

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4 January 2016 at Stocksfield Community Centre

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

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Mrs J Robson

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Ms G Brown (Hexham Courant), Mr C Catnach (Stocksfield Cricket Club)

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

16/1 Declarations of Interest

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

16/2 Public Participation

Cadehill Road

Prof Thompson said that a section of the surface of Cadehill Road is badly deteriorated. Mrs Dale said that she had already reported it.

DISCHARGED

Stocksfield Burn

Mrs Pollock said that a member of the public had raised the issue of children building dams on Stocksfield Burn. Mr Roy said that small dams assist flooding by slowing the progress of water.

DISCHARGED

16/3 Stocksfield Cricket Club – Building Development

The Chair reminded members that the item was deferred from the last meeting and welcomed Mr Catnach who circulated images and plans of the proposed development. The Club has inherited £100,000 from the trustees of the now demolished Snooker Club which are designated to improve the clubhouse. The plans include an upstairs committee room and snooker room, improved, enlarged and repositioned changing rooms, a function room and members' bar. He said it is clear that successful clubs are generating additional income through their premises and the improvements will enable the club to be sustainable without continually seeking grant funding. At the moment there are 12 cricket teams, seven football teams, a rugby team and 50 members of Stocksfield Striders using the facilities. The cricket club is performing well on the field and has won the best ground of the year in Northumberland for the second year running. Negotiations are ongoing with Allendale Estates to purchase a small strip of additional land. Fund raising has commenced and a range of grant applications will be submitted within the next few months. A planning application will be submitted in the near future. Mr Catnach answered questions posed by members and thanked councillors for their continuing support. The Chair thanked Mr Catnach for updating the Council and asked that he keep the Parish Council updated with developments.

16/4 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 December 2015

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting, as amended, held on 7 December 2015 were a true and accurate record (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Prof Thompson).

16/5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

16/6 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale said there is potential to site an additional Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Sign (VATCS) on New Ridley Road at the western end of New Ridley and AGREED to speak to the

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Clerk so that the matter can be considered at the next General Governance Advisory Group. Mrs Dale reported that the pavement at the Tennis Club had been completed. Mrs Dale then updated the meeting in relation to the proposed relocation of the County Council's offices and the continued and significant budget cuts that are expected. After discussion the Chair said that although the Parish Council is independent, it is important to keep abreast of developments at Northumberland County Council (NCC) and we should consider whether any of the gaps in provision can or should be filled by the Parish Council, particularly in relation to vulnerable adults.

16/7 Finance

a) Approval of December Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for December be approved as detailed in the previously circulated schedule (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mr Parker) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted. The Clerk drew members' attention to the donation of £100 from SCA Hygiene towards the costs of picnic tables at Branch End Play Area.

b) Budget monitoring report

The previously circulated budget monitoring report was noted. The Clerk drew attention to overspend in Play Facilities which has previously been authorised. In the light of additional expenditure required to maintain an item of play equipment, it was AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mrs Pollock) to vire £800 from the administration budget head to 'play facilities' and the cost of the new bus shelter will be taken from the contingency fund.

16/8 Consultations

a) NCC – Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service 'Working Towards 2020'

After discussion it was AGREED to make no response to this consultation.

b) NCC – Animal Boarding Establishment Policy

After discussion it was AGREED to make no response to this consultation.

16/9 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 14/12/15

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Interim Internal Audit

The interim report from the internal auditor has been received and after a minor amendment, there is nothing to bring to the Council's attention. **DISCHARGED**

iii) Management of Sports Facilities

The Chair introduced a series of previously circulated papers. The overriding issues are to protect the Parish Council and users of the sports fields in the event of any incident and to ensure that the responsibilities of the respective parties are properly articulated. After discussion it was AGREED to approve the following documents:

Stocksfield Sports Fields User Group (SSFUG) - Terms of Reference

Agreements with Broomley First School and 'Boot Camp' providers

Remit of GGAG

It was also AGREED that the new agreements should be circulated to users immediately and that all agreements must be signed and returned to the Parish Council by Friday 5 February 2016. The Chair identified the need to hold an early meeting of the SSFUG.

Action: Clerk

DISCHARGED

iv) Safety Equipment for the Parish Council Clerk

After discussion it was AGREED to approve the purchase of a high-visibility jacket for the Clerk which should also display the name of the Parish Council and, within reason, the Clerk should determine which safety equipment is necessary. **Action: Clerk**

DISCHARGED

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

i) Planning Report

Members noted the contents of the planning schedule.

ii) Pre-Application Enquiry 15/01350/PREAPP Land at New Ridley Road/Batt House Road.

Mr Parker circulated the response that has been submitted to NCC in respect of the Pre-Application in which the Parish Council expresses strong objections to the proposal due in the

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main to the location being within the Green Belt. Mr Parker reported that he had spoken to the Planning Officer who is to respond to the enquiry accordingly.

16/10 Parish Council Representatives

Devolution Agreement for the North East

Prof Thompson attended the presentation and relevant documentation has been circulated to all members.

16/11 Annual Parish Meeting - Speaker

The Chair reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting is to be held in April and asked for suggestions about a potential speaker who will be interesting and attract residents. After discussion and a number of suggested themes, it was AGREED to place the item on the Council's Facebook page asking for ideas from residents and that members should contact the Chair with any ideas within the next week. **Action: All members and Clerk**

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.

16/12 Any Other Urgent Business

Co-option of Parish Councillor

After discussion it was AGREED to:

- i) co-opt Peter Newman as a Parish Councillor and
- ii) prepare a policy governing the co-option of councillors for subsequent approval.

Action: Clerk

16/13 Date of Next Meeting

7.30 pm 1 February 2016 – Stocksfield Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.