

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 4 July 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, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

**Apologies:** Mr P Newman, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers

**Also present:** Mrs A Dale (County Councillor and member of the Play and Regeneration Group (PARG)), Mrs A Davison, Mrs M Martin (both residents and PARG members), Mrs D Pattison (resident)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. She read out a letter received from Ivor Gray in which he thanks the Council for its continued sponsorship of the trophies at the recent Ivor Gray Football Festival.

### 16/82 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made: Chair, Mr Parker - Stocksfield Community Association; Mrs Pollock – Stocksfield Cricket Club.

### 16/83 Public Participation

#### *Cows in Fields*

Mr Parke had been approached by a resident who had experienced problems when using the public right of way across a field between New Ridley and Batt House Road. Legislation only covers bulls but members agreed that residents should exercise care when crossing fields occupied by cows and their calves. **DISCHARGED**

#### *Hedge A695 adjacent to Burnside*

Mrs Pollock had been approached by a resident complaining of the overgrown hedge at this location. **Action: Clerk**

#### *Play Area Stobarts Field*

A resident has asked Mrs Pollock about the position in relation to the proposed children's play area at Stobarts Field. Mrs Dale said that this is subject to the Section 106 agreement and ongoing discussion. There will be consultation prior to any development. **DISCHARGED**

#### *Polling Station New Ridley*

Mrs Pollock, on behalf of a resident, asked if Northumberland County Council (NCC) is prepared to establish an additional polling station at New Ridley in future elections, particularly as no bus service now exists. Mrs Dale AGREED to ask NCC. **Action: Mrs Dale**

#### *Footpath at New Ridley between New Ridley Farmhouse and Lead Road*

Mr Parke had noticed that work had been undertaken to trim the nettles at ground level at the above location but the detritus had not been removed. The Clerk said it was the first part of ongoing work by the Parish Groundsman along that stretch of road and was an interim measure to remove nettles. Mrs Furniss raised the accessibility issue for prams at that location. The land adjacent to the road is not an adopted footpath. Mrs Dale said she is working on a solution and will notify members once the position is clear. **DISCHARGED**

7.41pm Mrs Robson joined the meeting.

### 16/84 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 June 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2016 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Pollock).

### 16/85 Matters Arising

#### **(a) Grass Cutting at Kate's Plain**

The Clerk reported that the matter had been resolved the following day. NCC had failed to cut the grass in accordance with the contract and had apologised. **DISCHARGED**

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## **(b) Stocksfield Community Woodland**

In the absence of Mr Newman, Mrs Pattison updated members on the result of the meeting between herself, Mr Newman and Mr Thompson of Allendale Estates. It was agreed that Allendale Estates will cut the grass in the woodland on the west of the B6309 in its entirety and that only the footpaths on the east of the B6309 will be cut in June with the remainder being cut in September. An area of nettles west of Guessburn will be sprayed if resources allow.

**DISCHARGED**

## **(c) Birches Nook Cottages**

There was no further update available.

## **16/86 Play and Regeneration Group**

The Chair referred to a previously circulated report from the Play and Regeneration Group (PARG) and invited the members of PARG to outline their plan in brief. Mrs Dale explained the independent nature of PARG and referred to the decision of the Council taken in September 2011 when it was 'agreed in principle to replace Twist'. One funding stream known as Section 106 funding is being replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy. Mrs Dale outlined the work of PARG members and the decision to use Playdale as the preferred supplier. She said that in the past all decisions taken by the group have been taken forward and all that is required is for the Council to give permission for the use of the land. Mrs Davison and Mrs Martin added their experiences of previous involvement in the play areas.

Mr Davison clarified that the proposal involves replacing the Twist with the Lisbon, a modern equivalent and an additional piece of equipment, the Air Rider, and that there would be no cost to the Council. Mrs Dale said the funds (£20,462) will be made up of Section 106 funding and £2,000 from the County Councillor's fund with no contribution from the Council.

The Clerk referred to the most recent annual inspection of the play areas undertaken by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Playsafety Ltd. The report, received by the Council on 1 July 2016, highlights that the support timbers showed signs of splits and shakes. The RoSPA inspector recommends that all the timbers are treated annually and that they are monitored to ensure that rot does not develop where the splits and shakes exist. Only one support is currently affected and it is safe with no indication of rot. There has been no noticeable deterioration from the previous year. The Clerk also referred to the refurbishment of the Twist undertaken in June 2015 which rectified the issues raised in the RoSPA reports up to 2013. He concluded by saying that there is no recommendation from RoSPA or the Council's own playground inspector to replace the Twist.

Mrs Dale said the current equipment is outdated and the proposal would be good for the children using the play area. Mrs Davison and Mrs Martin expressed surprise that the Council had undertaken refurbishment whilst the PARG was developing proposals. Mr Davison explained that the Council had to act to ensure the continued safety of users, particularly considering the original report dated 2011 and this was reinforced by the Chair who said the decision was made in the light of information available at the time. Members recognised that the Twist was not at the end of its life, but there is a risk of losing funding of £10,410 which must be spent and claimed by 1 August 2016 with no guarantee of an extension to that deadline.

After discussion, Mr Davison proposed (seconded Mr Parker) that the existing Twist is removed and replaced by the Lisbon and Air Rider at no cost to the Council. The vote was tied and the motion was not carried.

Members discussed a number of options with members of PARG, including the installation of Lisbon and Air Rider without the removal of Twist, the replacement of Twist but resiting Twist at Kate's Plain and the installation of an alternative piece of equipment. Mrs Dale said she is prepared to work with the Chair to identify a suitable alternative but Mrs Davison and Mrs Martin were unable to commit further time to the project. The Chair made it clear that the funding granted by NCC is for the current proposal, i.e. the installation of Lisbon and Air Rider. Any other proposal would need to be agreed separately with NCC and it is only fair to the PARG members to resolve the issue now.

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

After further discussion Mr Davison proposed (seconded Mr Parker) that the existing Twist is removed and replaced by the Lisbon and Air Rider at no cost to the Council. The vote was tied and the motion was not carried.

The members of the PARG left the meeting. Members recognised the work undertaken by members of PARG and asked that their thanks be recorded.

## **16/87 County Councillor Update**

This item was deferred.

9.19pm Mrs Furniss left the meeting.

## **16/88 Finance**

### **a) Approval of June Payments**

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

### **b) Budget Monitoring Report to 30 June 2016**

Members noted the budget monitoring report.

Members resolved to suspend section 3(u) of Standing Orders relating to the length of the meeting.

## **16/89 Consultations**

*NCC Local Plan Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft and NCC Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document.*

There have been some significant amendments to the Pre-Submission draft. The Chair and Mr Parker are satisfied that the changes are either of no significance to or are supported by the Council's original submissions, particularly with regard to the extension of renewable energy beyond wind, the green belt and mineral extraction. The separate renewable energy document contains a number of proposals in respect of which the Council is unable to comment. It was AGREED that the Clerk should respond to NCC accordingly. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

## **16/88 Advisory Groups**

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

#### *i) Notes of GGAG meeting 20/06/16*

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

#### *ii) Christmas trees*

It was AGREED to order two Christmas trees for Broomley First School and the Dr Syntax at a cost in the region of £600. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### *iii) Donation request – Carers Northumberland*

After discussion it was AGREED to donate £120 to Carers Northumberland under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

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

*16/00220/PREAPP land south of Murrayfield, New Ridley – Proposed agricultural workshop*

Dr Vickers had been unable to contact the case officer and has reported via the Clerk that his submitted comments related only to concerns about development within the green belt. This appeared within the pre-application as a constraint in any event. Members noted his comments.

## **16/89 Parish Council Representatives**

*East Tynedale Parish and Town Councils Forum*

The Chair reminded members that she is unable to attend the next meeting of this group on 13 July 2016 and asked anyone who is prepared to attend in her place to contact her.

## **16/90 Eastern Sports Field**

The Clerk reminded members that the lease on the eastern sports field expires on 31 July 2016. Negotiations continue with Allendale Estates with regard to a longer lease. In the meantime, Allendale Estates has confirmed that the Council can continue to use the fields

## Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

on the same terms and conditions contained within the current lease pending finalisation of those negotiations. The Clerk added that Stocksfield Cricket Club has withdrawn its planning application as a result of NCC's determination that there is insufficient car parking. Any revised planning application from the Council for a new car park is dependent in part upon the lease negotiations. **Bring Fd**

### **16/91 Any Other Urgent Business**

Mrs Robson reminded members that she had been unable to attend recent meetings for maternity reasons. Mrs Robson said she wants to remain as a councillor and anticipates being able to attend future meetings although there may be occasions when short notice absence may be necessary. Members AGREED that the current situation is acceptable.

### **16/92 Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 5 September 2016

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.