

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 6 November 2017 at Stocksfield Community Centre

**Present:** Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs J Furniss, Mr C Liddle, Mr D Parke, Mr M Parker, Dr P Vickers.

Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

**Apologies:** Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson.

**Also present:** Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Mr S Rickitt, Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC), Mrs H Dixon (resident), Ms S Spowart (Hexham Courant)

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

### **17/116 Declarations of Interest**

The following interests were declared: Chair, Dr Vickers, Mr Parker, Mrs Furniss – members of Stocksfield Community Association and Dr Vickers – resident near to Branch End Play Area.

### **17/117 Public Participation**

#### *Hedge A695 at Hall Farm Close*

Mrs Dixon said that the hedge at the above location remained uncut despite her previous complaints. The Clerk has previously reported the matter to Northumberland County Council (NCC) and will do so again.

**Action: Clerk**

#### *Parking on pavement, New Ridley Road*

The Chair reported that a disabled resident who uses a disability scooter has complained of cars parked on and completely obstructing the pavement on New Ridley Road. She has been advised that the police enforce such matters and to record the registration numbers of offending vehicles.

### **17/118 County Councillor Update**

Mrs Dale updated members on the following items: dog waste at Guessburn; western entrance to New Ridley – a traffic calming design is being developed; A695 at Ford Rise – diesel on the road surface has been cleaned and any further works will be combined with the proposed 20mph speed limit; New Ridley Road – speed calming measures to be proposed; street lighting; Citizens' Advice Bureau; and community transport.

### **17/119 Mr Stephen Rickitt Chief Officer of NALC**

Mr Rickitt circulated a briefing document that outlined the benefits of membership of NALC. He explained the role of NALC in linking with NCC and highlighted a number of key areas where NALC provides added value, including training, access to legal advice and guidance on a wide range of issues. The NALC website will be expanded to broaden the range of information and assistance available. The Chair recognised the work of NALC and, in particular, the recent legal advice that had been provided by the National Association. She thanked Mr Rickitt for attending the meeting and providing clarity about the role of NALC.

### **17/120 Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2017**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2017 were a true and accurate record (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mr Parke).

### **17/121 Matters Arising**

#### **a) Bus shelter Branch End**

The Clerk reported that, having examined the shelter, disabled or elderly residents could find it difficult to see approaching buses and, after discussion, it was AGREED to install a side extension to the wooden bench.

**Action: Clerk**

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## **b) Dogs on Sports Fields: Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)**

The Chair drew members' attention to the letter from Cllr Sanderson (NCC) which responded to a letter from the Clerk. Members were of the opinion that the reply did not address specific issues raised and, after discussion, it was AGREED to write to Cllr Sanderson for clarity and to seek further legal advice from the National Association of Local Councils to clarify the Council's ability to invoke byelaws.

**Action: Clerk**

## **17/122 Finance**

### **Approval of October Payments**

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

## **17/123 Parish Council Representatives**

### *Annual Town and Parish Conference 05/10/17*

The Clerk had attended this event and his notes had been circulated previously.

### *Dementia Friends 12/10/17*

The Chair reported that the focus is on making the village 'dementia friendly' but the plan is to widen this to provide support to everybody who needs it, whether they suffer from dementia or not. The Chair will continue to attend these meetings but other members would be welcome.

### *East Tynedale Parish and Town Council's Forum 12/10/17*

The Chair reported that there were three main issues. A meeting is planned for 01/12/17 with Guy Opperman MP in relation to flooding issues around the River Tyne and the Forum is keen to ensure that a more holistic approach is taken that looks at the management of all aspects of the river and its banks. A survey of existing Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs within East Tynedale is to be circulated. Many local councils have identified failures in grass cutting and weed spraying by NCC this year.

## **17/124 Advisory Groups**

### **a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)**

#### *i) Notes of GGAG meeting 16/10/17*

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

#### *ii) Bank reconciliation to 30/09/17*

Members noted that the bank reconciliation to 30/09/17 had been satisfactorily checked and duly signed by Mr Parke.

#### *iii) Grant applications*

##### *Stocksfield Players*

After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to make a grant of £480 to Stocksfield Players.

##### *Tuesday Club*

It was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mr Liddle) that dispensations be granted to the Chair, Dr Vickers, Mr Parker and Mrs Furniss to allow them to participate in and vote in relation to this item. After discussion it was also AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to make a grant of £300 to the Tuesday Club.

##### *1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Scouts*

Dr Vickers declared an interest in this item and it was AGREED (proposed Mrs Furniss, seconded Mr Parker) to grant a dispensation to Dr Vickers to participate in and vote in relation to this item. After discussion it was also AGREED to make a grant of £500 from the financial year 2017/18 and £6,000 from the financial year 2018/19 to 1<sup>st</sup> Stocksfield Scouts. It was also AGREED to make the latter payment from existing funds in this calendar year.

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

#### *iv) Donation requests*

It was AGREED to make the following donations from the charitable collections at the bonfire event in 2016: Great North Air Ambulance - £150; Royal British Legion £100. Both donations were made under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972.

**Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

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## *v) Budget and precept calculations 2018/19*

Members considered a previously circulated report of the Clerk. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to set the budget for 2018/19 as circulated and to set the precept for that year at £85,260. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

## *vi) Reviews of Policies*

It was AGREED to approve the Disciplinary and Grievance procedures without amendment and to review them in November 2019. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

## *vii) Christmas tree lights*

Members AGREED to replace the Christmas tree lights with low voltage lighting in accordance with the quotes received. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

## *viii) Planters at Bywell Bridge*

Members considered an offer from Bywell Parish Council to maintain new planters which are to be installed by NCC on the south side of Bywell Bridge. It was AGREED to include the maintenance of the new planters within the Groundsman's other responsibilities and to thank Bywell Parish Council for their offer. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

## *ix) Work on private land*

Members considered the request to remove gorse bushes from private land adjacent to the seat at the west end of New Ridley to open the restricted view. Concern was expressed this may set a precedent and the Clerk was asked to examine options to relocate the seat. **Action Clerk**

## *x) Trees at Branch End Play Area (BEPA)*

Members considered a request to trim the height of trees within BEPA which have started to obscure the view of some residents. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to take no action at this time but to review the matter in 12 months.

**Bring Forward**

## *xi) Consultation: NCC – bus timetables*

After discussion it was AGREED to respond positively but to draw attention to potential resourcing issues. **Action: Clerk DISCHARGED**

Members AGREED to suspend section 2.18 of Standing Orders relating to the length of the meeting.

## ***b) Planning Advisory Group (PAG)***

There were no new applications. Mr Parker said that the previous application 17/02417/FUL at land east of Apperley Dene is to be considered at the Local Area Council on 14 November 2017. The planning officer's report is not yet available.

## **17/125 Consultation: Northumberland Area Special Educational Needs School Place Planning Strategy**

The Chair referred to the previously circulated consultation. Mr Liddle AGREED to prepare a response on behalf of the Council and members were asked to send comments to him before 13 November. **Action: Mr Liddle**

## **17/126 Replacement of dog waste bins**

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report which considered maintaining, as far as possible, a corporate style of general waste bin. After discussion, it was AGREED to use the Futuro waste bin at 'urban' locations wherever possible and, due to the proximity of two existing bins (one dog waste and one general waste) at Birkdene, to remove the dog waste bin at Birkdene without replacement. **Action: Clerk**

## **17/127 Any other urgent business**

### *Sports Field – lease renewal*

The Clerk reported that negotiations had failed to agree a revision to the alienation clause of the lease and the Council is therefore proceeding with the previously agreed version.

### *Sling Rotator – Branch End Play Area*

The Clerk reported that installers have undertaken a satisfactory repair of the equipment. He asked members to look at the equipment should they visit the play area and notify any issues. The equipment is checked regularly by the Groundsman. **DISCHARGED**

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## **17/128 Date of next meeting**

Monday 4 December 2017

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:

## **17/129 Groundsman Contract 2018/21**

After discussion members AGREED to offer the above contract to Martin Stewart, trading as Neetfleet.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.41pm.