

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11 May 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, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers.
Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Also Present: Ms G Brown (Hexham Courant)

Apologies: Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy.

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

15/54 Declarations of Interest

Although not present, Mrs Dale (as a County Councillor) has a previously declared interest in discussions on planning applications.

15/55 Public Participation

Road Works at Branch End

Dr Vickers had been asked if the Parish Council is able to assist in seeking compensation for lost business for the newsagents at Branch End resulting from the road works at the junction with New Ridley Road. The newsagent has also contacted Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Northern Power but there is no assistance that can be provided by the Parish Council.

DISCHARGED

15/56 Election of Chair

Ms Hunt was elected as Chair of the Parish Council (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Parker) and it was AGREED to suspend Section 5 (f) of Standing Orders (relating to the Chair's term of office).

15/57 Election of Vice Chair

Mrs Dale was elected as Vice Chair (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mr Parke).

15/58 Advisory Groups – Review of Roles and Representatives

The Chair reminded members that all interests must be disclosed whenever they arise and this includes those matters considered by Advisory Groups as well as those at full Parish Council Meetings. It is recognised that Advisory Groups do not make decisions, instead they make recommendations to the full Council but this does not exempt members from declaring any interest. Whenever there is doubt, it is better to declare an interest.

General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

Mrs Dale has expressed a desire to stand down from the GGAG which leaves its membership as the Chair, Mr Davison, Mr Parke and Mrs Pollock. It was AGREED to amend the group's terms of reference to remove the Vice Chair as a member and retain the membership as outlined above. All councillors remain welcome to attend all GGAG meetings.

Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

The current membership of the PAG is Mr Parker (convenor), Prof Thompson and Dr Vickers. It was AGREED they should remain as members and that the terms of reference be amended to state 'must consist of at least three parish councillors'.

Sports Fields Advisory Group (SFAG)

Mrs Dale has agreed to join Mr Davison and Mrs Pollock as a member of the SFAG. It was AGREED to retain the terms of reference and the membership as outlined above with Mrs Dale as convenor.

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Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group (RoW&EAG)

The terms of reference of the RoW&EAG requires two parish councillors. Mr Roy is the only Parish Council member and is also the convenor. It was AGREED to retain the terms of reference and look to increase the Parish Council representation accordingly.

Communications Advisory Group (CAG)

It was AGREED that Mr Parke will join the existing members of the CAG: Dr Vickers and the Clerk.

7.52pm Prof Thompson joined the meeting.

15/59 Representative on Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)

Prof Thompson AGREED to represent the Parish Council on the SCATA Board.

15/60 Appointment of Internal Auditor

It was AGREED (proposed Mrs Pollock, seconded Prof Thompson) to appoint Mr Peter Basnett as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2015/16.

7.55pm Mrs Dale joined the meeting.

15/61 Schedule of Parish Council Meetings for 2015/16

Members noted the previously circulated schedule of meetings for 2015/16.

15/62 Management of land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace

Members noted that during 2014/15 the Parish Council has managed the area of land adjacent to 15 Branch End Terrace by cutting the grass, planting shrubs and maintaining the area accordingly.

15/63 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 April 2015

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2015 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Dale).

15/64 Matters Arising

a) A696: Litter and Gullies (previous item 15/42)

Mrs Dale reported that the matter has been addressed by NCC. She is undertaking an inventory of all gullies in conjunction with NCC staff.

DISCHARGED

b) A695: Speeding (previous item 15/42)

Community Speedwatch has been deployed along the A695 and on New Ridley Road. The percentage of speeding vehicles has caused concern with members. It was AGREED to liaise with the Neighbourhood Policing Team to identify the percentage of local offenders with a view to placing an item in the next edition of NE43 News.

Action: Clerk and to B Fd

c) Drilling at Merryshields (previous item 15/42)

Mrs Dale reported that Thompsons of Prudhoe are negotiating to purchase the land. Their intention is to remove the remaining minerals, for which permission already exists and amend the permission to enable infill only of inert materials. The ultimate aim is to return the land to agricultural use. It was AGREED to monitor the development and upon completion of the purchase, invite Thompsons to attend a Parish Council meeting to present their plans.

Action: Clerk to B Fd

d) Play Area at Ayton Close (previous item 15/42)

The Clerk reminded members that at the last meeting it was agreed to fund a skip to enable a group of residents to clear an overgrown play area in Ayton Close. The area has subsequently been visited by the Clerk with NCC staff and the brick wall surrounding the area is in need of repair. The residents have been asked to suspend their plans. Mrs Dale said that NCC are writing to the owner to seek remedial action.

Action: Clerk to B Fd

e) Hindley Cemetery (previous item 15/42)

Mrs Dale reported that the rat infestation had been dealt with by NCC.

DISCHARGED

15/65 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA)

Prof Thompson reported he had attended the opening ceremony of the Guessburn site with Mrs Dale. It had been well reported in the Hexham Courant.

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15/66 Finance

a) Approval of April Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for April be approved (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Parke) and the summary of receipts and payments for the month was noted.

b) Approval of accounting statements and annual governance statement 2014/15

The accounting statement 2014/15 had been previously circulated and was APPROVED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Dale). The annual governance statement 2014/15 had also been previously circulated and was APPROVED (proposed Mrs Pollock, seconded Dr Vickers).

15/67 Consultations

NCC – Street Trading Policy

No response necessary.

15/68 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 27/04/15

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Members' Allowances Policy

The proposed policy had been previously circulated and was AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mr Parke).

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

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

15/01108/OUT 21/04/15 Land South East of Walnut Cottage, New Ridley	Outline application for erection of 2 No bedroom cottage	11/05/15 Object to application as per recommendation of PAG in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over development of a restricted site• Dominant and overbearing nature when viewed from 9 Winston Way• Contrary to provisions of Core Strategy Policy GD6 and others with regard to securing a contribution to outdoor sports facilities• Proximity of the proposed building to the boundary with rear gardens of adjacent dwellings
15/00877/FUL 23/04/15 Arrochar, 7 Hall Farm Close, Stocksfield	Extension to side above garage	11/05/15 No objections

The Clerk declared an interest in respect of application number 15/01108/OUT and Mrs Pollock in respect of application number 15/00877/FUL.

c) Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group (RoW&EAG)

Members noted the previously circulated notes of the meeting held on 27/04/15.

15/69 Parish Council Representatives

East Tynedale Town and Parish Council Forum

The Chair reported on the following items that had been discussed:

- A Community Development Officer from Albemarle Barracks had spoken to the group, exploring options for establishing links between staff stationed at the barracks and local villages. It was felt that Stocksfield is too remote from Albemarle Barracks but it was useful to have contact details for staff.
- A transparency code for smaller councils had been summarised which, amongst other things, required the publication of a variety of documents within certain timescales. Whilst not strictly applicable to this Council (due to gross turnover), the Parish Council is adopting the main principles.

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- Ovingham Bridge is reported to be seven weeks behind schedule for completion.
- Network Rail has commenced charging for car parks at Wylam and other stations along the Tyne Valley but there is no suggestion that this will be extended to Stocksfield.

15/70 New Ridley – Proposed Name of Development

Members considered five suggested names for the development at New Ridley that have been proposed by residents and former residents. After discussion it was AGREED to propose the name “Stobart’s Field”, a reflection of the local name for the field.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

15/71 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair said that the Annual Parish Meeting had been well attended and feedback from residents was very positive. Members AGREED to write to Ms Baird to thank her for her attendance. The issue of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) was again raised by those present and Inspector Cole had offered to attend a further meeting if sufficient volunteers can be found. The last NHW meeting was poorly attended but it was AGREED to place a feature in NE43 News to gauge the numbers that might attend a further meeting.

Action: Clerk and BFd

15/72 Any Other Urgent Business

Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP)

The Chair informed members that TVCRP is holding a stakeholder event at Stocksfield Community Centre on 04/06/15. Mr Parker and Prof Thompson both AGREED to attend, depending upon their commitments.

15/73 Date of Next Meeting

7.30pm 1 June 2015 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.