

# **Stocksfield Parish Council**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**7.30pm 13 May 2019**

**Agenda and papers**

# Stocksfield Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

7.30pm on Monday 13 May 2019

at Stocksfield Community Centre

## Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 14 May 2018
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual report of Chair
5. Annual report of County Councillor
6. Accounts 2018/19
7. Budget 2019/20
8. Any other business

## **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council**

Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 May 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, Prof R Thompson and Dr P Vickers.  
Mrs A Dale (County Councillor), Ms A Hawes (resident).

**Apologies:** None

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

### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2017**

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Report of the Ward County Councillor**

Mrs Dale updated the meeting on the following issues:

- West Northumberland Education – result of the consultation is that there will be no school closures.
- Road safety matters
- Flooding – various areas in the village
- Superfast broadband
- Burnside – ongoing problems
- Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy
- Northumberland County Council Finances – are in sound position
- Pot holes – there is one gully for West Northumberland and pot hole issues exist as a result of gully blockages.

### **Annual Report of the Chair**

The Chair highlighted a number of areas referred to within her previously circulated annual report. In particular she made reference to plans for the next 12 months including

- Overspill car park at the sports fields
- Potential general improvements to playing facilities at the sports fields
- Development of the Parish Council Plan

The Chair made specific reference to Martin Stewart, the contracted groundsman, who does such a good job keeping the village looking so good and asked that her thanks to him be recorded. She also thanked the Clerk and her fellow parish councillors.

### **Accounts 2017/18**

The Chair referred to the previously circulated statement of receipts and payments which were noted.

### **Budget 2018/19**

The approved budget for 2018/19 had been previously circulated and was also noted.

### **Any Other Business**

None

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

## Stocksfield Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report May 2018 – April 2019

In another eventful year, the Parish Council has completed a long-standing project, sought the views of residents, and effected a name change, as well as continuing to maintain and improve facilities in the area which we cover. We have done our best to ensure that our area remains a safe place to live, work and visit, and to deal with local problems whenever possible, often in partnership with local community organisations and other public bodies, such as Northumberland County Council, Northumbria Police and neighbouring Town and Parish Councils.



Last autumn saw the completion of the much anticipated extension to the car park at the sports fields, which provides 42 additional spaces. Thanks to the expertise and generosity of local resident, Nick Jones, who, working closely with the Council's Clerk, provided his services as a landscape

surveyor without charge during the design, planning application and construction stages, the cost of the project was kept as low as possible. As well as offering convenient parking for the sports fields and Broomley First School, the overspill car park will support Stocksfield Cricket Club's application for planning permission to extend and upgrade the clubhouse.



The Remembrance Service in November, marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, was conducted by Rev. Pat Moran, and attended by over 200 people, including officers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (based at Albemarle Barracks) and young people from the local Scouts and Guides groups. In



memory of her great uncle, who died in France in 1917 with the 55<sup>th</sup> Sqdn Royal Flying Corps, and her grandfather, who served in France with the XII Royal Lancers, Northumberland Fusiliers, local resident Daphne Threadgold-Reay very generously donated a commemorative bench to the village, and this now has pride of place next to the War Memorial, on which her great uncle's name appears.

Photographs and personal stories of other local men whose names are listed on the War Memorial had been put together and displayed around the memorial by Laraine Judd of Stocksfield Local History Society, who was also responsible for a presentation on the same subject shown at Stocksfield Community Centre after the service. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this

genuine community event, including those local residents who knitted the poppies that were on display.

In December, the Parish Council's residents' survey was delivered to every household in the area we cover. Designed to seek residents' views on what our priorities should be for the next five years and how we should allocate our resources during that period, the survey was carried out on our behalf by Eljay Research Ltd, an independent company. The survey was completed by around one household in every three, and has given us a robust baseline of information which will guide the plans we make for the future. Sincere thanks to everyone who responded at such a busy time of year.



Last Christmas may now seem a long time ago, but one abiding memory surely has to be the magical sight of the Christmas tree at Broomley First School with its coloured lights twinkling in the winter twilight. This is just one example of the high standard of work carried out by our Groundsman, whose attention to detail and commitment to our area make a significant contribution to the quality of our environment.

After seeking local residents' views in the June issue of NE43 News, the Parish Council made a formal request to Northumberland County Council to amend the Parish name to Stocksfield. The request was granted in January, and we are now in the process of reflecting this change wherever our name appears around the village and surrounding areas.

The speed and volume of traffic on the A695 and New Ridley Road have continued to be a key concern for Councillors and residents. Responsibility for highways lies with Northumberland County Council, so the role of the Parish Council is to ensure that residents' concerns are brought to the attention of our County Councillor and County Council officers, and to work in partnership with other relevant organisations such as Northumbria Police.



We are pleased that our efforts to encourage further enforcement of the speed limit on New Ridley Road have been successful, and we await additional information from Northumberland County Council about their proposals for speed restrictions on the A695 between Branch End and Stocksfield station.

In the past year, the Parish Council has given grants and donations worth over £2,000 to a number of local and County-wide groups, including Citizens Advice Northumberland, Tynedale Hospice at Home, Sport Tynedale, Tyne Rivers Trust and the North East War Memorials Project. The funding supports specific projects which benefit members of our community. The Parish Council also makes an annual

financial contribution to the Parochial Church Council's Burial Board which looks after the cemetery at St Margaret's Church in Hindley.

The Parish Council's Advisory Groups have continued to play an important part in our work during the year by focusing in detail on specific aspects and making recommendations for action to the full Council. Particular thanks are due to the Rights of Way and Environment Advisory Group which, though chaired by a Parish Councillor, is largely made up of local residents who volunteer their time to monitor the health of the river and the burn, control invasive species and review our footpaths and rights of way. The Group has also recently established a Station Adoption Group in partnership with Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership and Northern Rail.

Council membership has remained stable throughout the year, but we still have three vacancies. If you have found this report interesting, and would like to make a direct contribution to the work that we do, why not apply to join us as a co-opted Councillor?



In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Clerk, Nick Spencer, for his invaluable advice and consummate professionalism, to our Groundsman, Martin Stewart, for his enthusiasm and versatility, and to my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and teamwork during the last twelve months.

**Maggi Hunt**  
**April 2019**

## **BRIEF REPORT FOR STOCKSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL from COUNTY COUNCILLOR ANNE DALE, 2019.**

At this time of the year it is sometimes difficult to relate briefly what has happened over the past year. The issues and concerns that residents raise over the year are very varied and some concerns can be responded to quickly but some do take time. This year the main concern that residents have raised with me over and over again is the excessive speed of some traffic on the main routes through the village but also on some of the minor roads.

### **HIGHWAYS.**

Planning, designing and consulting on implementing new highway schemes always seems to take longer than we would all like. However consultation is important so that the residents' views can be heard and where necessary alterations can be made to the scheme. For instance two consultations have taken place with the residents of New Ridley Village and the plans have been designed accordingly and have now been agreed and signed off. Further design work will go out to consultation on speed reduction measures for New Ridley Road. The 20 mph speed limit in Painshawfield Estate is being implemented at this present time following a request by the residents of the estate due to safety concerns related to the lack of pavements and lighting in the area. Consultation will take place in June on the implementation of the County Council's policy on the implementation of 20 mph speed limit outside schools at the beginning and the end of the school day. Double yellow lines have been implemented where requested and after consultation and agreement with the public. All the gullies have been cleared this year but please do let me know if you find gullies that require further attention. Work is underway to ensure that the relevant plans on the drainage system from New Ridley Road through the Painshawfield Estate are up to date and where necessary work is undertaken to stop further flooding in some areas.

### **LED LIGHTING.**

The introduction of the new LED lighting has not always gone to plan and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support and hopefully everything has now been sorted albeit after nearly two years. Thank you for your forbearance.

### **PROVISION OF BROADBAND IN THE STOCKSFIELD.**

I do receive e-mails from residents with concerns about the provision of broadband. The provision in Stocksfeld generally works well however the County Council do take up all these concerns with the operators and give help where they are able. A meeting is to take place in June where residents can come and further discuss their issues with the Council.

### **NORTHERN RAIL.**

I have been working with Northern Rail on the implementation of the new penalty scheme. Concerns were raised by residents who were unable to access the ticket machine on the south platform from the north side due to some disability. This is being addressed and both Northern Rail and Network Rail have also been very helpful in addressing other issues around the station area. Please do contact me if you would like any further information.

## **LITTER.**

A Stocksfield litter group is being set up to address some of the litter problem areas in and around the village. I know that many residents already are so helpful and litter pick particular areas of the village however there is more to be done. More information will be posted on Facebook within the next few days.

## **ROGUE TRADERS**

Following concerns raised by residents about unwanted sellers attending their streets the police have given the following advice 'You do not have to answer your door. They should always produce ID cards and if you are made to feel uncomfortable on your doorstep call the POLICE ON 101'.

The police responded very quickly to the complaint I made on behalf of residents and the above advice is only part of the letter the police delivered to residents. For a full copy please do contact me by e.mail.

## **LAYING OF DARK FIBRE BY COMEX 2000.**

I have received concerns about the work that is being undertaken on the highways. The company has a permit to undertake the work and where residents have raised legitimate concerns I have taken these up with the company. The County Council also monitor the work and if necessary will issue penalty notices. I have worked with Comex where problems could arise, for instance they responded to my request that work outside the school and the cricket club should be undertaken during the holidays. I have been informed that the work should be finished by 17<sup>th</sup> May. At that time I will work with the County Council to ensure that everything is back to an acceptable standard. The company has promised to provide new daffodil bulbs, I may need some help to plant them !

There is a lot to celebrate in the village and I will be including these in my ANNUAL UPDATE which I will be delivering within the next four weeks. However in the meantime if you would like to contact me about any concerns you may have please e.mail me at: [Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk) or telephone me on 01434 673326.

Thank you all so much for your help and support over the past year.

## Stocksfield Parish Council 2018-19

### Receipts and payment 2018-19

Balance at 1 April 2018 88260.62

#### Receipts

|                           |                 |                  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Precept                   |                 |                  |
| Precept                   | <u>85260.00</u> | 85260.00         |
| Bank Interest             |                 |                  |
| Nationwide reserve        | 300.64          |                  |
| Unity Trust reserve       | <u>35.67</u>    | 336.31           |
| Other receipts            |                 |                  |
| Sports Field              | 2559.32         |                  |
| MUGA                      | 500.00          |                  |
| NCC - Groundsman contract | 1360.00         |                  |
| Donations                 | 60.00           |                  |
| Misc income               | 88.32           |                  |
| Loan                      | <u>52651.00</u> | 57218.64         |
| VAT                       |                 |                  |
| VAT Refund from HMRC      | <u>6541.03</u>  | 6541.03          |
|                           |                 | <u>149355.98</u> |
|                           |                 | 237616.60        |

#### Payments

|                          |               |          |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| EMPLOYMENT               |               |          |
| Clerk Salary             | 15986.39      |          |
| Employer NIC             | 949.74        |          |
| Payroll admin            | <u>133.25</u> | 17069.38 |
| Administration           |               |          |
| Council Office Rent      | 1700.00       |          |
| Meeting room hire        | 434.50        |          |
| Telephone                | 304.18        |          |
| Stationery               | 40.68         |          |
| Office Equipment         | 1091.98       |          |
| Photocopier Lease/Maint. | 383.92        |          |
| Photocopying charges     | 64.87         |          |
| Audit fees               | 546.60        |          |
| Subscriptions            | 901.96        |          |
| Insurance                | 1519.49       |          |
| Bank Charges             | 72.00         |          |
| Misc admin               | <u>137.90</u> | 7198.08  |

|                                    |                |                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Environment                        |                |                  |
| Grass Cutting                      | 422.27         |                  |
| Litter and dog waste bin           | 100.00         |                  |
| Bedding plants                     | 1096.45        |                  |
| Misc                               | 162.00         |                  |
| Groundsman Contract                | 17971.00       |                  |
| Groundsman ex contract             | 1308.00        |                  |
| Christmas trees                    | 590.00         |                  |
| Bus shelters                       | 418.23         |                  |
| VATCS Maint.                       | <u>294.60</u>  |                  |
|                                    |                | 22362.55         |
| Communications                     |                |                  |
| Website                            | 135.00         |                  |
| Newsletter printing                | 1185.00        |                  |
| Newsletter design                  | 880.00         |                  |
| Misc Comms                         | <u>6900.00</u> |                  |
|                                    |                | 9100.00          |
| Sports Facilities                  |                |                  |
| Grass Cutting                      | 5346.00        |                  |
| Sports field rent                  | 1850.00        |                  |
| Sports field rates                 | 684.00         |                  |
| Sports field maint. and misc       | 3255.33        |                  |
| Sports field car park construction | 55355.65       |                  |
| Sports field car park loan         | <u>3635.39</u> |                  |
|                                    |                | 70126.37         |
| Play Facilities                    |                |                  |
| Grass Cutting                      | 2463.83        |                  |
| Equip inspection                   | 182.00         |                  |
| BEPA maint.                        | 4715.70        |                  |
| Kate's Plain rent                  | 100.00         |                  |
| Kate's Plain maintenance           | <u>45.00</u>   |                  |
|                                    |                | 7506.53          |
| Community Support                  |                |                  |
| Remembrance Service                | 140.00         |                  |
| Burial Board                       | <u>1200.00</u> |                  |
|                                    |                | 1340.00          |
| GRANTS                             |                |                  |
| Grants - Sec 137 Parish            | 150.00         |                  |
| Grants - Sec 137 Non Parish        | <u>1350.00</u> |                  |
|                                    |                | 1500.00          |
| VAT input tax                      |                | <u>15553.35</u>  |
|                                    |                | <u>151756.26</u> |
| Balance at 31 March 2019           |                | 85860.34         |

I certify that the above is a true record of the receipts and payments of Stocksfield Parish Council from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

Signed: NJ Spencer  
Date: 04-Apr-19

Responsible Financial Officer

**Stocksfield Parish Council**  
**Approved Budget 2019/20**

|                   | Receipts (£) | Payments (£) |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Precept           | 85260        |              |
| Employment        |              | 17880        |
| Administration    |              | 7895         |
| Environment       | 680          | 25840        |
| Communications    | 60           | 2880         |
| Sport Facilities  | 2475         | 15075        |
| Play Facilities   |              | 8250         |
| Community Support |              | 5660         |
| Contingency       |              | 4995         |
|                   | <hr/>        | <hr/>        |
|                   | 88475        | 88475        |