

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 1 June 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 K Pollock, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers.  
Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies:** None

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.

### **15/74 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **15/75 Public Participation**

#### *Boots Pharmacy*

Dr Vickers reported that issues at Boots Pharmacy at Branch End had recently featured heavily on social media and raised the matter for the information of members, recognising that the concerns were not within the remit of the Parish Council to address. **DISCHARGED**

#### *Litter Collector*

Mr Parker said that a resident had asked if Stocksfield was able to replicate Wylam's 'litter collector'. Members felt that litter was not a significant problem in the village as residents generally keep the area tidy but that litter picking equipment is available through the Clerk. The Groundsman also clears litter wherever he encounters it. Where specific problems are encountered the matter should be reported to Northumberland County Council (NCC) or the Clerk. **DISCHARGED**

#### *Grass Cutting on Birkdene*

Mr Davison said that parts of the grassed area on Birkdene have not been cut properly. Mrs Dale said that she would query the matter with NCC staff. **Action: Mrs Dale**

### **15/76 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May 2015**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Pollock).

### **15/77 Matters Arising**

#### **a) New Ridley Development – Proposed Name** (previous item 15/70)

The Clerk reported that NCC had formally approved the Parish Council's proposal to name the development 'Stobarts Field'. **DISCHARGED**

### **15/78 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)**

The Chair updated members from a report by Mr P Duncan, (Chair of SCATA). The opening of the Guessburn site had also been extensively covered in the Journal. Whilst there has been some recent accidental damage to a fence, the bench will be installed later this month and formally 'unveiled'. Work on the Branch End bungalow had recommenced after the diversion of the power cable.

### **15/79 Finance**

#### **Approval of May Payments**

It was AGREED that the payments for May be approved as detailed in the revised schedule circulated prior to the meeting (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Pollock). Mr Davison questioned an inconsistency in the summary of receipts and payments for the month. The Clerk agreed to circulate an amended summary.

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## 15/80 Consultations

NCC – Private Sector Housing Strategy

Mr Parke agreed to look at the consultation with the Chair and circulate a response to councillors prior to the closing date. **Action: Mr Parke**

## 15/81 Advisory Groups

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

#### i) Notes of GGAG meeting 18/05/15

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

#### ii) Financial Contribution to the Burial Board

After discussion it was AGREED to approve the recommendation of contributing £950 to the Burial Board. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### iii) Subscriptions

It was AGREED to pay subscriptions as follows:

Northumberland and Newcastle Society - £25 and Clerk and Councils Direct - £12.

#### iv) Review of Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure is based on a National Association of Local Councils document and had been previously circulated. It was AGREED to approve the procedure and review it in May 2017. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### v) Internal Audit Report

The Internal Audit Report had been previously circulated together with recommendations. It was AGREED to accept the report and recommendations and to approve the audited accounts. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### vi) Repairs to Equipment at Branch End

Mrs Dale updated members on the position of the Play Area Regeneration Group. A number of quotes have been requested from providers which include a replacement for the 'TWIST' equipment. A further consultation will be arranged once the quotes are received.

The Chair referred to a report prepared by the Clerk which had been discussed at the GGAG that proposed refurbishment of TWIST for a cost in the region of £870. The list price for its replacement with a similar but more modern equivalent is £11,500. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Davison) to undertake the work outlined in the report to ensure the safety of users, pending the proposals of the Play Area Regeneration Group. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### vii) Review of Parish Council Signs

The Chair reported that damage had occurred to signs at Kates Plain Play Area. There is a need to ensure that any replacement is suitably secure. Signs across the village need to be reviewed to ensure they are installed more securely and present a more consistent approach. It was AGREED that the work identified should be undertaken. **Action: Clerk and B F'd**

### b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

Members noted the contents of the planning schedule. It was AGREED to endorse the planning applications as outlined:

<b>15/01500/FUL</b> <b>01/06/15</b> <b>34 Cade Hill Road</b>	Proposed kitchen extension	01/06/15 No objections
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Prof Thompson declared an interest in the planning application.

## 15/82 Parish Council Representatives

Town and Parish Councillors meeting with officers

The Chair and Clerk attended the above meeting which was poorly attended. Karen Ledger presented an update on the impact of the Deloitte's report on planning matters. The protocols that were promised to ensure the involvement of Town and Parish Councils should be available soon.

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## *Ivor Gray Festival*

The Chair provided an update from Ivor Gray in respect of the Festival in which he thanked the Parish Council for sponsoring the event and Mrs Dale for her assistance on each of the weekends.

### **15/83 Commercial Use of Sports Field Car Park**

Members considered a request from a business to park a vehicle at the Sports Field Car Park to deliver 'barber' facilities one afternoon each month. An objection has been received from a local business providing hairdressing services. After discussion it was AGREED to defer a decision pending consideration of a policy in respect of the commercial use of council premises by the next GGAG.

**Action: Clerk**

8.42pm Mrs Robson left the meeting

### **15/84 Community Assets**

#### **a) Seat at Bywell Bridge**

The Clerk reported that the seat at Bywell Bridge is beyond repair and in need of urgent replacement. It was AGREED (proposed Prof Thompson, seconded Mr Davison) to replace the seat using the style of seats at the fords and to vire additional funds from the contingency budget.

**Action: Clerk**

**DISCHARGED**

#### **b) Planters at War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that the four planters at the War Memorial are beyond repair and require replacement. It is proving difficult to find the same size planters as the existing planters appear to have been 'homemade'. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Davison) to approve funding of up to £250 to replace the planters, the type to be determined by the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk**

**DISCHARGED**

### **15/85 Asset Register**

Members noted the disposal of unserviceable assets as listed in the previously circulated schedule.

### **15/86 Tour of Britain Cycle Race**

Members discussed potential arrangements for the Tour of Britain. The extremely short period of time that the 'Tour' will spend travelling through the village mitigates the need for extensive arrangements. Mrs Dale will ask staff at 'Culture Creative', who are co-ordinating such aspects, to provide a report for the Clerk.

**Action: Mrs Dale**

### **15/87 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other business.

### **15/88 Date of Next Meeting**

7.30pm 6 July 2015 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.