

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9 April 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, Mrs J Robson, Professor R Thompson, Dr P Vickers
Mr N Spencer (Clerk to the Council).

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

Apologies: There were no apologies.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. She reinforced the importance of the information provided by the Clerk during the earlier Data Protection Awareness session. She reminded members that draft data protection documentation would be considered by the General Governance Advisory Group and then presented to the full Council at the next meeting. Members will need to be aware of the background information already provided to inform their decision making on 14 May 2018.

18/4/39 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/4/40 Public Participation

A695 Branch End

Mrs Robson referred to discussion at previous meetings and the decision of Northumberland County Council (NCC) to remove the traffic island on the A695 at the eastern entrance to the village. She had been contacted by residents from four houses who oppose the decision and who all regard the island as an important traffic calming measure. Some residents use the island to cross the road. Mrs Dale confirmed that she was aware of the views expressed. Mrs Robson also asked if the implications of the recent collision outside the chemist shop are being taken seriously and Mrs Dale said she would provide more information in her update.

Branch End Post Office – relocation delays

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident asking if the Council has contacted the Post Office about the absence of post office facilities at Branch End. The information available to members suggested that technical problems were causing the delay to relocating the services to the Spar garage. After discussion it was AGREED to monitor the situation and review it at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

18/4/41 County Councillor Update

Mrs Dale updated members on the traffic issues at Branch End. She highlighted a shortage of parking spaces and vehicles parking both on double yellow lines and pavements. NCC will look at potential solutions but residents do not want to lose on-street parking spaces. In respect of the proposed double yellow lines at the Sports Fields, Mrs Dale said that she intends to leave three on-street parking spaces near the school for visitors to the school and residents. Once the proposals for all double yellow lines in the village are complete, Mrs Dale undertook to bring the matter back to the Council. Mrs Dale reported that NCC's structural engineers are working with the builder in relation to the land slip at Burnside to rectify the situation. The solution is unlikely to be in the near future and, in the meantime, the temporary traffic lights will remain in place. Flooding issues and pothole repairs are dealt with using a prioritisation process due to resourcing issues and litter collection has suffered as a result. Mrs Dale also referred to issues relating to the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and a report to be considered under 'matters arising'. She said the northern end of New Ridley Road usually has cars parked on both sides of the road and these act as a natural traffic calming measure. The number of cars owned by residents cannot be influenced and there is very little that NCC can do. The section of New Ridley Road near Batt House Road was considered for the installation of a chicane but this has been dropped pending police speed enforcement. The requested footpath at New Ridley is

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

unlikely to meet the criteria for prioritisation by the LTP as it relates to leisure activity. Residents who use that section of road are able to consider the personal risk involved and decide whether to use it or not. Where school children are using roads without footpaths to attend schools they do not have such a choice.

18/4/42 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 March 2018

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2018 were a true and accurate record (proposed Mr Parke, seconded Dr Vickers).

18/4/43 Matters Arising

a) Traffic in Stocksfield – Local Transport Plans

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report which outlined the recent submissions of the Council for inclusion in each yearly LTP. The report questioned whether the degree of risk was properly considered in NCC's decision making, particularly considering the results of NCC's traffic surveys at that location. Members generally agreed that the risks to pedestrians at that location are high. The Chair said that over time the number of users on foot has increased as the population of New Ridley has also increased, which has included an associated increase in families and children. She added that the road is not a country lane but a route in an area where people are living. It is used by pedestrians including those with prams and in wheelchairs. After discussion it was AGREED that Mrs Dale would work with NCC to look at options that would incorporate the provision of a footpath as an integral part of a wider road safety scheme and to report back to the Council in due course. Members also discussed the section of New Ridley Road from Tynedale Gardens to the A695 which had previously been highlighted as a problem. After discussion it was AGREED to monitor the situation on this stretch of road and consider placing an item in NE43 News. Members noted that the introduction of speed enforcement on New Ridley Road has not yet commenced and there has been no explanation from NCC. Mrs Dale asked for copies of relevant correspondence to enable her to follow up the matter with NCC.

Action: Clerk, Mrs Dale

b) Sponsorship of Branch End Play Area

The Clerk reminded members of previous discussions about the suggestion that a local business should sponsor Branch End Play Area in some way in exchange for advertising. After further discussion it was AGREED to examine the potential for income generation from advertising in due course and to write to the local business concerned to update them with the current situation.

Action: Clerk

c) Stocksfield Sports Field: Vermin control

The Clerk reported that the existing provider of vermin control has agreed to continue to provide the service at an annual cost of £150 and to enter into a suitable contract. Members noted the update.

DISCHARGED Action: Clerk

18/4/44 Finance

a) Approval of March Payments

It was AGREED that the payments for March be approved as detailed in the previously circulated schedule (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Prof Thompson) and the summary of receipts and payments was noted.

b) Budget monitoring to 31 March 2018

Members noted the budget monitoring report.

18/4/45 Parish Council Representatives

There were no representative meetings.

18/4/46 Advisory Groups

a) General Governance Advisory Group (GGAG)

i) Notes of GGAG meeting 19/03/18

Members noted the previously circulated notes.

ii) Stocksfield Sports Field User Group meeting held on 12/03/18

Members noted the notes of the meeting and approved the proposed event to stage a beer festival on 7 September 2018. The Clerk was asked to pass on information about potential users of the marquee on the following day.

DISCHARGED Action: Clerk

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

iii) Edgewell cemetery

The Chair referred to a matter raised by the family of a recently deceased Stocksfield resident about the higher costs for Stocksfield residents to be interred at Edgewell cemetery, compared to Prudhoe residents. The differential costs dependent upon place of residence are normal and any agreement with Prudhoe Town Council for concessionary fees for Stocksfield residents would involve costs to the Council to assist in the maintenance of the cemetery. The Council currently provides funding to support the local cemetery at Hindley and members were concerned about the implications should residents seek to be interred at other cemeteries in Corbridge or Hexham. After discussion it was AGREED to take no further action on this matter and to inform the family accordingly.

DISCHARGED Action: Clerk

iv) Proposed additional grit bins

The Chair referred to the report from Mrs Dale that residents had requested two additional grit bins for locations on Birkdene and her proposal to make a financial contribution of up to £150 towards the cost. NCC has declined to provide further bins as the locations do not meet its criteria. The Council is able to purchase grit bins from any supplier but the responsibility and costs for filling with grit would fall to the Council. Alternatively the Council can purchase unmarked grit bins from NCC at a cost of £200 each which includes three bins of grit during a year. Members were concerned about making an objective decision in the light of NCCs' assessment against its own criteria and the need to ensure that any future requests can be assessed on the same basis. After discussion it was AGREED to ask Mrs Dale to contact the residents concerned and ask them to make direct contact with the Clerk so that their concerns can be fully explored.

Action: Clerk

v) Seat at New Ridley

The Chair referred to discussion at the last meeting and to a previously circulated report from the Clerk. Three residents have contacted the Council requesting that the seat at New Ridley is repositioned to its original location, citing the inferior view, accessibility issues and the potential for volunteers to cut back the gorse bushes. The Chair reminded members that the original decision was prompted by the view from the seat having been obscured by gorse bushes on private land and was taken in light of safety concerns due to the speed of vehicles travelling east on the bend. The Groundsman has adapted the edge of the verge and, through further cultivation of the grass, the access from the road should improve. Additionally some work is needed to ensure the area in front of the seat does not fill with water. After discussion it was AGREED to continue to improve the access to the seat (through liaison between the Clerk and the Groundsman), to place an article in NE43 News that informs residents of the rationale for the decision, and to assess any further action needed at the seat's current location in September 2018.

Action: Clerk

vi) Wesley Nealley Memorial

In June 1998 the body of a young boy who had been murdered in Newcastle was left at the side of a country road within the Parish. Plaques were mounted on the stone wall at this location which was maintained by family members for many years but the site is now overgrown. In view of the twentieth anniversary of his death it was AGREED to ask the Groundsman to cut back the undergrowth once or twice a year as necessary.

DISCHARGED Action: Clerk

vii) Stocksfield Sports Field – overspill car park

The Clerk referred to a previously circulated report concerning a mathematical error in the original tender of the successful contractor, something that became apparent after the contract was revised, awarded and accepted. After discussion it was AGREED (proposed Dr Vickers, seconded Mrs Furniss) to take no action. It was further AGREED to make application to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of £52,676 over the term of twenty years.

DISCHARGED Action: Clerk

viii) Donation request – Citizens Advice Northumberland

It was AGREED to donate £150 to Citizens' Advice Northumberland under Sec 137 Local Government Act 1972.

Action: Clerk

Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council

b) Planning Advisory Group

Members noted the delegated authorities used as set out below:

18/00765/FUL Stable Cottage and The Granary, Old Ridley	Proposed single storey rear extension, infilling the current area between Stable Cottage and the Granary	No comment Note use of delegated powers
The Ridge, 25 Painshawfield Rd	New covered front porch, combing [sic] bay windows to garden with sliding doors, narrow 2 no. west facing windows, lower cills on 4 no. windows, new utility window.	No comment Note use of delegated powers

18/4/47 Consultations

Northumberland Local Plan (NCC)

The Chair referred to the previously circulated documentation that sought the referred locations for housing and employment development and the key planning issues that the Local Plan should consider. The council has provided responses to previous consultations and it was AGREED not to respond further.

DISCHARGED

18/4/48 The Parish Council Plan

The Chair updated members that the councillors involved in developing the Parish Council Plan will meet in the near future to progress the matter with an emphasis on the residents' survey. Members noted the update.

18/4/49 Any other business

There was no other business.

18/4/50 Date of next meeting

Monday 14 May 2018

The Chair reminded members that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on the 14 May and the Council's Annual meeting would follow immediately afterwards. She thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.