

# **Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council.**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 5th December 2011**

Present: Councillors Pete Barrass, John Davison, Pete Duncan, Ian Hall, Maggi Hunt, Melna Martin, Alan Verheyden, Keith Woods, Mrs M Williams, Clerk. Also present: County Councillor Anne Dale.

**Apologies:** Julia Sayce

### **11/80 Declarations of Interest**

Mrs Dale declared an interest as Chairman of the Federation of Broomley & Whittonstall First Schools.

### **11/81 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2011**

With the addition of the sentence "The Liquidators are not accountable for any enforcement conditions", under para. 11/68 Burnside, Mr Barrass proposed, Mr Hall seconded. and it was agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th November 2011 were a true and correct record of the meeting.

### **11/82 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **11/83 Public Participation**

Mrs Dale advised on the following matters:

She had requested information on the delay to repairing the BT inspection chamber at the Station entrance

She had requested that double yellow lines to be installed at the junction of Tynedale Gardens and New Ridley Road

That the ADAPT bus from New Ridley to Branch End on Fridays will continue

That further discussions are to be held with the County council about parking on Mount View Terrace, and further research is to be undertaken as to which properties do not have on-site parking. Consideration will be given to holding a public meeting of the interested parties.

Mrs Dale left the meeting following the mutual exchange of seasonal good wishes.

The Clerk had received a complaint about the availability of appointments with certain doctors at Branch End Surgery. Councillors Hall and Martin are to take this matter up with the Patients' Forum and report back to the Parish Council. It was noted that patients were able to comment on-line on the Surgery website.

### **11/84 Correspondence**

Correspondence received since the November meeting had been listed on the agenda and was noted.

The Parish Council had not completed the Rural Services Network's survey on Neighbourhood Planning.

### **11/85 Finance**

The Accounts for November 2011 had been reviewed prior to the meeting by the Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group and their acceptance was recommended and agreed. However, it was noted that there were some discrepancies and that there was an issue with the Accounts package. The F&GP are to consider what is required and how this might best be achieved.

The Bank Reconciliation for September 2011 was noted.

The Internal Auditor's half-year report had been received and was noted. There were no recommendations to follow up.

Additional Cheques - were approved as follows:

Tyne Valley Youth Theatre - grant as per F&GP report	£100.00
Harry Skinner - Remembrance Day Service - Sound System	£120.00
2BGraphics - NE43 News Issue 41 - incl VAT and printing	£876.00
SCA - room hire	£52.00

### **11/86 2012/13 Precept/Budget**

With the agreement of those present, this item was discussed under the F&GP Report

### **11/87 New Parish Councillors**

Ms Helen Morris has resigned from the Parish Council due to pressure of other commitments. Ms Morris had expressed her willingness to continue with her involvement in the Jubilee Events, etc.

To date, no one had come forward expressing interest in the vacancies previously created by the resignations of Mr Hooks and Mrs Hinchcliffe. Ms Hunt stressed the need to be proactive in the search for new Parish Councillors.

### **11/88 Advisory Group Membership**

The previous lists had been circulated and a new list drawn up which will be circulated to members.

It was agreed that the Footpaths & Environment Group should be merged with the Rights of Way Group. Mr Verheyden is to liaise with Mr Hooks over this.

### **11/89 Advisory Groups & Council Representatives**

#### **a) Finance & General Purposes Advisory Group**

The report of the previous meeting of the Group had been circulated and Mr Woods outlined the discussions that had been held and their recommendations.

Precept 2012/13 - The Group had recommended that the precept for 2012/13 be set at £70,000.

Mr Duncan proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed unanimously that the recommendation be accepted.

Asset Transfer - The Group had recommended that the Solicitor be instructed to carry out the searches listed in the notes of the meeting, at a cost of £592.88. They had also recommended that the cost of £108 for Land Registry registration fees and searches be approved. Mr Hall proposed and Mr Davison seconded and it was agreed unanimously that the recommendation be accepted

#### **Funding applications -**

Josie's Dragonfly Trust (Mr Duncan declared an interest in this topic) - Recommendation to Parish Council: That a letter be sent to the young people, informing them that the Parish Council does not fund individuals, and suggesting that they apply to the Lions, the Round Table and the Rotary Club. The letter should also recommend that Josie's Dragonfly Trust apply to the Parish Council for a grant. Mr Hall proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed that the recommendation be accepted

Vitalise - Recommendation to Parish Council: That no funding should be provided. - Agreed

Tyne Valley Youth Theatre - Recommendation to Parish Council: That £100 be granted to support the December taster sessions, and that the applicant be given the opportunity to apply again for support for the February project should the taster sessions be successful - Agreed

Remembrance Day Service - Following correspondence with Robert Peers, it was agreed to call a meeting, in the New Year, of interested parties to review the 2011 event.

Purchase of Scanner for Parish Office - The recommendation was noted.

**[Suspension of Standing Orders - Mr Barrass proposed and Mrs Martin seconded and it was agreed that Standing Orders should be suspended and the meeting should continue until 10.00 p.m.]**

b) Parish Plan Action Group -

Neighbourhood Plan - Mr Duncan updated the meeting. He advised that there was a need to involve ISOS, certain individuals and local business representatives in putting the Plan together. He also suggested that in order to draw up the plan there would be a need to source outside funding.

It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan might be the topic for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Duncan said that drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan could take 18-24 months. It was agreed that a letter should be written to Karen Ledger at the County Council, expressing an interest in drawing up a Plan for Broomley & Stocksfield, and asking for advice as to how to move on to the next stage. It was agreed to call a meeting of possible interest groups in the Parish in late January/early February to discuss the issue.

c) Sports Facilities Advisory Group -

Mr Duncan advised that there was nothing to report at present.

d) Transport & Highways Advisory Group

Friends of Stocksfield Station - The report of the recent meeting had been tabled and was noted.

686 bus - The report on the meeting held on 21st November had been circulated and was noted. It was agreed to continually monitor the situation and re-visit if concerns were raised.

e) Community Development

Development Trust - Mr Duncan up-dated the meeting on progress.

Olympic Celebrations/Diamond Jubilee - The Clerk had had a meeting with the Acting Head Teacher at Broomley First School and her report had been circulated and was noted.

Olympic Torch Relay - A report had been circulated and was noted and agreed. It was recognised that there was a need for liaison between different groups in the Parish.

Skate Park - the report by the Group tasked with looking into the possibility of providing a skate park in Stocksfield had been circulated and was noted. A discussion ensued during which the following points were made:

Mr Davison queried the need for a skate park in Stocksfield when there were good facilities in Prudhoe. He felt that there were insufficient potential users of such a facility to justify the cost. However it was pointed out that some younger residents were not allowed or did not like to go to Prudhoe, particularly on weekday evenings.

It was felt that such a facility might be better sited nearer the SMUGA rather than near the railway line. Mr Hall and Mrs Martin are to look further at the potential of this site, with the build perhaps to be included as part of the car park project. Mr Duncan and Ms Hunt are to put this suggestion to the Sportsfield Management Group.

Youth - Ms Hunt is to up-date the Parish Council in January.

f) Communications Advisory Group

NE43 News - Councillors were happy with the layout and content of Issue 41 which is now being distributed. It was agreed that Messrs. Duncan and Wood and Mrs Sayce would act as editorial consultants for the next issue. It was also proposed by Mr Duncan and seconded by Mr Verheyden and agreed unanimously that 2BGraphics be asked to continue with the design and production for the next 12 months.

Website - It was agreed that a webmaster be appointed to take on the management of the website but that in the short term no re-design of the site would be undertaken. Prices for the management of the website would be sought.

g) Play Facilities Advisory Group

BEPA - A report had been received about dogs being taken into the play area. Councillors were asked to check when passing the area and report any incidents to the Clerk or the Dog Warden. The Dog Warden is to be asked to call regularly to monitor the situation.

h) Planning Advisory Group

The Planning Report had been circulated and was noted.

Hoodsclose - the results of Whittonstall Action Group's survey of businesses had been circulated.

i) Footpaths & Environment Advisory Group

No response had been received from SITA regarding Merryshields Quarry and they are to be requested for an answer to the queries raised.

The question of making grassed areas in the village more "wildlife friendly" had been raised at the recent meeting of the Rights of Way & Environment Group. It was agreed that this was not practicable, as wildflower meadows require specialised planting and management which is beyond the Parish Council's capability. Mr Verheyden is to advise the group of the Council's views on this topic.

j) Council Representatives

The next meeting of the West Area Committee of the County Council is at Corbridge on 13th December.

k) Policy Advisory Group

Local Councils Charter consultation - Ms Hunt had drawn up a response - this had been tabled and was accepted.

**11/90 Any Other Business - None**

**11/91 Date of Next Meeting - 9th January 2012**

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.