

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 July 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, Mr J Roy, Professor R Thompson.
Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Mrs J Robson, Dr P Vickers

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

15/89 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Dale (as a County Councillor) declared an interest in discussions on planning applications. The Chair declared an interest on matters in relation to Stocksfield Community Association as a member.

15/90 Public Participation

Cattle in Kate's Plain

Mr Parker had been told that cattle had been in Kate's Plain Play Area. The Clerk confirmed this and said that the gates had been opened by persons unknown. They had been secured and a combination padlock is to be acquired that will enable access by Northumberland County Council (NCC) for grass cutting.

DISCHARGED

Bus Shelter at Branch End

The Chair had received a request for a bus shelter to be installed at Branch End on the south of the A695. It was AGREED that the Clerk will look at the practicalities and the legal requirements and report to a subsequent meeting.

Action: Clerk and B Fd

Fly Tipping at Stocksfield Burn

The Chair had received a report of fly tipping at Stocksfield Burn close to the footpath from Guessburn to Kate's Plain. The Clerk had reported the matter to NCC. It was AGREED that the Clerk and Mr Roy would liaise with the Environment Agency and consideration would be given to contacting nearby householders.

Action: Clerk, Mr Roy

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

The Chair had been contacted by one resident following the article in NE43 News who supported holding a further meeting about NHW although the resident is unable to act as a coordinator. There has been no other contact from residents with any of the councillors or the Clerk. The Parish Council recognises the role that NHW can play in crime prevention but volunteers are needed to act as coordinators. It was AGREED that whenever NHW is raised, residents should be reminded of the need for volunteer coordinators and councillors should reinforce the need for residents to contact the police whenever suspicious activity is seen.

DISCHARGED

15/91 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 June 2015

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2015 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mrs Pollock, seconded Mr Roy).

15/92 Matters Arising

a) Grass Cutting on Birkdene (previous item 15/75)

The Clerk reported that NCC do not immediately cut areas where daffodils grow which can give an untidy impression. Mr Davison said that the most recent cut had been much better.

DISCHARGED

b) Refurbishment of equipment at Branch End Play Area (previous item 15/81(a)(vi))

The Clerk reported that work to refurbish the TWIST play equipment is nearing completion and the equipment will be reopened the following morning. There had been a need to replace a few additional items and the final cost is likely to be in the region of £1200.

DISCHARGED

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c) Tour of Britain Cycle Race (previous item 15/86)

Mrs Dale is looking for locations to display four large Union Flags at the roadside to be visible from the air. They will need to be flat and she is to liaise with Allendale Estates.

DISCHARGED

d) Planters (previous item 15/84(b))

The Chair commented that the new planters at the War Memorial had been made by the Groundsman and she complimented him on his work.

DISCHARGED

15/93 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)

The Chair reminded members that Prof Thompson is the Council's representative on the SCATA board. The bungalow at Branch End is due for completion and handover at the end of July. The work of SCATA to develop affordable housing has been shortlisted for a national community housing award. A piece of community art has been commissioned for the site at Guessburn, based on a design by children at Broomley School.

15/94 Finance

Approval of June Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for June be approved as detailed in the revised schedule circulated prior to the meeting (proposed Mr Prof Thompson, seconded Mrs Dale) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

15/95 Consultations

NCC – Bridleway 49

The proposals for rerouting the bridleway had been considered by Mr Roy and there is no comment to make on behalf of the Parish Council.

NCC – Private Sector Housing Strategy

The response had been previously circulated and submitted.

NCC – Local Transport Plan 2015-16

The issue is to be considered at the next General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG) and the Clerk was asked to circulate the documentation to all members. Any comments should be sent to the Chair or the Clerk.

15/96 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 15/06/15

Members noted the previously circulated notes. The Chair said that a review of the budget will take place at the next GGAG meeting, and all members are invited to attend.

ii) Donations

Core Music is a not for profit community interest company that provides a range of facilities and services for people of all ages in the area who are interested in music. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Roy) to approve the recommendation of donating £100 under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

DISCHARGED

iii) Grants

Stocksfield Community Association (SCA)

Mrs Dale, Mr Parker and the Clerk declared an interest as members of SCA. An application for a grant of £3,000 had been made. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mr Parke) to approve a grant of £700 to supply hot water to the kitchen and toilet at the rear of the building and to require more detailed information in respect of the proposal to refit the kitchen.

Action: Clerk

B Fd

1st Stocksfield Scouts

The 1st Stocksfield Scouts had made an application for a grant of £10,000 towards the overall cost of replacing the Scout Hut in Guessburn. Members unanimously supported the Scout (and Guide) movements and congratulated them on their fundraising activities. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mr Roy) to award a grant of £1,000 to the project, to be paid when the work is about to commence.

Action: Clerk

DISCHARGED

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iv) Use of Credit/Debit Card

After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mrs Pollock) to amend Financial Regulations to allow the Clerk to use his/her personal credit card but only after approval by the Chair on each occasion. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

v) Commercial Use of Sports Fields Car Park (previous item 15/83)

Members discussed the existing use of the car park and recognised that current space for parking was insufficient at certain times of the day. If commercial use of the car park were to be allowed, restrictions that would be placed on the times that it could be used would severely limit the opportunity for commercial use, making it effectively unviable. It was AGREED unanimously that the non-sporting commercial use of the car park would not be allowed.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

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

15/01680/VARYCO 08/06/15 Kipperlyn Farm	Variation of condition/paragraph N10 (B) (approved plans) of procedure for application for prior approval under part 3 GDPO	06/07/15 No objections
15/01587/FUL 16/06/15 261 New Ridley Rd	Removal of single storey existing side extension to south west & erection of one & two storey extension to side & rear.	06/07/15 No objections
15/01864/LBC 19/06/15 Batt Cottage 21 Batt House Road	LBC for resurfacing of driveway	06/07/15 No objections
15/02011/LBC 24/06/15 Ridley Mill House Ridley Mill	Demolition of existing single storey and two storey side extensions to northern facade; construction of ground and first floor extensions, relocation of main entrance onto northern facade and internal alterations	06/07/15 No objections
15/02079/FUL 25/06/15 West Lodge Hindley	Construction of two storey rear extension with mansard roof to provide kitchen/diner and first floor bedroom and internal alterations	06/07/15 No objections
Upgrade to Existing Base Station: eastern sports field	Replacement of existing antennas, addition of 3 RRUs and 2 300mm dishes	06/07/15 No objections

In respect of the application to upgrade the base station within the eastern sports field, the Clerk was asked to write to the relevant company to request that access to the site is from the lane to Merryshields Farm, to ensure there is no damage to the playing surfaces.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

15/97 Parish Council Representatives

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership – stakeholder event

Prof Thompson and Mr Parker had attended the above event. Whilst changes are some years away, there is potential for alternative rolling stock and an enhanced frequency of service to Newcastle.

SCATA Community Energy Project

The Chair and Prof Thompson met with SCATA directors to discuss the above project. SCATA plan to use NCC's thermal imaging cameras to assess heat loss from buildings in Stocksfield. Assessments will be undertaken by trained volunteers only where requested by home/building owners. If any member wishes to assist as a volunteer, they should contact Norman Hooks.

15/98 Play Area Regeneration Group

This item was deferred to a later date.

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15/99 Declarations of Interest – Public Register

The Clerk reminded members that they are individually responsible for ensuring that the declarations of interest register, which is accessible on the NCC website, is current and reflects any changes in their circumstances. Any changes should be notified to the Clerk.

DISCHARGED

15/100 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business.

15/101 Date of Next Meeting

7.30pm 7 September 2015 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.