

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

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

Present: Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mr J Davison, Mr M Parker, Mrs K Pollock, Mrs J Robson, Mr J Roy, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies: Mrs J Furniss, Mr P Newman, Mr D Parke, Professor R Thompson.

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Mr D Williams (resident), Ms K Moore (Hexham Courant).

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

16/120 Declarations of Interest

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

16/121 Public Participation

BT Telephone Boxes

Mr Williams referred to a decision by BT to remove two telephone boxes at New Ridley and at the junction of New Ridley Road and Apperley Road. He said that the undue delay in their removal had resulted in significant deterioration of one of the boxes. Mrs Dale AGREED to contact BT and reply to Mr Williams direct.

16/122 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale said that the hedgerow at Stobarts Field will be replanted and further additions to the front of the houses are under review by the builders. Northumberland County Council (NCC) is to scrutinise the impact of the reduction in Government funding to rural pharmacies. NCC has examined the surface of the road on the A695 at Cade Hill Road and found no defects. NCC is to review the section of New Ridley Road between Batt House Road and Meadowfield Road for the potential to install a Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Sign (VATCS) at that location for which Mrs Dale has found funding. The speed of vehicles is to be monitored at this location before any further proposal is made. The Chair reminded members that the Parish Council is usually required to fund ongoing maintenance of VATCS even if funding to install them is available and that would need to be considered separately.

16/123 Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 October 2016

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2016 were a true and accurate record (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mrs Pollock).

16/124 Matters Arising

a) Proposed VATCS at New Ridley

The Chair had written to 59 houses in New Ridley asking for indication of support or objection to the proposal to install a VATCS. A summary of responses to the consultation was circulated. Responses were received from fifteen houses, eight supporting the proposal and seven objecting to it. The responses were from 25 named individuals, 15 of whom were in support and 10 of whom were not. Those in support regarded the proposal as an important aspect of road safety whilst those who were not in favour mainly saw VATCS as ineffective. The Chair said that the results were inconclusive and other members questioned the level of support for additional VATCS, considering there are four existing devices within Stocksfield. Councillors recognised that speeding at this location is a problem but wanted to ensure that any funds were used in the most effective way. They discussed the option of alternative traffic calming measures. Mrs Dale said that if the Council did not support the installation of a VATCS, the funding could be used for other traffic calming measures. The Chair invited the Clerk to outline his initial investigations

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

into the enforcement of speed limits. The option exists for the Council to pay for the deployment of a dedicated police resource in Stocksfield for a defined period of time. The deployment could be repeated as and when the Council deemed it necessary. There will be cost implications but that level of detail is not yet available. Members recognised that traffic calming has a place in road safety measures but that police enforcement is also an important aspect. Members AGREED that the Clerk should pursue the police enforcement option discussed to identify costs. It was also AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mr Parker) that the Council should not support the installation of a VATCS device at New Ridley. **DISCHARGED**

b) Stocksfield Sports Field – Storage Container

The Clerk reported that the container is due to be moved in early November.

c) Village Gateways

The Clerk reported that the gateways at New Ridley had been planted. **DISCHARGED**

16/125 Finance - Approval of October Payments

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

16/126 Hedgerow at Stocksfield Sports Field

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report and the request by Broomley Bees (part of Broomley First School) to plant 'bee friendly' hedgerow saplings in the large gaps of the hedge on the southern boundary of the sports field. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Roy, seconded Mrs Pollock) to approve the request subject to the work being undertaken formally by Broomley First School to provide appropriate risk assessment and insurance cover.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

16/127 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 17/10/16

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Branch End Play Area (BEPA)

Members noted that Mr Parke and Mrs Pollock will work to put together a proposal for additional equipment at BEPA.

iii) Grant Applications over £500 (2017/18 budget)

Stocksfield Community Association It was AGREED to award a grant of £1,000 towards the purchase of replacement seats. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

Stocksfield Festival Committee It was AGREED to award a grant of £900 towards the cost of holding the 2017 Stocksfield Festival. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

iv) Grant Application up to £500 (2016/17 budget): 1st Stocksfield Scout Group

Mr Roy questioned the sustainability of the proposals within the grant application and the impact on the residents of Guessburn if they are successful. After discussion it was AGREED to award a further grant of £500 towards the cost of a new scout hut. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

v) Donation requests

It was AGREED to make the following donations and, where indicated, those made under Sec 137 Local Government Act 1972:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|---------|
| Stocksfield Coffee Club | £200 | |
| Royal British Legion | £100 | Sec 137 |
| Northumberland Age UK | £50 | Sec 137 |
| Great North Air Ambulance | £100 | Sec 137 |

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

vi) Fireworks/Bonfire Event 2017

Mr Davison reported that he had attended the 2016 event on 4 November. The event was extremely well organised with about 800 members of the public (including about 300 cars) attending and four trade stands. The firework display was high quality, lasting 25 minutes. There have been a number of very complimentary remarks on social media. The Clerk said that final details of costs of this event and potential donations to charities are yet to be confirmed by

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Newton and Bywell Parish Council. It was AGREED that Mr Davison would work with Newton and Bywell Parish Council in respect of the event in 2017. **DISCHARGED**

vi) *Draft Budget 2017/18*

The Chair referred to discussions at the GGAG and the need to notify the precept to NCC by the end of January. The precept will be set after the budget is determined. The Clerk referred to a number of budget areas where additional information is still needed. There was general agreement that the existing levels of service in respect of grass cutting should be maintained. Members noted the progress to date. The matter will be considered again at the next GGAG meeting. **Action: Clerk**

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

Planning report

Members noted the previously circulated planning report and the delegated powers used as outlined below. It was also AGREED to make no comment in respect of the newly received application 16/03863/FUL.

| | | |
|--|--|------------|
| 16/03559/PRUTPO The Stroan 11 Apperley Road | TPO Application for crown lift large pine tree by removing 6 lower limbs | No comment |
| BT Telephone Boxes on A695 at Birches Nook and Guessburn and at Broomley. | Proposed removal by BT | No comment |
| 16/03865/FUL Land south of Murrayfield, New Ridley | Proposed steel framed agricultural building | No comment |

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

Members noted the notes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016. Mr Roy reported great diversity of fish within the burn which is in very good condition. Maintenance of the station car park area would benefit from further volunteers. The new circular walks leaflet is being distributed tomorrow. Mr Roy said that he will not be standing as a councillor at the next elections and in view of his availability will not be able to chair future meetings of the ROW&EAG. It was AGREED to ask Mr Newman to chair the group. **Action: Clerk**

16/128 Parish Council Representatives

Town and Parish Councils' Conference

The Chair attended the above and updated members on its content:

- Three Local Authorities are in discussion with the Government about devolution.
- No clarity on the implications of Brexit at a local level.
- NCC has two partner organisations – ARCH and Active Northumberland
- The medium term financial plan 2017-20 requires a saving of £46M in addition to an 80% reduction of revenue support grant. Some services are not mandatory and are likely to be the first to suffer. There has already been a suggestion that Parish Councils should work collaboratively with each other.
- Freedom of information

16/129 Ad hoc use of sports fields

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated amendment to the above mentioned policy which separates the list of available pitches. It was AGREED to adopt the policy as proposed and to authorise the Clerk to amend the appendix as necessary at the beginning of each season without recourse to the Council. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

16/130 Remembrance Service 13 November 2016

The Chair asked if any councillors are able to join the service for an additional reading. Dr Vickers AGREED to attend on behalf of the Council.

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

16/131 Any other urgent business

None

16/132 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5 December 2016

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:

16/133 Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) – Parish Council Representative.

It was AGREED that the Clerk will write to the chair of Stocksfield Community Association to clarify the nature of the representative role of any parish councillor appointed as a director of SCATA.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.