillor, declared an interest in matters relating to planning applications.

**13/131 New Ridley Development**

Ms Hunt welcomed Messrs. Denward and Cansfield and said that the Parish Council was looking forward to learning about the new proposals. She stressed that this was an opportunity to gather information and would not be a debate on the planning application to build 16 affordable houses in New Ridley. Plans of the proposed development for 16 houses were tabled.

Messrs. Denward and Cansfield made the following points:

- The developers had come to an agreement to pay the S106 agreement in full. This would be in the region of £15-£20K for use to develop sports facilities "off-site". A children's play area would be provided on site. They would welcome suggestions as to how the funds might be spent.
- The appeal to the Planning Inspectorate related to the previous application for 22 houses in New Ridley which had been refused permission by Northumberland County Council's (NCC) Planning Committee.
- They suggested that should the current application for 16 houses be approved, the appeal would be withdrawn.
- NCC had previously granted planning permission for developments at Humshaugh and Medburn which had encouraged the developers to submit the current application.
- The developers would not want to build where the community would not be sustainable. They feel that the potential tenants of this development would thrive.
- The proposal might be funded from the next round of the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) project.
- Although there is more land available, the developers have no plans to extend the development.

The question was raised as to whether potential tenants would have links to Stocksfield. The reply suggested that NCC was tightening up on qualifications for potential tenants and that tenants would be required to have links to Stocksfield. Mrs Dale suggested that Two Castles Housing Association should be registered with Northumberland Home Finder.

Ms Hunt asked if the developers had contacted the bus company regarding the possibility of providing better services through New Ridley. No approach had been made as yet. Concerns were also raised about the additional traffic on New Ridley Road.

It was asked if there was a continuous pavement – the developers advised that the new pavement would link up with the existing pavement.

It was suggested that Stocksfield was already meeting the current demand for affordable housing with the current plans and those in the exploration stage.

Ms Hunt thanked Messrs Denward and Cansfield for attending the meeting.

**13/132 Public Participation**

Ms Hunt advised that two residents had raised concerns:

The first was about parking on the pavement on the A695 between Branch End and Broomley School in particular. The resident had asked why the Parish Council had not been more pro-active on this issue. It was suggested that there are limits as to what the Parish Council can do. It was also noted that the curtilage of some properties extends over part of the pavement. Mrs Dale, as a County Councillor, offered to arrange for the Parking Enforcement Officer to visit.

The second concern was about hedge cutting. The resident had suggested that on parts of the Park Estate, in particular, the hedges were encroaching over the pavements and carriageways. It was agreed to raise

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these concerns with the Estate Committee and also to bring this problem to the attention of residents later in the year.

*Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)* – Dr Mansour asked about the rates for the MUGA for young people. He suggested that these need to be looked at, with consideration being given to having special rates for young people. This is to be put to the Sportsfield Management Group.

*Prudhoe Swimming Pool* – it was reported that the pool was currently closed because of a broken water heater.

### **13/133 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014**

Prof. Thompson proposed and Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 were a true record of the meeting.

### **13/134 Matters Arising**

*Patients' Forum* - No progress had been made on this issue. No article had been provided for NE43 News and the Surgery is to be asked again for an article for the next issue. Mrs Dale advised that there was a new Government directive on Patients' Forums and offered to provide the relevant documents.

*Hexham Bus Station* – The Parish Council is currently awaiting the consultation documents from NCC on this matter. It was stressed that when this consultation was issued it would be important to respond to it.

**13/135 Correspondence** – this had been listed on the agenda and was noted.

### **13/136 Finance**

The financial reports had been circulated with the agenda.

*Bank Reconciliation* – the Bank Reconciliation at the end of February 2014 was noted.

*Summary of Accounts for March* – the Summary of Accounts was noted.

*Spend v Budget* – the spend v budget to the end of March was noted. It was pointed out that, excluding the expenditure on the Housing Needs Survey, expenditure in 2013/14 amounted to 97% of budget.

*Expenditure for March* – Dr Mansour proposed and Prof Thompson seconded and it was agreed that the Expenditure for March be approved.

*Initial Expenditure for April* – Mrs Dale proposed and Dr Mansour seconded and it was agreed that the initial Expenditure for April be approved.

*2014/15 Budget* – The final proposed budget for 2014/15 had been circulated and was noted. There were no suggested amendments. Prof. Thompson proposed and Mrs Pollock seconded and it was agreed that the Budget for 2014/15 be approved.

*Transfers of Funds to Reserves* - The Clerk had suggested that the following transfers be made and Dr Vickers proposed and Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed that:

### **Transfers to Reserves in April 2014**

<b>From Co-op Bank</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>Bank of Ireland Reserves</b>	
	Contingency		500.00
	Replacement Office Equipment		200.00
	New Walks Leaflet		250.00
	New Information Card		250.00
	Play Areas		500.00
	Adult Fitness Equipment/Twist Replacement		1000.00
	Sportsfield Development/Maintenance		300.00
	New Sportsfield Car Park		500.00
	Services to Older Residents		200.00
	Community Transport		100.00
	Youth Work Fund		500.00
	Football Pitch Improvements		500.00
			<b>4800.00</b>
<b>From Co-op Bank</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>Unity Trust Bank Reserves</b>	
	Clerk's Pension Fund Contingency		500.00
	Planning Objections		1000.00
	MUGA Refurbishment		400.00
			<b>1900.00</b>

*Additional Cheques* – There were no additional cheques.

*Invoice Authorisation* – The Clerk had raised the issue of invoice authorisation and requested that when signing cheques, cheque signatories also initial the "pink slip" attached to the relevant invoice.

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*Photocopier Usage* – The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet outlining the usage of the Ricoh photocopier/printer since the leasing of the machine. This was noted.

### 13/137 Community Development

*Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) housing development* – It was reported that there is to be a joint meeting of all the solicitors and their clients in the week before Easter to try to finalise all issues relating to this project. Following the meeting the relevant documents will be finalised for signature. It is not yet known when the building work will begin. It was unanimously agreed that, in order to keep delays to a minimum, the Chairman, Ms Hunt, and the Vice- Chairman, Mrs Dale, would be authorised to sign any relevant documents on behalf of the Parish Council.

*Community Flood Plan* – The updated Flood Plan had been circulated and would be published on the website and distributed to relevant residents.

*Carers' Information Card* – Mrs Williams reported that she had now received the amended information from Carers Northumberland. Mrs Dale will let Mrs Williams have further information that might be incorporated. Ms Hunt and Mrs Williams are to consider how to progress the project when they meet next week.

*Provision of a new Burial Ground* – Mrs Dale is to circulate members of the Working Group with information, and possibly call a further meeting.

*Provision of a Defibrillator* – Mrs Williams had attended a meeting of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) at which Mrs Wheeler of the North East Ambulance Service had given a presentation on Defibrillators. Mrs Williams had circulated a report on this presentation and it was agreed to ask Mrs Wheeler to give her presentation to a future meeting of the Parish Council, probably in June.

*WWI Memorial Garden* – It was agreed to press on with this project and also to involve Broomley School's Bee Project.

### 13/138 Consultations -

The following had been received

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	General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG) to consider – response to NCC by 9 <sup>th</sup> April
Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service		The new plan had been circulated to members who were asked to let the Clerk have their views by 17 <sup>th</sup> April	

*Northumberland Core Strategy* – Ms Hunt had attended a Town and Parish Councils feedback session, organised by NCC, which was one of four held across the County designed to provide feedback on the consultation on the preferred options for housing, employment and the Green Belt which was carried out in October 2013. Her report on this meeting had been circulated. She suggested that, given the specific issues for the area covered by the Parish Council, such as the Green Belt review, current and future SCATA plans, the results of the Housing Needs Survey, availability of previously developed land (PDL) in the village, and current and potential housing development proposals, members should decide whether they wished to invite NCC officers to a Parish Council meeting as soon as possible, in order to ensure that their views were incorporated into the full draft Core Strategy.

It was agreed that Ms Jo-Anne Garrick of NCC should be asked to attend the May Parish Council meeting in order that the above points might be clarified.

Prof. Thompson raised concerns about Energy Policies. He felt that neither the Government nor NCC had clearly defined co-ordinated policies on energy. He suggested that insulation was a better option than solar power, and expressed the view that the energy suppliers were unable to project what power was needed. Ms Hunt reported that the East Tynedale Parish and Town Councils Forum had decided at its last meeting to invite speakers to a future meeting to provide information about the advantages and disadvantages of fracking. This was a topic which generated great controversy, but generally not much was known about it.

### 13/139 Advisory Groups and Council Representatives

*Membership of Advisory Groups* – to be considered in May. The appointment of a representative to the SCATA Board is also to be considered in May.

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

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### **a. General Governance Advisory Group**

The notes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March had been circulated.

*Annual Parish Meeting* – The Clerk advised that Inspector David Simpson had now been moved from Prudhoe to Blyth and that the Speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting would now be Sergeant Mick Stephenson. It was noted that there had been a number of break-ins into sheds and garages on New Ridley Road and burglaries of houses on the Park Estate. The latter had largely been through first floor windows.

*Northumberland Town & Parish Councils' Charter* – The comments on this document had been circulated and Dr Mansour proposed and Prof. Thompson seconded and it was agreed that these be submitted.

*Grant Aid* – The Group had recommended the following:

Tynedale Hospice at Home	<b>Recommend a grant of £100</b>
TOMA Fund	<b>Recommend a grant of £50</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Scout Group - general running costs	<b>Recommend a grant of £500</b>
Great North Air Ambulance	<b>Recommend a grant of £100</b>
Core Music	<b>Recommend a grant of £50</b>
Carers Northumberland	<b>Recommend a grant of £50</b>
Pokemon League	<b>Recommend a grant of £100 to be paid direct to SCA for room hire</b>
Citizens Advice Bureau	<b>Recommend a grant of £100</b>

It was agreed to endorse the above recommendations.

It was noted that a grant of £500 for 1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Scout Group for the building fund had been agreed in 2013/2014 but had not yet been paid. This is to be held by the Parish Council until it is called down.

Stocksfield Community Association (SCA)	<b>It is recommended that this should be decided by the full Parish Council</b>
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It was noted that since 2008/09, SCA has received a grant of £3000 in each year.

There was some debate over the level of grant to be made to SCA. It was felt that the current level of subscriptions was too low, although it was noted that SCA thought that this was necessary in order to encourage residents to join. It was further noted that the income for the year ending March 2013 had reduced by £9000 when compared to the previous year. However, it was agreed that the Centre was well-used, in particular by older residents. It was agreed that a grant of £2500 should be offered in 2014/15, and that further grant aid may be available should funds be needed to develop specific projects.

*Transport & Highways* – there was nothing to report.

*Children & Young People* – there was no further progress to report on the setting up of a Regeneration Group.

*Kate's Plain* – there was no progress to report on resolving the drainage problem.

*Rights of Way and Environment Group* – the next meeting of the Group is at the end of April. Ms Hunt reported that Ms Ceri Gibson of the Tyne Rivers Trust had given a presentation to the last meeting of the East Tynedale Parish and Town Councils Forum on controlling invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. It had been agreed to develop a coordinated approach to tackling these plants along the banks of the river, and Ms Gibson had offered to work with the Forum on this issue.

*Communications* – Issue 50 of NE43 News had been distributed. The Clerk had started training on updating the website.

### **b. Planning Advisory Group**

*Hoodsclose Surface Mine* – It was noted that reports in the press suggested that UK Coal were in dire financial straits. It was pointed out that this would have no bearing on current planning applications. It was thought that the application for Hoodsclose would be considered by a special meeting of the County Council Planning Committee.

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*Planning Applications* - It was agreed to make no objections to the following:

<b>14/00555/FUL</b> 21/02/14 18/03/14	<b>20 Apperley Road</b> <b>Additional Information</b> <b>received</b>	Conservatory Replacement (re-submission of 13/03379/FUL)
<b>14/00489/COU</b> 13/03/14	<b>Rose Cottage, Ridley Mill</b>	Change of use of land to be used as residential curtilage of property. Removal of existing fences.
<b>14/00812/FUL</b> 19/03/14	<b>57 Apperley Road</b>	Construction of a brick double garage built on to the existing east gable, side elevation
<b>14/00893/FUL</b> 21/03/14	<b>Redshaw Foot</b>	Demolition of existing single storey offshoot and construction of two storey side and rear extension and open porch

*New Ridley Development Proposal* – It was noted that comments by neighbours and members of the public on the current proposal for 16 houses must be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> April. The Parish Council had, however, been granted an extension until 14<sup>th</sup> May in which to finalise its response. A public meeting has been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Dr Syntax public house, New Ridley.

**c. Sports Facilities Advisory Group** – there was nothing to report. The meeting planned for the end of March had been postponed, and a new date had not yet been agreed.

**13/140 Council Representatives** – Mrs Pollock had attended a Youth Work Northumberland (YWN) conference on Delivering Policy Together which had focused on the delivery of services to young people by a partnership of the statutory and voluntary sectors. She reported that:

- some interesting workshops had been offered
- the West Area Youth Service provides a “mobile youth Club” which can be made available in the villages
- young people at the event had talked about the Youth Parliament and the Youth Council, but it was not known if young people from this area were represented on these bodies
- there is a Girls’ Group which meets in Ovingham

Mrs Pollock added that Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP) were promoting a “Street Golf” project, and offered to obtain further information.

Questions were asked about the balance of the sexes playing in the Pokemon League at SCA. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to help this new club to grow.

**13/141 Any Other Business** – Information on Planning Training sessions had been circulated, and Councillors were asked to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend.

**13/142 Date of next meeting**                      **12<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.