

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 5 January 2015
at Stocksfield Community Centre**

Present: Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs A Dale (also present as County Councillor), Mr J Davison, Mr D Parke, Mr M Parker, Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson, Dr. P Vickers

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Also Present: Ms Gemma Brown (Hexham Courant)

Apologies: Mrs K Pollock, Mr J Roy

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm, welcomed those present and wished all a Happy New Year. She also announced that Mr Duncan had resigned from the Council after six years in the role and thanked him for his contribution over the years. There are now two vacancies for councillors and the Chair asked if members knew of any residents who may be interested in joining the Council. Mr Duncan's resignation will necessitate a review of the Council's representation on the board of the Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) and also creates a space on the Sports Facilities Advisory Group. The Chair asked members who are interested in either role to inform her or the Clerk.

15/1 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Dale (as a County Councillor) declared an interest in discussions on planning applications.

15/2 Public Participation

Footpath at Meadowfield Terrace

Mrs Robson outlined concerns over the footpath on the A695 at the eastern end of Meadowfield Terrace where an elderly resident had fallen from the footpath onto the unmade road that leads to Brettonby Avenue. She said the edge of the footpath needs to be more clearly identified. Mrs Dale agreed to look at the issue in conjunction with the Clerk, who had already made contact with Northumberland County Council (NCC). **ACTION: Mrs Dale**

Mrs Robson gave her apologies and left the meeting at 7.40pm

Stocksfield Square

Mr Parker had been contacted by local residents who complained of annoyance from delivery drivers trying to locate Stocksfield Square, a property on Guessburn which does not have signage to identify it. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with the property owner. **ACTION: Clerk**

Bridge over Stocksfield Burn

Mr Parker had been asked by residents whether the new footbridge over the burn had planning permission. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had not been notified of a planning application by NCC but both NCC and the Environment Agency are aware of the bridge.

DISCHARGED

Mr Davison joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

15/3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 December 2014

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 were a true record of the meeting (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Prof Thompson).

15/4 Matters Arising

a) Speed limit repeater signs – New Ridley Road

Mrs Dale reported that she was looking at this issue as part of a broader package of road safety measures which she will report on in due course. **ACTION: Clerk to BFd**

b) Branch End Play Area – Western Footpath

The Clerk reported that the contractors will undertake the footpath repair at the end of January although the date is yet to be confirmed.

ACTION: Clerk to BFd

c) Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator familiarisation session had been attended by about twenty people and he had been asked to identify a local electrician to give a price to the Stephen Carey Fund for fitting. This was not possible before Christmas but will be arranged this week.

ACTION: Clerk to BFd

15/5 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)

The Chair updated the meeting from a report prepared by Mr Duncan. The residences at Guessburn are on schedule with handover expected around the end of February. A further 'information session' for prospective tenants has been arranged for 20 January 2015. Work at the Branch End site will recommence soon after agreement was reached about the position of the power cables. SCATA remains active in trying to identify further development opportunities for affordable housing and is looking at the potential for a community energy project, with work initially focussed on the Community Centre.

15/6 Finance

a) Approval of December Expenditure

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

b) Spend v Budget to December 2014

Members noted the current position.

15/7 Consultations

Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Update

The Chair, Dr Vickers and Mr Parke will attend the special East Tynedale Town and Parish Council Forum on 6 January 2015 and will then meet on 12 January to propose a response.

ACTION: Chair, Dr Vickers, Mr Parke

Pharmacy Needs Assessment

Mrs Pollock had agreed to consider this matter. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the current position.

ACTION: Mrs Pollock

Northumberland County Council's Proposed Budget 2015-16 and 2016-17

Prof Thompson reported on his attendance at the West Area Committee in respect of NCC's Budget Proposals. After wide ranging discussions, three main issues were identified: the need for equitable treatment across the County; the relevance of a large headquarters in view of the relocation of staff; and the proportion of senior staff within the County Council. It was AGREED to circulate a draft response for members' comments.

ACTION: Clerk

Parish Polls

The Department for Communities and Local Government is proposing to revise the existing arrangements around Parish Polls. The Chair agreed to look at the proposals and prepare a response if appropriate.

ACTION: Chair

Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2015-2019

This item had been circulated to members. It was AGREED that no comment was required.

15/8 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, as amended. The Chair added that Mr Parke had joined the GGAG.

ii) Parish Groundsman Contract for Services 2015/18.

The Chair said the GGAG had considered and approved a proposed contract for services for the role of Parish Groundsman but there had been developments that need to be incorporated into the

document. The Clerk highlighted a number of areas of grass cutting that were replicated in the grass cutting specification undertaken by NCC. It is proposed to remove these items from the Groundsman Contract. Additional amendment is proposed so that the routine maintenance of play equipment within the play areas is included within the contract but repairs to play equipment are not. It was AGREED to amend the contract as outlined.

The Clerk further proposed that tenders be invited with a closing date for postal submissions of 9am on Tuesday 10 February 2015. The Chair and the Clerk will then meet later that day and open the tenders in accordance with Financial Regulations. The matter would be discussed at the GGAG on 16 February 2015 and a proposal put to the Parish Council on 2 March 2015 for decision. The proposed timescales were AGREED. **ACTION: Clerk**

b) Planning Advisory Group

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

14/0421/FUL 08/12/14 22 Baliol Road	Demolition of existing side garage and rear store room. Rear and side extension to existing bungalow to accommodate new kitchen room, utility and garage	05/01/15 No objections
14/03989/FUL 09/12/14 4 Winston Way, New Ridley	Proposed erection of a second storey above single storey to the south, extend front entrance, pitch roofs to replace all existing flat roofed areas and alterations to internal layout.	05/01/15 No objections
14/04094/14FUL and 14/04095/14LBC 19/12/14 Ridley Mill House Ridley Mill Road	Demolition of two storey flat roofed extension to rear and construction of replacement enlarged two storey duo pitched roof including dormer arrangement. Alterations to existing rear service access to form new main entrance and alterations to quarter landing to existing staircase. Associated car parking and landscaping. Listed building consent in respect of the above.	05/01/15 No objections

The Chair reported that she had received a 'Plain English Guide to the Planning System' which she asked the Clerk to circulate to all members. **ACTION: Clerk**

15/9 Parish Council Representatives

There were no issues raised in respect of historic representatives.

15/10 New Ridley Development – Update

The Clerk updated that Two Castles Housing Association now owned the site outright and that delays over the relocation of the overhead power cables would also delay the commencement of the building work. There is still an agreement to speak to residents after the building work begins. Two Castles also requested the Parish Council considers making proposals for a street name. It was AGREED to place an item in the next NE43 News so that residents are given an opportunity to make suggestions. **DISCHARGED ACTION: Clerk**

15/11 Annual Parish Meeting – Speaker

The Chair referred to the Annual Parish Meeting which will be on 20 April 2015. After discussion it was AGREED to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner, Vera Baird, particularly in view of the challenges facing rural policing and the impact of the closure of local stations. **ACTION: Clerk**

15/12 Any Other Urgent Business

There were no items raised.

15/13 Date of Next Meeting:

7.30pm 2 February 2015 – Stocksfield Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.43pm.