

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

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

Present: Ms M Hunt (Chair), Mrs J Furniss, Mr C Liddle, Mr D Parke, Mr M Parker, Mrs H Rae, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers

Also Present: Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Mr J Carslake (resident)

Apologies: Mrs J Robson

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. Dr Vickers agreed to perform the role of temporary unpaid clerk due to the absence of Mr Spencer.

18/3/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/3/27 Public Participation

Traffic in Stocksfield

Mr Carslake said he has previously been in discussion with the Council about the matter and was unhappy with statements he had received. He believes that the Council must define precisely what it wants from Northumberland County Council (NCC) in order to be successful. Mrs Dale reminded members that the A695 is a strategic route in respect of which NCC must meet government criteria. Removal of the status of strategic route is a government decision which would also have a detrimental impact in terms of the resources devoted to its maintenance. She added that traffic density does not justify a by-pass and a new Tyne crossing has been shown not to be feasible by a study.

The Chair said there is no doubt that traffic density has changed significantly over the last 30 years and referred to the impact on councillors who live on the A695. She recognised Mr Carslake's discontent with previous statements from the Council but it is difficult to identify concrete practical proposals that could be introduced. The Council has worked with Mrs Dale to secure traffic surveys on the road which have provided empirical evidence relating to speeding but as a strategic route, there will always be cars and goods vehicles using it to access the A68 and beyond. She added that highways are not the responsibility of the Council and, whilst sympathetic, the Council has highlighted problems to NCC.

Seat at New Ridley

Mr Liddle referred to postings on social media about the relocation of the seat at New Ridley. The Chair said that the matter should be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

18/3/28 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 February 2018

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2018 were a true and accurate record (proposed Prof Thompson, seconded Mrs Rae).

18/3/29 Matters Arising

a) Dogs at Sports Field: Public Space Protection Order

The Chair referred members to a previously circulated response from Cllr Sanderson of NCC in which NCC expressed the view that a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to exclude dogs from the sports fields is not justified. The Clerk was asked to explore further options relating to bye-laws.

Action: Clerk

b) Traffic in Stocksfield

The Chair reminded members of the discussions at the previous meeting and the reference to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2018/19. Mrs Dale said that the government funded LTP prioritised work across Northumberland. £50,000 has been provided for an anti skid surface on the A695 at the junction with Cade Hill Road, with further surface work planned for Broomley Fell Road, Apperley Dene to Scales Cross and Riding Mill to Stocksfield. The proposals for the 20mph limit on the A695 are included and will be consulted locally. Additionally, outside the

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LTP, NCC is looking at potential bollards on A695 to protect pedestrians, and surface work on New Ridley Road. The request for a pavement on New Ridley Road between New Ridley and Lead Road had been excluded from the LTP as it related to leisure activity which scores lower when being prioritised. Mrs Dale also reported that the traffic island on the A695 at the eastern entrance to Stocksfield is to be removed and she is waiting for further information in relation to a potential new public right of way connecting Branch End and Merryshields.

c) Pedestrian crossing New Ridley Road at junction with A695

Mrs Dale reported that NCC believes this not to be viable. The Chair impressed on members the need to monitor the situation from 16 March when the Post Office relocates.

18/3/30 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale updated members on the gully clearances in Cade Hill Road, the location of proposed grit bins in Birkdene, the street lighting replacement programme and the education consultation. Prof Thompson queried whether all the gullies on Cade Hill Road had been cleared as claimed. Mrs Dale said she would enquire further and report back.

18/3/31 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 Furniss, seconded Mr Parke) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

b) Budget monitoring to 28 February 2018

Members noted the budget monitoring report.

18/3/32 Parish Council Representatives

East Tynedale Town and Parish Council Forum 22/02/18

The Chair updated members about the above forum meeting which she had attended. The Forum is collating information about Vehicle Activated Traffic Calming Signs used in East Tynedale with a potential to standardise equipment and maintenance and is also looking to share information about suppliers of more general equipment – eg grit bins and bus shelters. She added that the Chair of the Forum had stood down from his role as parish councillor at Wylam and a replacement Chair would need to be appointed in due course.

18/3/33 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 19/02/18

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Stocksfield Sports Field – consideration of tenders for construction of car park

The Chair referred to a previously circulated summary of tenders received and to detailed discussion at the GGAG about the contract. It was AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mrs Furniss) to

- remove items 38 (regarding lighting) and 39 (relating to hedge planting) from the specification,
- award the revised contract to the lowest tender and
- in the event of a failure by the provider of lowest tender to accept the contract to award the revised contract to the second lowest tender.

Action: Clerk

iii) Bank reconciliation to 31/12/17

Members noted the bank reconciliation which has been signed as correct by Mr Parke.

iv) Revised grant policy

It was AGREED (proposed Prof Thompson, seconded Mrs Furniss) to approve the previously circulated grant policy and to review the policy in March 2020.

Action: Clerk

v) Grant Application: Stocksfield Baptist Church Lunch Club

The Chair referred to a previously circulated application for funding towards the cost of replacing the club's two cookers. It was AGREED (proposed Mrs Rae, seconded Mr Parke) to award a grant of £500 for the purpose outlined.

Action: Clerk

vi) Grit bins

Members noted the discussion which is to be further considered at the next meeting of GGAG.

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vii) Sponsorship of Branch End Play Area

The Chair referred to a request from a local business to sponsor Branch End play Area in return for the opportunity to advertise. After discussion it was AGREED to ask the Clerk to discuss the proposal further with the business concerned.

Action: Clerk

b) Planning Advisory Group

Members noted the delegated authorities used and AGREED to comment and object to planning applications as set out below:

18/00217/FUL Barn south of Redshaw Foot, Stocksfield	Partial conversion of byre to provide holiday accommodation	Comment only: Unauthorised diversion of public footpath Change of land use from agricultural without change of use permission.
18/00327/COU Wheelbirks Farm	Change of use from play barn to workshop/storage	No comment Note use of delegated powers
18/00354/FUL 4 Nevill Road	Proposed single storey rear/side extension	No comment Note use of delegated powers
18/00462/FUL 9 Meadowfield Terr	Construction of rear extension	No comment Note use of delegated powers
18/00518/FUL The Ridge, 25 Painshawfield Rd	Block up existing west facing window and open up new north facing window	No comment Note use of delegated powers
17/02417/FUL Land east of Apperley Dene Stocksfield	Small single storey annex to provide additional accommodation (revised application)	Object: Inappropriate development within Green Belt.

c) Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group (RoWE)

Members noted the notes of the meeting held on 12 February 2018. Dr Vickers said that RoWE members will undertake a risk assessment in connection with clearance work by volunteers when working on behalf of the Council. He added that the Stocksfield Station Working Group has been established, whose Chair is also the Chair of the RoWE, which will co-ordinate the maintenance aspects of the station's environs and liaise with the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership. The Chair reminded members of the continuing work of members of the RoWE and thanked those involved for their efforts.

d) Communications Advisory Group (CAG)

i) Notes of CAG held on 09/02/18

Members noted the notes of the meeting of CAG held on 9 February 2018.

ii) Review of Council's signage

The proposed content and layout of the replacement signs were detailed in an Appendix to the notes of the meeting. After discussion it was AGREED to install signs as described, subject to a separate decision relating to the formal name of the Council.

Action: Clerk

iii) Formal name of the Council

Mr Liddle outlined the discussions of CAG relating to the most appropriate name for the Council and the view that the Council should consider renaming itself Stocksfield Parish Council. Such renaming would, in many ways, reflect reality in that the Council is more often than not referred to simply as Stocksfield Parish Council. Including 'Broomley' is purely historical and relates to a period of time when the settlements were of similar sizes and other settlements within the Parish were insignificant by comparison. Use of the full name, particularly in official alphabetical lists, can easily confuse when a user searches for the Council's name under 'S'. With one or two exceptions in the extreme west of the parish, the postal address for all premises within the Council's area is Stocksfield. Members were of the view that the name Stocksfield Parish Council would more properly reflect the composition of the Council's area and noted that the principal authority has a power, but not a duty, to change the name of a parish council at its request. The cost implications of such a change are relatively minor. After discussion, whilst members generally supported the proposal, it was AGREED to consult with residents before making a decision.

Action: Clerk

iv) Corporate branding of Parish Council

In view of the previous item, this matter was deferred to a future meeting. **Action: Clerk**

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18/3/34 Consultations

a) West of Northumberland Education

The Chair referred to the above consultation which relates to the provision of education within the west of Northumberland. She said that the Council has a limited role in this regard and, whilst sympathetic to villages facing the closure of apparently viable schools, should focus its attention on the impact on Broomley First School. She reminded members that despite drawing from different catchment areas and being 'feeders' for different schools, Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools are 'federated' and share a head teacher. Each option for West Northumberland includes the closure of Whittonstall School. The potential financial impact of such a closure on Broomley First School is significant, with the potential for at least half of the funding for the head teacher to disappear. More generally the provision of education across Northumberland has become very fragmented (for various reasons) and there is an absolute need to determine the future of 'high schools' before addressing issues within the lower tiers. The deliberations over west Northumberland have also impacted on finalisation of the Prudhoe Multi Academy Trust. After discussion it was AGREED that the Chair would respond to the consultation as outlined.

Action: Chair

b) Post 16 Transport

The consultation document had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion it was AGREED to respond to the consultation in a generally positive way but not to complete the detailed survey.

Action: Clerk

c) Getabout Access scheme

Members discussed the previously circulated consultation document and agreed the scheme offered the potential for residents from outlying areas to access main bus routes on the A695. Dr Vickers AGREED to respond on the Council's behalf.

Action: Dr Vickers

18/3/35 A695 Stocksfield Sports Field: Proposed No waiting restrictions

Mr Parker said that the development of an overspill car park at the Sports Field will provide enough parking to remove the need to park vehicles on the A695. In order to prevent continued parking on the A695, it was AGREED (proposed Mr Parker, seconded Mrs Furniss) to ask NCC via Mrs Dale (subject to the provision of the overspill car park) to introduce a permanent parking restriction on the A695 from Broomley First School along the front of the Sports Fields.

Action: Clerk

18/3/36 Stocksfield Sports Field: Vermin control

Members discussed the current arrangements for vermin control on the sports fields and AGREED (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Mr Parker) to formalise the arrangements for vermin control by inviting suitable providers to quote for the work.

Action: Clerk

18/3/37 Any other business

There was no other business.

18/3/38 Date of next meeting

Monday 9 April 2018

The Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.27pm.