

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 3 April 2017 at Stocksfield Community Centre

Present: Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs J Furniss, Mr C Liddle, 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 Lawson (Northumberland County Council (NCC)) Ms S Queenan, Ms A Hawes (residents).

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

17/40 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made: Mrs Pollock – Stocksfield Cricket Club.

17/41 Public Participation

Abandoned pallets of bricks Welton Close

Ms Queenan said that two pallets of bricks had been standing on NCC's land at the junction of Welton Close and Birkdene for a number of years yet reports to NCC have not resulted in any activity to remove them. Mrs Dale said she would speak to the relevant NCC staff and respond direct to Ms Queenan.

Birches Nook Cottages

Ms Hawes reported that, following earlier updates to the Council, she had met with relevant parties on 6 March 2017 and they reported acceptable water levels around her house. The discovery of an old sewer in September 2016 and the remedial works to it are to be monitored and a further site meeting is planned for 11 September 2017. Ms Hawes said she felt some progress was being made and her complaints are being taken seriously since her attendance at Parish Council meetings. She agreed to update the Council after September.

17/42 Anne Lawson – Community Regeneration Officer (Economic and Inclusion Policy Team, NCC)

The Chair introduced Anne Lawson and invited her to address members. Ms Lawson described the recent changes since the merger of the Locality Team and Social Enterprise Adviser. She said her role relates to the west of Northumberland and covers three main issues: continuation of social enterprise support, a degree of troubleshooting within NCC (such as ensuring effective links exist between town and parish councils and NCC) and supporting town and parish councils who may be looking to close gaps in service provision. She said that progressive and enterprising councils, such as Stocksfield, are actively seeking solutions to such problems and her role, when invited, is to assist in ensuring that this type of activity is undertaken in partnership across communities rather than in isolation. There was discussion about the potential involvement of Ms Lawson and Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) in developing the proposed residents' survey that is planned to assist in shaping the new Parish Council Plan. The Chair said that recent discussion between SCATA and the Council has left some members frustrated that the Parish Council, despite being a democratically elected body, is unable to be represented on the SCATA Board, something that the Council believes would be advantageous. Ms Lawson said that her advice to Stocksfield Community Association (SCA) in establishing SCATA was to appoint Board members based on their skills and abilities. In that way they should complement each other rather than exist as members simply because they have been nominated by their parent body, whether that body is the parish council or the local allotment society. The Chair pointed out the major difference between bodies such as the allotment or history society and the democratically elected parish council. Ms Lawson reiterated her advice to SCA which was to take the individual with the right skills. The Chair reminded members that the new Parish Council Plan is being developed and

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the Council will work with the SCATA Board in designing the residents' survey. The Chair thanked Ms Lawson for updating the Council on her role and looked forward to working with her in the future.

17/43 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale said that a resident had asked her for a new dog waste bin on the track between Painshawfield Road and the A695 and will pass on the resident's details to the Clerk. She further reported that the road surface at Cade Hill Road has been looked at and the footpath between Painshawfield Road and Ridley Mill Road is to be looked at by NCC's Footpaths Officer.

17/44 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 March 2017

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017 were a true and accurate record (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Prof Thompson).

17/45 Matters Arising

a) Local Publication by NCC of Applications

The Clerk said he had written to Cllr Davey (Leader of NCC). A reply has been received from Steven Mason, NCC's Chief Executive, in which Mr Mason acknowledged the adverse local response. He said that the matter is to be reviewed, taking into account the need to balance value for money, effectiveness of communication and the channels available. **DISCHARGED**

b) Stocksfield Sports Field – Storage Container

The Clerk reported that Lord Allendale has approved the retention of a larger container and the sports clubs have been informed. **DISCHARGED**

c) Multi Use Games Area - Ownership

The Clerk reported that the revised offer, subject to contract, had been made to Allendale Estates who are to consider the matter. The Clerk was asked to include the item as a continuing matter arising, pending a response. **Action: Clerk**

17/46 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 Mr Parker) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

b) Budget monitoring to 31 March 2017

The Clerk circulated a revised budget monitoring report which was noted by members.

c) External audit 2016/17

Members noted that the deadline for submission of the external audit report is 26 June 2017.

d) Recurring payments 2017/18

Members AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mr Parker) to approve the previously circulated schedule of recurring payments.

17/47 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 20/03/17

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Sports Field Grass Cutting: Revised Contract and new Health and Safety Policy

The Chair said that the proposed revision to the contract introduced a requirement for the contractor to submit a Health and Safety Policy to the Council for approval. Stocksfield Cricket Club's Health and Safety Policy had been considered by the GGAG and a minor amendment had been proposed. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to approve the revised contract and Health and Safety Policy with the addition in Section 7 relating to mobile phones '...it is advisable to carry one but it should not be used when operating machinery'. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

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iii) Review of Policies: Email and Internet Policy and Information Security Policy

After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Prof Thompson, seconded Mrs Pollock) to approve the policies unamended with the requirement for the Clerk to bring any relevant legislative changes to the attention of the Council and to review the policies in March 2019.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

iv) Membership of Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (TVCRP)

The Chair reminded members that the Council has been a member of Tyne Valley Rail Users' Group and that as a result of changes in the roles of the bodies concerned, the Council is now invited to join TVCRP as a Corporate member. The annual fee has not been set but is likely to be in the region of £10 and liability is restricted to £1. It was AGREED to become a Corporate member (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mrs Pollock), to authorise payment of a fee up to £50 and to appoint Dr Vickers as the Council's representative on the partnership.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)

Planning report

Members noted the previously circulated planning report, the delegated powers used and the additional applications received as outlined below.

17/00663/FUL Sports Field Adjacent to Cricket Field, Main Road	Provision of 42 'off-street' car parking spaces as overspill car park on area of land currently designated as sports field, with access through existing car park and screened by appropriate hedging to south	No comment, the Council is the applicant and its views are contained within the application.
17/00771/FUL Stocksfield Cricket Club NE43 7NN	Proposed extension to existing clubhouse; removal of part of existing building (current bar area) construction of two storey extension and single storey extensions to existing building with internal alterations to form new changing rooms, multi-purpose room, snooker club and admin accommodation.	Supported. The proposal complements the Council's plans for enhancements to sports facilities
17/00634/FELTPO Land west of 44 Cade Hill Rd	Proposed removal of branches to sycamore (x2) and oak trees and fell additional oak to fence height.	No comment

17/48 Parish Council Representatives

Tyne Valley Flood Action Groups

Mr Parker had attended a training session held for local flood action groups. The processes involved were broadly similar to those adopted by this Council in determining its own Flood Plan.

East Tynedale Town and Parish Councils' Forum

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting is on Wednesday 19 April and that she is unable to attend.

17/49 Any other urgent business

There were no other items of business.

17/50 Date of next meeting

Monday 15 May 2017 (also the Annual Parish Meeting).

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.58pm.