

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 March 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, Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies: Mr P Newman, Mr J Roy.

Also present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Ms S Spowart (Hexham Courant).

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

17/29 Declarations of Interest

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

17/30 Public Participation

Local Publication by Northumberland County Council (NCC) of Applications

Mr Parker raised the failure of NCC to publish information about planning applications, road closures and the like in the Hexham Courant. He noted that some items have appeared in the Courant but it was clarified that these had been identified and published by the Courant, not placed by NCC. Councillors were of the view that publication by NCC of items relating to Tynedale only in the Northumberland Gazette was wholly inappropriate. Dr Vickers questioned NCC's priorities adding that it has been able to commit money to various forms of advertising. The Chair said that many Tynedale residents seemed to feel marginalised by the actions of NCC and this would not help to make residents feel more comfortable. It was AGREED to write to NCC expressing the Council's concern. **Action: Clerk**

Rail disruption

Prof Thompson said that all rail services on the Tyne Valley line had been cancelled on Sunday 5 March without notification causing significant inconvenience. The Clerk was asked to write to the Tyne Valley Rail Users' Group seeking further information. **Action: Clerk**

Road surface Cade Hill Road

Prof Thompson said that the road surface at the west of Cade Hill Road was in a serious condition. Mrs Dale said she would arrange for the NCC's surveyor to look at it and report back. **Action: Mrs Dale**

Footpath Painshawfield Road to Ridley Mill Road

Mrs Furniss raised the condition of the fence adjacent to the top of the footpath at the above location. Mrs Dale agreed to look at it with the relevant NCC staff. **Action: Mrs Dale**

7.43pm Mrs Robson joined the meeting.

17/31 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale updated members on verge work on New Ridley Road. She said that a speed survey was conducted on the A695 at Broomley First School in 2016 and the average speed recorded of 33.5mph did not meet the criteria to forward the issue to the Northumbria Road Safety Partnership. The houses advertised for sale on Stobarts Field are for sale in compliance with the Sec 106 agreement. Mrs Dale agreed to forward an email to the Clerk for the information of councillors

17/32 Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2017

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

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17/33 Matters Arising

a) Footbridges in Community Woodland

The Clerk said he had contacted Allendale Estates after the last meeting and it has been reported that the wooden structures have been removed. **DISCHARGED**

b) Stocksfield Sports Field – Storage Container

The Clerk reported that the container has not been removed due to ground conditions however Stocksfield Cricket Club has purchased a new tractor to allow it to fulfil the terms of the grass cutting contract. The club, in conjunction with the Football Club, has asked if the Council would approve the retention of the existing container to allow the tractor to be stored within it. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mr Liddle) to authorise the retention of the existing container subject to the approval of Allendale Estates. **Action Clerk**

c) Stocksfield Sports Field – Admission of dogs

The Clerk reported that, following the last meeting, he had discussed the situation further with staff at the Cricket Club who have agreed to monitor the situation closely over the spring and summer months. Councillors expressed frustration that they were unable to enforce a ban on dogs using the sports fields, something which, under the previous Dog Control Orders, was within their power. After discussion it was AGREED to write to the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association in respect of the impact of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which introduced Public Space Protection Orders. **Action: Clerk Bg Forward**

17/34 Finance

a) Approval of February Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for February 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 to 28 February 2017

Members noted the budget monitoring report.

17/35 Parish Council Representatives

There were no representative meetings to report.

17/36 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 20/02/17

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) - Ownership

The Chair reminded members of the discussions at the last Council meeting and referred to an offer from the MUGA Committee to donate £3,000 to the Council as a contribution to the purchase of the additional section of MUGA currently owned by Allendale Estates. After discussion it was AGREED to accept the offer from the MUGA Committee as a contribution to the previously described purchase so that all of the land on which the MUGA is situated would be owned by the Parish Council and operated under the same terms. It was AGREED, subject to contract, to offer Allendale Estates £5,000 for the additional land and to pay for the reasonable professional and legal costs of the Estate. **Action: Clerk**

iii) Review of Standing Orders

After discussion, it was AGREED to approve the previously circulated revisions to Standing Orders and to review the matter in March 2019. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

iv) Review of Code of Conduct

The Chair referred to previously circulated revisions to the Code of Conduct which is based on NCC's Code of Conduct that covers County Councillors. After discussion it was AGREED to approve the revisions to the Code of Conduct and to review it in March 2019.

Action: Clerk DISCHARGED

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v) *Groundsman's Contract 2017/18*

The Chair referred to a previously circulated revision to the Groundsman's contract which had been amended to take account of additional requirements to, amongst other things, the maintenance of bus shelters and verges. It was AGREED to approve the revisions to the contract, the new annual cost and to vire £684 from the budget for sports fields grass cutting.

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.

17/00352/FUL 10 Batt House Road	Extension and alterations to dwelling	No comment (to note)
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c) **Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group (RoW&EAG)**

Members noted the previously circulated notes of the RoW&EAG. The Chair recognised the valuable and often unseen work that this group undertakes for the benefit of the community and thanked its members.

17/37 Stocksfield Sports Field – Overspill car park

The Clerk reported that the planning application for the above had been submitted on 23 February 2017. Members noted the update.

Action Clerk DISCHARGED

17/38 Any other urgent business

National Cycling Time Trial

The Chair informed members that the National Cycling Time Trial is planned to be held in Stocksfield on 29 October 2017. The event, which in previous years has attracted in excess of 2,000 spectators, is to be based at Stocksfield Cricket Club and the course runs between New Ridley Road and Hedley.

Speed survey A695 at Broomley First School

The Chair referred to information recently received from NCC which outlines the result of the speed survey undertaken on the A695 in May 2016 and which was mentioned by the County Councillor earlier. In general terms, the results show that most traffic is within the speed limit and almost all is below 35mph. The spikes between 36 and 45mph are relatively small and mainly outside school hours.

17/39 Date of next meeting

Monday 3 April 2017

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 8.47pm.