

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 2 November 2015 at Stocksfield Community Centre

Present: Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mr J Davison, Mr D Parke, Mr M Parker, Mr J Roy, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Mrs K Pollock, Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Ms G Brown (Hexham Courant)

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

15/127 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made: Mr Davison, Mr Parke and Dr Vickers - Stocksfield Golf Club; Mrs Dale – planning issues.

15/128 Public Participation

Skate Park

The Clerk referred to email correspondence requesting permission to establish a skate park within Kate's Plain Play Area. The Clerk had informed the author that the matter had previously been considered by the Council and that it was unlikely that Kate's Plain would be considered a suitable location. The author had indicated an intention to attend the meeting and in their absence members noted the matter.

DISCHARGED

15/129 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 October 2015

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015, as amended by the Clerk, were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parke).

15/130 Matters Arising

a) Hedge at The Forge (previous item 15/115)

Mrs Dale reported she had spoken to the complainant and is looking at any existing planning conditions in order to resolve the situation.

Action: Mrs Dale. DISCHARGED

b) Merryshields Quarry (previous item 15/117(c))

The Chair reported that an email from John Thompson Snr had been received in which he said the public meeting at the Community Centre had gone well and that residents are now well informed. He is willing to attend a Parish Council meeting to address any new issues. After discussion it was AGREED to monitor the situation and if new issues arise, invite Mr Thompson to a meeting if appropriate.

Action: All Members DISCHARGED

c) Seat and other furniture review (previous item 15/121(a)(ix))

The Clerk and the Parish Groundsman have considered the possibility of installing a wheelchair accessible picnic table at Branch End Play Area by providing a small 'paved' area adjacent to the footpath. Wheelchairs could then access the table without obstructing the footpath. The likely additional cost for the installation would be in the region of £120. It was AGREED to authorise the expenditure as outlined above. Additionally, SCA's Mill Council has awarded the Parish Council £100 towards the cost of the furniture.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

d) Play Area Ayton Close (previous item 15/117(d))

Mrs Dale reported that the builders accepted ownership but there are other matters which need to be considered. She agreed to liaise with the Clerk.

Action: Mrs Dale

15/131 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale updated members on the following issues:

Northumberland County Council (NCC) is to propose new 'gateways' for New Ridley. The 613 bus service is to run at a slightly revised time each Tuesday. The consultation on the 20mph

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

speed limit for Guessburn has been well received. NCC is putting together a plan for clearance of leaves and some lighting issues in Guessburn are to be considered.

15/132 Finance

a) Approval of October Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for October be approved as detailed in the previously circulated schedule (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Parke) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

b) Budget Monitoring Report

Members noted the previously circulated budget monitoring report.

15/133 Consultations

NCC – Homelessness Strategy for Northumberland

The Chair reported that the response has been submitted. It broadly welcomed the strategy, but it was felt that it could be more ambitious, and all partners should detail their actions to support it. This Council will be happy to assist but will need guidance to ensure it contributes appropriately.

NCC – Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy

The Chair thanked Mr Parker for his work in looking at the previous responses. She highlighted the requirement to comment on the legality and soundness of the Core Strategy, as this is a statutory consultation. Legality was considered a matter for NCC but the test of soundness was a matter the Parish Council could comment upon. This test relates to being positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. A number of points have been previously made which have not been properly addressed: equity and fairness in the allocation of resources; scale and distribution of additional housing; the siting of mobile telecommunications apparatus; and the proximity of minerals extraction applications to sensitive sites such as schools. It was AGREED that the Chair, Mr Parker and Dr Vickers should progress the consultation as discussed and submit the response without further recourse to the full Parish Council. The Chair added that a drop in session is being held by NCC between 2pm and 7pm on 4 November 2015 at the Spetchells Centre.

Action: Chair, Members of PAG

15/134 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 19/10/15

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Play Area Regeneration Group - representation

The appointment of Mr Parke as the second Parish Council representative was endorsed.

DISCHARGED

iii) Provision of shelter for bus stop at Branch End

It was AGREED to approve the addition of a screen printed glass panel for the new shelter at a cost of £260.

Action: Clerk

DISCHARGED

iv) Donations

It was AGREED unanimously to approve the donations as listed below:

Coffee Club, Stocksfield Methodist Church	£100	
Tynedale Hospice at Home	£100	Sec 137
Northumbrian Citizens' Advice Bureau	£100	Sec 137
Royal British Legion	£100	Sec 137
Community Action Northumberland (CAN)	£50	Sec 137

Those four donations so identified above being donations under Sec 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Clerk referred to a further request for a donation from Sport Tynedale which had been received after the GGAG meeting. The email included a request for nominations for various awards and requested a donation in order to enable residents to be eligible for a grant. It was AGREED that the Clerk should write to Sport Tynedale, seeking clarification about their grant procedures and details of the number of grants approved for residents of the Parish.

Action: Clerk

v) Grant Applications (2015/16) – See paragraph 15/139

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

vi) Grant Applications (2016/17) – See paragraph 15/140

vii) Budget and Precept

The Chair referred to a first draft of the proposed budget for 2016/17. Although some of the budget categories were estimates at this stage, it is clear that there will be no need to increase the precept for the next financial year. It was likely that this would still allow additional funds to be allocated to reserves. After discussion it was AGREED unanimously to set the precept at £76270.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

viii) *Review of Grievance Procedure*

It was AGREED that the Grievance Procedure remains unchanged and is next reviewed in October 2018.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

ix) *Review of Parish Plan/consideration of Neighbourhood Plan*

The Chair summarised the discussion of the GGAG and it was AGREED that a specific meeting should be held in the New Year to discuss the review of the Parish Plan and the implications for a Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Clerk

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

i) *Planning Report*

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

15/03238/FUL 07/10/15 West Lodge, Hindley	Construction for rear two storey extension with pitched roof to provide ground floor kitchen diner and first floor bedroom with internal alterations	12/10/15 No objections
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15/135 Parish Council Representatives

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership AGM

Mr Parker attended the meeting which covered the topics of the most recent meeting: the new franchise, Hexham Station's kiosk and proposed bar, new screens and wheelchair access at stations.

East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils' Forum

The Chair reported that topics covered included

- A presentation by the new Chief Executive of Community Action Northumberland (CAN).
- Ovingham Bridge will reopen at the end of November but for the first week, only for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Freedom of Information.
- Tyne Rivers Trust is establishing a better co-ordinated approach to the control of invasive species throughout Tynedale which is likely to involve those who work within the Parish at the moment.
- The next meeting is on 13/01/15 and any councillor is welcome to attend.

Community Challenge

Prof Thompson had attended the above event sponsored by 'Warm Up North' which will give access to discounted new boilers and free energy monitoring meters. An item will be included on the website and in NE43 News.

Rural Parishes Meeting

The Chair and the Clerk will attend this meeting on 01/12/15.

Protection of Elderly and Vulnerable

An information session is being held at Morpeth on Wednesday 04/11/15 between 2pm and 3pm that will illustrate the work underway to combat cold calling and exploitation of vulnerable and elderly people. Mrs Dale agreed to obtain a copy of any material distributed for the Clerk.

15/136 Stocksfield Golf Club

Mr Davison updated members on a proposal to sell a portion of land belonging to the Golf Club for a small housing development. This would secure the club's immediate financial future and enable a new clubhouse to be built. A meeting of members had agreed to

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

proceed with the proposals. It was stressed that the proposal is at an early stage and no planning application has been submitted. Members noted the current position.

DISCHARGED

15/137 Website and Email

The Clerk updated members on the changes to the hosting arrangements which had caused some problems with the website and emails. Members were asked to ensure their emails are working correctly and to contact the Clerk with any problems.

DISCHARGED

15/138 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business.

Members approved a motion that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for consideration of the remaining items, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

15/139 Grant Applications (2015/16)

Stocksfield Community Association (SCA) has made an application for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a replacement website, the total cost being £2,500. This is the second application from SCA in this financial year and the Council's policy restricts grants 'usually' to one per organisation in each financial year. After discussion it was AGREED that this grant application from SCA is not approved and that the Clerk discusses future options with SCA.

Action: Clerk

DISCHARGED

15/140 Grant Applications (2016/17)

Stocksfield Cricket Club is planning a substantial extension to the clubhouse which will, amongst other things, provide significant benefits to sports field users. After discussion it was AGREED that £500 from the 2015/16 grant budget be allocated to the existing reserves of £4,500 and that the condition attached to these funds relating to the inclusion of a car park extension be removed.

DISCHARGED

15/141 Date of Next Meeting

7.30pm 7 December 2015 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The Chair reminded members that the Annual Remembrance Service will be held at 10.45 am on Sunday 8 November 2015, at which Dr Vickers had agreed to represent the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.