

# Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5 February 2018 at Stocksfield Community Centre

**Present:** Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs J Furniss, Mr C Liddle, Mr D Parke, Mrs H Rae, Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson.  
Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

**Also Present:** Mrs A Dale (County Councillor)

**Apologies:** Mr M Parker, Dr P Vickers

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

### 18/2/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 18/2/14 Public Participation

#### *Traffic in Stocksfield*

The Chair referred to a series of emails from a resident (previously circulated) relating to the speed and volume of traffic through the village, fuel spillages and the use of mobile phones by drivers. The resident believes that the A695 should not be regarded as a strategic route. Mrs Robson's views mirrored those of the resident and commented that there had been a significant change in the last ten years that has impacted adversely on the quality of life of those living on the A695 and the ability of residents to use the footpaths safely. Mr Liddle suggested looking at providing a footpath across the fields from Branch End to Merryshields. Mrs Dale AGREED to look at this option and report back.

Prof Thompson referred to the damaged central refuge island near the Spar garage and questioned its need. Mrs Dale AGREED to look at whether the island should be removed as opposed to being repaired and to report back. Mrs Dale said she has previously asked whether the A695 can be re-categorised but this is not possible, adding that traffic volume simply does not justify a by-pass. The Chair said that it is important to ensure that the issues raised are not looked at in isolation and asked if Northumberland County Council (NCC) can provide suitable advice that would ensure a holistic approach is taken to alleviate the problems. Mrs Dale said that there is work underway, prompted by NCC's decision to introduce 20mph zones outside schools, for a design for the area from Branch End, along the A695 and past Broomley First School. She added that the 2018/19 Local Transport Plan (LTP), which agrees funding, should be agreed in the near future and she planned to hold an open consultation event at the school where local residents can see and comment upon the proposed design for the road, although as yet there is no timescale for this event. The Chair said it is important that the Council is involved in the consultation process and Mrs Dale replied that time could be set aside.

The Chair summarised by saying that the extent to which the design, referred to by Mrs Dale, will address the issues discussed by the Council this evening is not yet known and there may be other issues that the Council will want to be considered. The Chair said that the content of the LTP and the proposed design for the road are both critical and asked that the matter be discussed further at the next meeting in light of any further information. The Clerk was asked to update the resident accordingly.

**Action: Mrs Dale, Clerk**

#### *Pedestrian controlled crossing on New Ridley Road near junction of A695*

The Chair referred to concerns that the relocation of the Post Office to the Spar garage will result in many elderly and/or disabled residents having to cross New Ridley Road at the junction of the A695 in order to access the Post Office on foot. The current arrangement allows them to cross the A695 using the pedestrian crossing. There are clear difficulties in positioning a crossing on New Ridley Road near the junction and a crossing further away from the junction would be less effective. The initial assumption about increased elderly/disabled pedestrians crossing New Ridley Road is reasonable. Mrs Dale said that she is meeting an officer from NCC on site to discuss the options and will report back.

**Action: Mrs Dale**

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## *Education in West Northumberland and East Tynedale*

The Chair referred to residents' concerns over the development of the schools' partnerships in Hexham and Haydon Bridge, the impact which this might have on the partnership in Prudhoe, and the implications for a possible move to a two tier education system across Northumberland. The Council has previously discussed some of these issues and a consultation period on the West Northumberland schools' partnership is due to commence on 19 February 2018. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the consultation documents are circulated to members to allow the Council to consider a response.

**Action: Clerk**

## *Replacement of dog waste bins*

The Clerk referred to a number of compliments from residents about the replacement of dog waste bins. He added that the work is complete with the exception of the bin at the junction of Batt House Road and Ridley Mill Road which cannot be installed due to planned work by Northumbria Water (NWL). NWL has agreed to install the new bin at no cost when their work is completed.

## **18/2/15 County Councillor Update**

Mrs Dale updated members on the refurbishment of County Hall, new street lighting on New Ridley Road, the surface of Cade Hill Road, gully cleaning and no waiting lines. She said that an officer from NCC will discuss traffic calming measures at New Ridley with residents in due course. She asked whether the Council is prepared to purchase two grit bins on her behalf. The Chair said that the issue of grit bins will be discussed at the next meeting of the General Governance Advisory Group.

## **18/2/16 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 January 2018**

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2018 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mrs Furniss, seconded Mrs Rae).

## **18/2/17 Matters Arising**

### **a) Fireworks in Stocksfield**

The Clerk reminded members of previous discussions and said that Stocksfield Cricket Club is to consider whether they are willing to hold a fireworks event this year at Bywell showground. After discussion it was AGREED that Stocksfield Festival Committee should also be asked if they are prepared to consider staging the event.

**Action: Clerk**

### **b) Stocksfield Sports Field: Overspill Car Park**

The Clerk reported that the tender process is underway and closes on 11 February 2018.

## **18/2/18 Finance**

### **a) Approval of January Payments**

It was AGREED that the payments for January be approved as detailed in the previously circulated schedule (proposed Mrs Furniss, seconded Mr Parker) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

### **b) Budget monitoring to 31 January 2018**

Members noted the budget monitoring report.

## **18/2/19 Parish Council Representatives**

### *Licensing Service of new priest in charge*

The Chair reminded members that Dr Vickers attended the above service on behalf of the Council. He has suggested that the new priest should be invited to a Council meeting in the future.

## **18/2/20 Advisory Groups**

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

#### *i) Notes of GGAG meeting 22/01/18*

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

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### *ii) Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Committee: revised constitution*

The Chair referred to a previously circulated proposed constitution and outlined the reasons behind the amendments. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mrs Furniss, seconded Prof Thompson) to approve the constitution and ask that the MUGA Committee consider the proposed changes.

**Action: Clerk**

### *iii) Awareness raising sessions for councillors*

The Chair referred to a proposal to hold awareness raising sessions in respect of the General Data Protection Regulations and the Members' Code of Conduct. It was AGREED to hold a session for all members at 7pm on Monday 9 April 2018.

**Action: Clerk**

### *iv) Subscription renewal: Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)*

It was AGREED to renew membership of CPRE at a cost of £36.

**Action: Clerk**

### *v) Grant Application: Stocksfield Cricket Club*

The Chair referred to a previously circulated application for funding towards the cost of replacing the club's lawnmower. The mower is used to cut the cricket squares and practice area, not in connection with the club's contract to cut the sports field grass. The Council's Grant Policy specifies the timescales in which grant applications of up to £500 must be submitted and this application failed to meet the deadline. However, as the reason for the application could not reasonably have been foreseen and at least £500 remains unallocated within the grant budget, it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Prof Thompson) to suspend temporarily the deadline for submission of applications. After further discussion it was AGREED (proposed Mr Liddle, seconded Mrs Robson) to award a grant of £500 for the purpose outlined.

**Action: Clerk**

### **b) Planning Advisory Group**

Members noted the delegated authorities used as set out below:

<b>17/03250/FUL</b> <b>Moresby, Main Road</b>	Single storey 2 bedroom annex to side/rear. Demolish garage and rebuild further back.	No comment Note use of delegated powers
<b>17/04517/FUL</b> <b>Land to west of 3</b> <b>Apperley Road</b>	One detached house	No comment Note use of delegated powers
<b>17/04669/FUL</b> <b>65 Guessburn</b>	Resubmission: Construction of two storey rear extension and porch	No comment Note use of delegated powers
<b>17/00158/FUL</b> <b>Hillcot, Hindley</b>	Extend above kitchen and bathroom to provide bathroom on first floor	No comment Note use of delegated powers
<b>17/00215/FUL</b> <b>Land east of 19 Batt</b> <b>House Road</b>	Construction of Dutch dormer bungalow and garage (resubmission)	No comment Note use of delegated powers

In respect of the application 17/03250/FUL, the Clerk reported that an initial pre application enquiry relating to building a single storey dwelling at that location was received by NCC but was assessed as a minor enquiry and not referred to the Council for comment. After discussion members agreed that a pre application enquiry for a new house in a garden in the village is not a minor enquiry in the context of a village and it was AGREED that the Clerk should write to NCC to express the Council's concerns.

**Action: Clerk**

### **18/2/21 Dementia Friends**

The Chair has previously attended meetings and events in connection with a group of residents attempting to raise awareness across the village of dementia and how to cope with it. Initially there appears to have been a desire to broaden the work to cover a wider range of vulnerabilities although the current activity appears restricted to dementia. The next event is to be held at 2pm on 7 March 2018 and Mrs Furniss indicated she may be able to attend on behalf of the Council.

### **18/2/22 Residents' Survey**

The Chair reminded members that Stocksfield Community Association Trading Arm (SCATA) has been looking at various options with regard to the provision of community transport. A draft survey has been prepared which seeks to identify local need and which could be incorporated into the Council's own residents' survey. Dr Vickers has agreed to lead on the survey. Mr Liddle, Mr Parke and Mrs Rae indicated they are prepared to assist in the matter.

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## **18/2/23 Review of Local Government Standards – Consultation**

The Chair referred to a previously circulated consultation document and it was AGREED that members and the Clerk will respond as individuals should they wish to do so, either direct to the Committee on Standards in Public Life or to Northumberland Association of Local Councils.

## **18/2/24 Any other business**

There was no other business.

## **18/2/25 Date of next meeting**

Monday 5 March 2018

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.03pm.