

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
STOCKSFIELD ON 15th APRIL 2013**

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2012**
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Up-date on the B6309 Road Closure – Ms Amanda Cryer
Environmental Maintenance Manager NCC (West)**
5. **Dr Alan Maguire – GP Commissioning**
6. **Up-date from SCATA on proposed developments at
Guessburn & Branch End.**
7. **Reports from: Parish Councillors**
8. **Financial Statement, including Budget for 2013-14**
9. **Any Other Business**

Present: 23 residents of the Parish
Dr Alan Maguire
Ms Amanda Cryer, Northumberland County Council
County Councillor Anne Dale

Apologies: Rev Bill Rigby
Messrs. N Hooks, P Duncan, K Woods.

Ms Hunt, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed those present and advised that items 1-3 on the Agenda would be moved down the programme.

B6309 landslip/road closure

Ms Hunt then invited Ms A Cryer to bring residents up-to-date with the situation with regard to repairs to the landslip which had closed the B6309 on the north side of Stocksfield Station.

Ms Cryer advised that the work had started that day. The necessary approvals had been received from the Environment Agency. The discussions with the utility companies had been completed. The work would take up to ten weeks. To start with the river would have to be diverted and then gabions put in place to keep the flow in its new route. The NCC website would be up-dated regularly. NCC Highways are managing the project and hope to keep the work in-house. NCC Highways would inspect the diversion routes regularly. Because of the road closure more attention is being paid to local roads.

Prof. Thompson suggested that drains had not been cleared recently. It was noted that the gully cleaner had been round recently, but it was felt that some drains needed cleaning out.

Ms Hunt, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Ms Cryer and her colleagues for enabling the work on repairs to the road and landslip to be started promptly.

Station Bridge – the refurbishment of the bridge over the railway is expected to be completed by 5th May.

2013 Elections

Ms Hunt emphasised the need for potential new parish councillors to come forward. She said that to-date only 4 nominations to the parish council. Ms Hunt went on to stress that if there was not a full

complement of parish councillors, then the amount of work that the council is able to carry out will be curtailed.

GP Commissioning

Ms Hunt welcomed Dr Alan Maguire to the meeting.

Dr Maguire then outlined the position of Branch End Surgery in the Northern Clinical Commissioning Group which covers the whole of Northumberland. Among the points that Dr Maguire highlighted included:

- An average of £1m a year is spent per GP on hospital care.
- The practice has a high number of patients with learning difficulties.
- Health expenditure had doubled since 1985.
- Expenditure on health is expected to increase to 30% of GDP
- More minor surgery, blood tests, etc. are carried out at Branch End Surgery
- Patients' choice is here to stay.
- Sustainability of hospitals is not in question
- There is no desire for A&E at Hexham to be reduced.
- Priorities will be decided by clinical need.
- The NHS 111 service has been quite positive

Prof Thompson asked:

- How can we manage to keep people at home.
- The limiting factor is the number of carers
- Carers are unsung heroes of and backbone of the NHS

Dr Maguire:

- Getting more carers and district nurses is very important
- District nurses are coming back to the surgery.

Mrs Martin suggested that the caring organisations are required to provide more “End of Life” care.

Dr Maguire said that there are 24 hour nursing services but all involved need to what what is happening and that co-ordination and communication between all concerned are important.

Dr Maguire went on to say that

- LINKS had been replaced by Healthwatch which has more “teeth”.
- Branch End Surgery has 6 doctors and 20,000 patients.
- Hexham Hospital had been recently awarded 5 star status
- There is need to push for more clinics to come to Hexham.
- We have to make the CGC commissioning work
Locally we have a good team
The new system should cut some bureaucracy.

Ms Hunt thanked Dr Maguire for attending the meeting and for his interesting and informative presentation.

Up-date on proposals by SCATA.

Ms Hunt advised that a summary of the current position had been tabled and summarised the situation. She said that no one from SCATA had been unable to attend this evening's meeting. She stressed that SCATA was independent from the Parish Council. She stressed that the Parish Council would be able to have a view on the proposals. She made the following points:

The main area of concern is the former Toilet site;

There are concerns about traffic and parking.

As far as we are aware the original proposal for a house has been replaced by a bungalow.

Planning Permission has not yet been sought.

Once the planning application has been submitted residents will have the opportunity to make comments to the County Council and/or the Parish Council.
There have consultations with the Highways Dept.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th April 2012.

Mrs Martin proposed and Mrs Dale seconded and it was agreed that they be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

The Parish Council has taken no further steps to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

Report from Parish Councillors

Reports had been circulated.

It was reported that the Parish Council was currently negotiating a 99 year lease for Branch End Play Area with the County Council.

The Cricket Field and Branch End Play Area as Fields in Trust.

Report from County Councillor Anne Dale

Mrs Anne Dale then advised that:

County Council budget – Revenue turnover of £1B. Revenue of £432 m pa.

There will be further Government cutbacks in 2014-16.

Prudhoe High School is to be rebuilt.

The County Core Strategy is being developed and it is important to input into the process.

The Green Belt will be the next topic for consultation.

Highways will spend £6 m over the next two years. Prevention measures are important.

The Tuesday bus service along New Ridley Road is to be retained.

Double yellow lines are to be installed at Mount View Terrace, Branch End, Tynedale Gardens.

The problem of car parking at the Station had been resolved.

Residents continue to raise concerns with her – particularly at present with regard to welfare issues.

She is to investigate why the paper skip was taken from the Sportsfield Car Park.

Accounts

The provisional accounts for 2012/13 had been tabled and there were no questions.

Any Other Business – None

Ms Hunt closed the meeting by thanking residents for attending and repeating the plea for people to put themselves forward as potential parish councillors.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.