

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5 September 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, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies: Mr P Newman.

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Mr M Page, Mrs C Page (residents).

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

16/93 Declarations of Interest

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

16/94 Public Participation

Speeding and other traffic related issues

Mr Page raised the continuing problems of vehicles travelling at excessive speed on New Ridley Road. Vehicles of all categories are driven so that it becomes dangerous to exit his drive and his house vibrates when heavy goods vehicles pass at speed. The Clerk updated on other residents who have contacted the Parish Council about the speed of vehicles on the A695 (particularly at Birches Nook) and New Ridley Road, the volume of traffic generally and the increasing size of vehicles. Mr Parker, who is a Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteer, spoke about the merits of CSW and the percentage of vehicles detected as speeding. Each offender receives a letter from the police and some are visited by police officers, depending on their speed. The police are holding a meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 14 September at Stocksfield Community Centre to attract more CSW volunteers. Dr Vickers referred to the disappointingly negative comments from many residents that have appeared on social media about the problems of speeding. Mrs Dale said that an officer from Northumberland County Council (NCC) has looked at New Ridley Road specifically and is looking at a suitable scheme for the road. The Chair said that the Council has raised the issue with the police and their statement read, *'The focus of the Force has changed, in line with the new Neighbourhood Policing Model. Our main focus is the prevention and detection of burglary dwelling and dealing effectively with vulnerability in our local communities and as such our resources are placed in the best position to effectively deal with these two priorities'*.

The Chair referred to other correspondents who raised issues of volume and size of vehicles, continued housing developments and also questioned whether the Council accepted a problem exists. Dr Vickers said that there is no real opportunity to control the volume of traffic but the Council can object to inappropriate developments. The closure of other local roads (Bywell River Road and Ovingham Bridge) has contributed to the problem. Members agreed the issue of speeding vehicles has been a priority of the Council, albeit one it has no direct power to influence, and remains an issue that the Council is seeking to address with its partners. The Council has supported Prudhoe Town Council's proposal in relation to a new river crossing. In relation to the volume of traffic, Mrs Dale said that traffic data has shown the volumes not to be heavy in comparison with national figures. Mr Page added that speed is the real issue and little could be done to prevent the increase in traffic density.

The Chair thanked Mr and Mrs Page for attending the meeting and raising the matter. She concluded that speeding remains a problem in the village and is taken seriously by the Council. There is a need to recruit new CSW volunteers and it is important to incorporate the issue into the developing Parish Council Plan however it is unrealistic to expect Parish Councils to deliver solutions.

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16/95 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale reported that a meeting in relation to the play area at Stobarts Field had been held and referred to a proposed plan. Mr Parke declared an interest in the matter. Mrs Dale said she has left a copy of the proposal in the Dr Syntax public house for information but there is no requirement for agreement by residents. There are no responsibilities falling to the Council.

8.15pm Mrs Robson left the meeting.

Mrs Dale said the Elections Manager at NCC will consider an additional polling station at New Ridley when a review takes place. The proposal to build a footpath at the southern end of New Ridley has not been submitted by her as a priority to NCC's Local Transport Plan Programme. A 20mph speed limit is to be implemented through Hindley. Mrs Dale asked if the Council could consider its view on whether a Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Sign should be installed at New Ridley.

16/96 Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 July 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2016 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss).

16/97 Matters Arising

(a) Hedge adjacent to A695

The matter was reported direct to NCC due to the dangerous restriction in width of the footpath and was rectified quickly. **DISCHARGED**

(b) Play and Regeneration Group

The Clerk confirmed that £8362 remained in the Sec 106 House Developer Fund for play facilities in Stocksfield which has to be spent and reclaimed by 1 August 2017. **DISCHARGED**

(c) Birches Nook Cottages

Mrs Dale was unable to update members about private land due to confidentiality issues. Members AGREED that an appropriate update should be provided in due course. **Bring Fd**

16/98 Finance

a) Approval of July and August Payments

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

b) Reserve Accounts 2016

The Clerk updated members on the work to identify more appropriate reserve accounts and the allocation of reserve funds. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parker) to:

- Open a Nationwide Business Instant Saver (BIS) account with the Unity Current account being the nominated account for transfers, four nominated signatories (to be the Chair, Mr Parke, Mr Parker and the Clerk) and transfers to require one signature.
- Retain the Unity Reserve account and to transfer £12,000 from it to the new BIS to maximise the interest payable.
- Close the Bank of Ireland deposit account and transfer its balance to the BIS account
- Close the Co-op bank account and transfer its balance to the BIS
- Transfer £7,300 from the general fund to the BIS account
- Amend the status of reserves (as at 01/07/16) as shown in the table below.

Purpose	£
Defibrillators	550.00
Community Garden Fund	657.90
Sports Field Clubhouse extension	5,000.00
General (ie unallocated)	55,091.06
Total Reserves	61,298.96

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

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16/99 Consultations

NCC Public Spaces Protection Order for the Control of Dogs

This proposed legislation will replace the existing Dog Control Orders and includes provisions to prevent fouling by dogs of land to which the public have access, the exclusion of dogs from enclosed children's play areas and the requirement to keep dogs on leads when on or adjacent to an A or B classified roads. The Council welcomed its introduction and the Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

16/100 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 01/08/16

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Bank Reconciliation to 01/07/16

Members noted that the bank reconciliation to 01/07/16 had been checked and duly signed by Mrs Pollock.

DISCHARGED

iii) Local transport plan (LTP) Programme 2017-18

Members discussed the proposed priorities and AGREED (proposed Mr Davison, seconded Mrs Pollock) that the following requests for minor improvements should be submitted:

- The creation of a footpath from the junction of Lead Road/Ford Road to the southern end of New Ridley village
- The installation of strategically placed dropped kerbs on New Ridley Road in order to provide accessibility for wheelchair users etc from New Ridley village to Branch End

It was further proposed that the Parish Council's support should be recorded for a safety scheme on the A68.

In addition to the above, it was proposed that an appropriate officer of NCC be asked to provide a report to the Parish Council on how best to resolve parking problems on New Ridley Road so as to improve safety.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

iv) Risk Assessment and management 2016

The Chair referred to a previously circulated revised risk assessment and management proforma for 2016, the schedule for which has been amended to coincide with the insurance renewal. After discussion it was AGREED to adopt the revised document.

v) Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspections 2016

The Chair drew members' attention to the RoSPA inspection reports and to a report of the Clerk outlining the remedial works that had been undertaken or were planned. After discussion it was AGREED to include a generic sign at the entrance to the play areas warning about climbing on goal posts and the like and otherwise to accept the proposals contained within.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

8.47pm Prof Thompson left the meeting

vi) Sports Field User Group

Members noted the notes of the meeting of the Sports Field User Group on 11 July 2016.

vii) Parish of Bywell with Stocksfield – vacancy

The Chair referred to a letter from the church wardens that sought views from local residents, businesses and organisations on the issues that they would like to see addressed by the next vicar. In discussion members referred to the themes identified for inclusion in the forthcoming Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council Plan, and in particular to the concept of the "lifetime neighbourhood", a place which is suitable to be lived in by all people, regardless of their age or disability. It was AGREED that the community would benefit from a Vicar who would show leadership and take an active part in supporting this concept by promoting such initiatives as befriending schemes, support groups and awareness raising events, and by working in partnership with others, including the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to reply accordingly.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

viii) Firework display – Bywell

Bywell Parish Council has invited the Council to join in organising its annual firework display at Bywell on 4 November 2016. This would involve sharing costs (£1,200 in 2015), sharing in distributing profits to charities and helping to recruit volunteers. It was AGREED to match the

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funding provided by Bywell Parish Council up to a maximum of £1,000 and the funds to be allocated from the Community Support budget. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

ix) Donation request – Community Action Northumberland

After discussion it was AGREED to donate £100 to Community Action Northumberland under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

i) Planning report

Members noted the previously circulated planning report as outlined below.

16/01185/FUL West Oak Farm Broomley	Dismantle front porch and existing garage. Construct new porch and two storey build to provide additional 2 bedrooms (amended plans)	No comment
16/02549/VARYCO Land west of The Grove (Stobarts Field) New Ridley	Variation of condition 2 of permission to allow changes to landscaping.	No comment
16/02662/FUL 28 Hall Farm Close	Proposed first floor extension with bedroom over existing garage	No comment

ii) 16/003020/PREAPP 147 New Ridley Road – Proposed residential use

Mr Parker outlined the content of the above pre-application which had potential for a substantial number of houses on pasture land south east of New Ridley Road adjacent to the bridleway to Mickley Grange Farm. In view of many issues, including its location within the green belt and potential access problems, the PAG had objected to the proposal. Members noted his comments.

iii) Proposed revision to Terms of Reference

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated proposal which sought to clarify the Council's procedures with respect to planning applications and pre-application enquiries and the relevant delegated powers of PAG and the Clerk. After discussion it was AGREED to adopt the revised terms of reference. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

16/101 Parish Council Representatives

Town and Parish Councils Conference 2016

The Chair said that NCC has arranged this annual conference for Thursday 13 October 2016. Any members who would like to attend were asked to contact the Clerk.

Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) Strategy Meeting

The Council has been invited to attend the above meeting on 20 September 2016. The Chair is unavailable although Dr Vickers is attending as Vice Chair. Mr Roy indicated that he may be able to attend and would inform the Clerk to confirm it.

9.07pm Mrs Robson returned to the meeting.

16/102 Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse – Correspondence from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

The Chair referred to a previously circulated letter from the PCC which outlined the developing 'Violence against Women and Girls Strategy'. The letter seeks the Council's support by using campaign material (now displayed on the Council's notice boards) and by asking for interested parties to consider becoming a 'Rural Domestic Violence Champion'. The Chair asked that an item be included in the next NE43 News and if any member wanted further involvement, they should contact the PCC's office. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

16/103 Dog waste bins – provision across the village

Mr Parke asked whether any additional dog waste bins could be provided, particularly on Batt House Road. After discussion it was AGREED that a new litter bin should be installed on Batt House Road at the upper ford, subject to the normal permission from NCC.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

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16/104 Clerk – Personal Development Review (PDR)

The Chair updated members that the Clerk's annual PDR had been undertaken by her and the Vice Chair.

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

16/105 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other urgent business.

16/106 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3 October 2016

9.24pm Mrs Furniss and Mrs Pollock left the meeting

Members resolved under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business to exclude members of the press and public in order to consider the following item:

16/107 Insurance 2016/17 – renewal

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report that outlined three insurance options with varied excess amounts from four separate insurers. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parker) to

- renew the Parish Council's insurance using option 3 of the report
- adopt a policy excess of £500
- enter a three year agreement
- accept the renewal premium of £1425.91 with Zurich Municipal.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

The meeting closed at 9.41pm.