

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7 March 2016 at Stocksfield Community Centre

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

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council)

Apologies: Mrs J Robson, Dr P Vickers

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Mrs J Furniss (resident)

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

16/26 Declarations of Interest

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

16/27 Public Participation

There were no items of public participation.

16/28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 February 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2016 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Pollock).

16/29 Matters Arising

a) Annual Parish Meeting – Speaker

The Clerk reported that Dr Colin Doig, a consultant cardiologist from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, will address the Annual Parish Meeting on 18 April 2016 to discuss local developments within health provision.

DISCHARGED

b) Future Audit Arrangements

No further guidance has been received in relation to this matter and it was AGREED to affirm the decision of the last meeting to use the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd.

DISCHARGED

c) Workplace Pensions

The Clerk reported that, in line with a previous decision, the Parish Council is now registered with the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and the Clerk will be auto-enrolled on the Council's staging date of 1 February 2017.

DISCHARGED

d) Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs

The Clerk updated members that the Swarco provided signs are now working and ready for incorporation into a maintenance contract. Negotiations continue with Unipart in respect of the other two signs. Mrs Dale referred to Northumberland County Council's (NCC) intention to impose 20mph speed restrictions outside schools at the start and end of the school day. NCC will, in due course, need to liaise with the Parish Council to ensure there is no conflict between signs.

16/30 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale said that better signage has been requested for the new hospital at Cramlington. The issues of flooding within the village are being examined by NCC and work continues with landowners to ensure land management is improved. Ovingham Bridge is planned to open in the autumn but the A6079 between Hexham and the A69 will be closed for six weeks commencing in June due to work on the railway bridge.

Work at Merryshields Quarry has commenced and Thompsons are working with Mrs Dale and the school to ensure the safety of children. The Chair added that parents of children at Broomley First School received a letter from Thompsons via the school. She expressed dismay that the letter had not been copied to the Parish Council and read the contents of the letter to

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members. The Chair said that a number of residents had asked about the Parish Council's view with regard to the quarry and reminded members that permission was initially granted in 1949 for a period of 93 years. In 2012 the Parish Council expressed concerns about continued quarrying but it was made clear by NCC that there were no grounds to remove the permission. The Chair asked that should residents ask members about the Council's view in respect of quarrying, the position is made clear or the resident is referred to the Clerk. Any complaints in relation to the current operation should be referred to Mrs Dale.

16/31 Finance

a) Approval of February Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for February be approved as detailed in the previously circulated schedule (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Davison) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

b) Budget Monitoring

The budget monitoring report was noted and it was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mrs Pollock) to vire an additional £1,000 from the 'Administration' budget to 'Play Facilities'.

16/32 Consultations

Northumberland Street Lighting Project

The Clerk reported that NCC is replacing all street lighting with LED lights over a period of time but the work in Stocksfield is not due to commence until late 2017. Clarification about the implications for Stocksfield is awaited and the matter will be referred to the General Governance Advisory Group in due course.

16/33 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 15/02/16

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Groundsman's Contract 2016/17

The Groundsman's contract has been amended to take into account additional areas of work. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Prof Thompson) to accept the new contract at the revised cost with the appropriate amendment to the budget 2016/17.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

iii) New Ridley Gateways

Mrs Dale updated members on the proposed gateways at New Ridley which are to be funded by NCC. Further work is needed before they are installed but the Chair reminded members that their maintenance will be undertaken by the Parish Council and has been incorporated into the Groundsman's contract.

iv) Bank Reconciliation to December 2015

Members noted that the bank reconciliation up to December 2015 has been checked and duly signed by Mr Parke.

DISCHARGED

v) Ad hoc use of sports pitches

The frequency of requests for 'one-off' hire of pitches has increased but no formal policy exists to govern the hire. Members endorsed the recommendations of the GGAG that the Council should allow ad hoc use of the pitches but there must be strict control to ensure that existing users are not disadvantaged and the Council's additional costs are recovered. It was AGREED that a policy should be drafted incorporating the above and that until its approval, no further ad hoc pitch hire will be allowed.

Action: Clerk

vi) Subscription Renewal – Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

It was AGREED to renew the subscription to CPRE at £36. **Action: Clerk**

vii) Donations – Northumberland Community and Voluntary Action (NVCA) and The Children's Foundation (TCF)

After discussion it was AGREED to donate £25 to the NVCA and £50 to TCF in accordance with Sec 137 Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

viii) Retirement of Chair of Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC)

Members noted the invitation to contribute to the retirement gift for the retiring Chair of NALC and to attend its presentation on 24 March 2016.

DISCHARGED

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b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

i) Planning Report

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

16/00304/FUL 54 Painshawfield Rd	Porch extension to east elevation	No comment 09/02/16
16/00440/LBC Ridley Mill House Ridley Mill Rd	Listed building consent for demolition of original offshoot kitchen and existing 1950s/60s single and double extension and replacement with single and double storey extension in keeping with the original building	No comment 26/02/16

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. Members noted its position within the Green Belt and the likely access issues. Mr Parker AGREED to liaise with the case officer in accordance with the protocol.
Action: Mr Parker

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

i) Notes of the meeting held on 29/02/16

Members noted the notes of the meeting which were circulated at the meeting.

ii) Electro fishing

Mr Roy outlined the importance of identifying the success of the fish easement at the lower ford by the extent to which sea trout and salmon are seen in the upper reaches of the burn using electro fishing. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parker) to approve the expenditure of £100 from the 2016/17 budget for this purpose.

iii) Inter Parish Footpath Leaflet

Mr Roy said that leaflets are needed to advertise the newly completed circular walk and that Mrs Dale and Prudhoe Pathforce have agreed to contribute £100 each towards the cost. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parker) to approve a maximum of £100 from the 2016/17 budget for this purpose.

16/34 Parish Council Representatives

There were no items to discuss.

16/35 Play Area Regeneration Group

The Chair asked that the next meeting of the GGAG be provided with an update about the work of this group. Mr Parke AGREED to do so.
Action: Mr Parke

16/36 Neighbourhood /Parish Council Planning

The Chair referred to a previously circulated report of a meeting that discussed the merits of a neighbourhood or parish plan. After further discussion it was AGREED that:

- The Council should not embark upon the production of a Neighbourhood Plan unless clear evidence comes to light of the benefits such a Plan would bring to our community
- The Council should prepare a Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council Plan covering a period of five years initially, and with a rolling programme of review to ensure that the Plan remains current and relevant
- The Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council Plan should include strategic and action planning under the following themes:
 - The concept of the “lifetime neighbourhood” (a place which by its design and location is suitable to be lived in by all people regardless of their age or disability)
 - Local employment/ Businesses
 - Housing
 - Environment
 - Transport
 - Social and leisure facilities

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- Education
- Communications

The Chair asked any members who had additional areas worthy of consideration for inclusion or who wish to contribute to one or more of the themes, to contact the Clerk.

Action: All members

16/37 Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Third Generation (3G) Play Area Surfaces

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated news item which highlighted a potential health risk to users of 3G play surfaces, such as the surface at the MUGA which had been funded by the Football Association. A statement from the National Governing Bodies of English Sport had been received which concludes that there are 'no negative health effects.....and that they have taken all reasonable measures to ensure that the pitches they use and fund in England are safe and present no known hazard to health'. Members noted the reports.

DISCHARGED

16/38 Branch End Play Area – Kompan Galaxy Climber

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report and explained the potential hazard that exists on the Galaxy equipment due the unforeseeable rotation of the climber section. Evidence of injuries to children on identical equipment in other parts of the country has been provided by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) who undertake annual inspections of the equipment in Stocksfield and who first raised the issue. The manufacturers maintain the equipment is safe and has passed the relevant tests. A solution was proposed that immobilises the rotation and had been approved by the Head of Play Safety at RoSPA. After discussion members accepted the existence of the hazard and AGREED to undertake the alteration as described, believing it to be a reasonable and proportionate response, and to implement an additional weekly check of the alteration by the Groundsman.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

16/39 Any Other Urgent Business

There was no other business.

16/40 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4 April 2016

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.

16/41 Co-option of Councillor

After discussion it was AGREED to co-opt Mrs Judith Furniss as a parish councillor.

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.