

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 December 2015 at Stocksfield Community Centre

**Present:** Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mr J Davison, Mr M Parker, Mrs K Pollock, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies:** Mr D Parke, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy

**Also present:** Mrs A Dale (County Councillor),

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

### **15/142 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of interest were made: Chair and Dr Vickers - Stocksfield Community Association; Mrs Pollock – Stocksfield Cricket Club.

### **15/143 Public Participation**

#### *Parking on Footpath of A695 east of Branch End Play Area (BEPA)*

It was reported that cars apparently belonging to the residents of the houses on the Main Road east of BEPA are regularly parking on the footpath causing pedestrians, particularly those with prams, to have to use the road. Members recognised that parking on a footpath is not in itself an offence, however enforcement of unlawful obstruction of the footpath is a matter for the police who should be contacted at the time any obstruction occurs. Naturally the police will prioritise any call appropriately. Members **AGREED** to monitor the situation. **DISCHARGED**

### **15/144 County Councillor Update**

Mrs Dale reported that a public meeting with Esh Developments and residents of New Ridley had been held and a good working relationship had been developed. Esh appear to be doing their best to mitigate the inconvenience caused to residents. A meeting of the Play Area Regeneration Group had taken place. Complaints about leaf clearance and grass cutting had been received. Whilst some clearance had occurred, Northumberland County Council (NCC) has lost significant items of grass cutting and maintenance machinery as a result of the recent flooding.

7.48pm Mrs Dale left the meeting.

### **15/145 Stocksfield Cricket Club – Building Development**

Mr C Catnach had previously tendered his apologies to members and had asked that this item be deferred until 4 January 2016 which would enable him to clarify a number of issues with national sporting associations. He will be able to present a fully informed position in January.

### **15/146 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2015**

It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2015 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Parker).

### **15/147 Matters Arising**

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

Following clarification from NCC that no enforcement action is necessary at Ayton Close, the Clerk has written to the resident to offer the provision of a skip funded by the Parish Council, as previously agreed. The resident has since indicated that the work is now beyond their capabilities and the skip is no longer required. Members noted the position. **DISCHARGED**

#### **b) Sport Tynedale** (previous item 15/134(a)(iv))

Following correspondence from Sport Tynedale, the Clerk updated members on the process by which grant funding is awarded to applicants. After discussion it was **AGREED** to make a

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donation of £50 to Sport Tynedale (under Sec 137 Local Government Act (1972)) (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mrs Pollock). **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

### **c) Review of Parish Plan/Neighbourhood Plan (previous item 15/134(a)(ix))**

The Chair referred to previous discussion and informed members that a separate meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 22 February 2016 to discuss this matter only. Members were asked to inform the Clerk if they are to attend so that suitable accommodation can be secured.

**Action: All members DISCHARGED**

### **15/148 Finance**

#### **a) Approval of November Payments**

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

#### **b) Society of Local Council Clerks - Membership**

It was AGREED to pay the annual subscription of £149 to the Society of Local Council Clerks.

### **15/149 Consultations**

*NCC – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy*

Mr Parker reported he had examined the proposed policy and it was AGREED that there was no need for the Council to respond.

### **15/150 Advisory Groups**

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

##### *i) Notes of GGAG meeting 16/11/15*

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

##### *ii) Budget and Precept 2016/17*

The previously circulated draft budget for 2016/17 was AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Prof Thompson) and the precept was thereby set at £76,270.

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

##### *iii) Grant Award Policy*

A revised Grant Policy had been previously circulated and had been amended in respect of the timescales for receipt of grant applications. It was AGREED to approve the revised policy.

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

##### *iv) Financial Regulations*

The Chair said that the Financial Regulations had been revised in accordance with decisions made at earlier Council meetings and now reflect the current financial arrangements operated by the Council, including electronic banking. It was AGREED to approve the previously circulated Regulations.

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

##### *v) Data Protection Registration - renewal*

The Council's Data Protection Registration is due for renewal at a cost of £35. As a recurring annual cost which the Council is required to pay, it was AGREED to set up a direct debit (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Dr Vickers).

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### **b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)**

##### *i) PAG Terms of Reference*

Members of PAG had considered the group's terms of reference and recommended the adoption of a revised version which had been previously circulated. The revision empowers PAG to make non-contentious planning decisions without recourse to the Parish Council and to deal with Pre-Application and Section 106 processes in accordance with NCC's protocols and the previous decisions of the Council. After discussion it was AGREED to adopt the revised terms of reference (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Parker).

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

##### *ii) Planning Report*

Members noted the contents of the planning schedule. There were no new applications although a new Pre-Application Enquiry (ref 15/01350/PREAPP) had been received from NCC in respect of land northwest of and adjoining New Ridley Road and southwest of Batt House Road. The construction of twelve (no.) '4 or more bedroom' houses is proposed on land designated as Green Belt. The pre-application planning statement sets out how the applicant

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believes the proposal could be made acceptable in principle policy terms. Mr Parker, the convenor of PAG, raised a number of issues in respect of the proposal including

- Inappropriate development within the Green Belt
- Proposals to remove the land from the Green Belt have been rejected during the compilation of NCC's Core Strategy
- Cumulative effect of infill
- Housing Needs Survey shows that this size of house is not needed in Stocksfield

After discussion it was AGREED that the Parish Council wishes to be involved in the pre-application process. Mr Parker AGREED to contact the relevant planning officer and to represent the Council after consulting members who are not in attendance at this meeting.

**Action: Mr Parker**

### **15/151 Parish Council Representatives**

#### *Rural Parish Meeting*

The Chair and Clerk attended the above meeting. In view of the current arrangements provided by the East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils' Forum, the rural parish meetings format was regarded as unnecessary in this area. It is likely that this meeting will no longer occur.

#### *Devolution Agreement for the North East and NCC's Strategic Approach to Accommodation*

The Chair reported that an opportunity exists for the Parish Council to attend a briefing on the above subjects on Wednesday 9 December 2015. Prof Thompson AGREED to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **15/152 Any Other Urgent Business**

There was no other business.

### **15/153 Date of Next Meeting**

7.30pm 4 January 2016 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.44pm.