

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

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

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

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Mr P Newman, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Ms A Hawes (resident)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present, including Mrs Furniss who was attending her first meeting as a councillor.

16/42 Declarations of Interest

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

16/43 Public Participation

Birches Nook Cottages

Ms Hawes explained the ongoing issues at Birches Nook Cottages relating to surface water and leaking sewers. She described the response from the agencies involved as unhelpful, although Northumbrian Water had resolved one significant leaking underground pipe. An issue remains with road gullies outside the houses and the smell of sewage between Cade Hill Road and Birches Nook Road, exacerbated by the presence of rats. Mrs Dale AGREED to arrange reports from the agencies involved and report both to Ms Hawes and a subsequent Council meeting. The Chair acknowledged that the Council has no direct responsibility for these specific matters but wished to ensure that the support of the Council is provided where appropriate.

Action: Ms Dale

Queen's Birthday

Mrs Pollock said that a number of residents are planning events to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and asked what permissions are needed. Events held on the highway require the permission of Northumberland County Council (NCC) and others require the consent of the relevant landowner.

Fence adjacent to Ayton Close

Mr Davison reported that the wooden post and rail fence between the footpath on Ayton Close and the dene is broken and has previously been repaired by the Council. Although the fence is not the responsibility of the Council, the Clerk was asked to look at the situation. **Action: Clerk**

16/44 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 March 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mrs Pollock, seconded Mr Parke).

16/45 Matters Arising

a) Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting is at 7.30pm on 18 April and asked that residents are encouraged to attend and hear the speaker, Dr Colin Doig. The meeting has been advertised. **Action: All members DISCHARGED**

b) Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs

The Clerk said that Unipart had offered a full maintenance contract for their two signs, including parts and labour, for £795 per annum. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Davison) that the proposal did not provide value for money and should be rejected. **Action: Clerk**

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

c) New Ridley Gateways

Mrs Dale reported that an order for the gateways had been placed but the delivery and installation dates are not known.

16/46 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale said that there was some confusion over the Governments 'Academy proposals' and clarified that NCC do not currently have powers over individual schools. Various concerns, particularly about the potential adverse impact on funding of small rural schools, have been expressed from a wide variety of sources and NCC is to prepare a report about the implications. Mrs Dale also said that Ovingham Bridge will reopen although the date is not yet known.

16/47 Finance

a) Approval of March Payments

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

b) Budget Monitoring

The final budget monitoring report was noted in advance of the year end accounts.

c) External audit 2015/16

The Clerk reported that the documents from the external auditor had been received. The Exercise of Public Rights commences on 13 June 2016 and the Annual Return must be received by 20 June 2016.

d) Recurring payments

The previously circulated schedule of recurring payments for the financial year 2016/17 was AGREED (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mrs Pollock).

16/48 Consultations

North East Combined Authority – Local Transport Plan

After discussion it was AGREED that no response will be submitted from the Council and that members are able to respond as individuals.

16/49 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 21/03/16

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Draft Policy on Ad Hoc Use of Sports Pitches

The previously circulated draft policy was discussed and it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mr Davison) to adopt the policy with immediate effect.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

iii) Sports Fields User Group

The Chair reminded members that the Sports Fields User Group (SFUG) was a new forum which met for the first time in February and issues from it have been considered by the GGAG. The notes of the SFUG are available. The Ivor Gray Festival is planned for April and Stocksfield Football Club has asked that the Council supports the event by funding the trophies at a cost of £80. The Council has provided this support for the previous two tournaments and it was AGREED to donate £80 to the club for this purpose.

iv) Rebate request – Prudhoe Youth Club FC

Prudhoe Youth Club FC rent the senior pitch for this season only at an annual fee of £450. The club has asked that the Council consider granting a rebate due to the unplayable surface caused by rain and flooding and the subsequent additional cost of playing elsewhere. After discussion it was AGREED to ask the club for the specific costs they have incurred and to make similar enquiries with the other established clubs before making a decision. **Action: Clerk**

v) Play Area Regeneration Group (PARG)

Mr Parke updated that the PARG had received costings for proposals to provide new equipment. A meeting of the group is planned for 6 April and a further update will follow.

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

vi) Tyne River Crossing

A letter on this matter had been sent to all Councils in Eastern Tynedale by Prudhoe Town Council. The letter sought views about Prudhoe Town Council's request to Guy Opperman MP and the Secretary of State for Transport that a scheme be brought forward, with funding allocated, for the construction of a new Tyne River Crossing downstream from Prudhoe. After discussion, it was felt that the points raised in the letter were relevant to residents of Broomley and Stocksfield. In particular, it was pointed out that the projected increase in population in the area which is included in the draft Northumberland Local Plan would result in significantly increased volumes of local traffic. It was also noted that a new river crossing would potentially contribute to a considerable reduction in the volume of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles, using the A695 through Stocksfield. It was AGREED to write to Prudhoe Town Council to support its proposal. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

vii) Northumberland Clubs for Young People (NCYP) – membership by Stocksfield Community Association (SCA)

SCA has been a member of NCYP for some years and this has previously allowed access by all youth groups in the village to NCYP. The situation has now changed so that only youth groups meeting at the Community Centre can benefit and the value of continued membership is questioned by SCA. Various options were discussed and it was AGREED to take no further action. **DISCHARGED**

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

i) Planning Report

Members noted the contents of the planning schedule and endorsed the PAG decisions as follows:

16/00767/FUL Lilac Cottage 8 Crabtree Road	Extension to side and rear, linking house and garage to provide dining and entrance area with boot room and utility/shower room. With additional garden potting/bee working room.	No comment
16/00932/FUL Warehouse, Apperley Bank House	Resubmission – Change of use with internal and external alterations to create dwelling and new highway access	No comment

ii) Pre-Application Enquiry 16/00066/PREAPP

Mr Parker referred to the above pre-application enquiry in respect of land at Cockshot Hill and the provision of a fishing lake and holiday lets. He said that following discussion at the last Council meeting he had submitted comments online after failing to speak to the case officer who had been unavailable. Members noted the difficulties being experienced with NCC's Pre-Application Protocol.

At 9.02pm Mrs Pollock left the meeting.

iii) Six month Review of Planning Services

The Chair had received an email from the Chair of Craster Parish Council in respect of the above review which was considered at NCC's Cabinet Meeting. The email highlighted the absence of consultation with Town and Parish Councils and asked a series of questions to which the Chair had responded. As a result, and after a meeting with Geoff Paul (NCC's Director of Planning, Economy and Housing), changes have been proposed that would improve the engagement of communities in the planning process. Additionally, a planned review of the Pre-Application and Section 106 Protocol will take place in May/June and the Chair affirmed the importance of the Council being involved to ensure that failings are identified.

16/50 Parish Council Representatives

Tyne Valley Flood Initiative.

Mr Parker had attended the above event which updated on developments since the damage caused by Storm Desmond. Many seriously affected areas were represented. Locally, but not within the Council's area, options for the repair or re-alignment of the road between Bywell Bridge and Ovingham are being considered.

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

16/51 Any Other Urgent Business

i) Unity Trust Bank

With effect from June 2016 the Unity Trust Bank is introducing a monthly account charge of £6. After discussion it was AGREED to remain with the Unity Trust. **DISCHARGED**

ii) Retirement of Reverend Bill Rigby

The Chair reminded members that Rev Bill Rigby is retiring from his role as vicar having worked closely with the community over the past years, particularly with the Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm and the Tuesday Club. He also provided assistance to the Council at the annual Remembrance Service and the opening of the Remembrance Garden. Members joined in thanking Rev Rigby for his work and wished him well in his retirement. **DISCHARGED**

16/52 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9 May 2016

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.