

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th February 2015 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr A Turner
Cllr Rob Yorke
Cllr Christine Wilson

15.01 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Raine & Cllr Roberts.

15.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Robinson expressed an interest in agenda item 15.06.iv.

15.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed to be accurate with the exception of a litter bin on Copeland Road being described as a salt bin; the file copy will be amended accordingly.

Matters Arising

- Update on Pant slip-road quote

Cllr Roberts requested this item be deferred in his absence.

- To consider comments about replacing diseased roses in the current rose bed.

The Clerk advised that local landscaper, Scott Elwood had informed her that the roses are old and should be replaced. He stated that with the appropriate soil treatment you can replace roses with rose but recommended that if the roses are removed, they are best being replaced with shrubs unless necessary maintenance is arranged. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged with SE Landscaping to discuss treating the rose beds for this year and also looking at other landscaping issues within the village. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

- To consider approval of Pant raised bed quote.

A quote from BDM Services to provide a raised bed for the wooden crosses was approved and it was resolved that, providing DCC approve, the work should go ahead. ACTION: Clerk to request permission and arrange.

- Dog fouling

Cllr Wilson advised that she has followed up on a complaint about dog fouling at the narrow path leading towards George Street/Ennerdale Grove. Cllr Smith stated that he has placed an article in Westlife advising how to report persistent offenders.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

15.04 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Boulders at Spar site

Residents requested confirmation of the date when the boulder/bollards will be sited to prevent future vehicular/caravan access at the Spar site. It was advised by Cllr Wilson that DCC are planning to carry out this task in due course. No date could be specified as yet and Parish Councillors empathised with the time this has taken.

Youth club

A resident complained about the amount of youths congregating outside the youth club. It was resolved that a letter be sent to the management of the youth club. ACTION: Clerk to write to Father McTeer

Public attendance at Parish Council meetings

A resident complained that he and his partner were excluded from a recent informal Parish Council meeting. Cllr Charlton advised that the meeting was purely to consider how to approach the Neighbourhood Plan initiative and plan an event to include the public most effectively in due course. This complaint was debated and Cllr Yorke echoed comments by confirming that the Parish Council are not acting illegally and are within their rights to hold informal meetings without public notification or involvement as and when required. It was reiterated by the Clerk that the Parish Council work transparently and notification, agenda and minutes are provided, as necessary to good practice, for all formal scheduled meetings.

Communications

A resident suggested using the Newsletter as a means of communicating Parish Council issues such as spending. It was resolved that this idea will be considered in future editions.

Schedule of meetings

A resident requested a details of the schedule of meetings. The Clerk advised that the meetings' schedule is displayed on the notice board and meeting dates for the year are available on the website.

Village green sign

It was stated by a resident that the recent siting of the village green sign to prevent vehicular access has been ineffective. It was generally agreed that vehicular access to the village green is an ongoing problem.

Vehicles parking on Chapel Street & Front Street corner

Residents requested that the Parish Council investigate available options for preventing congestion and illegal parking around this area. It was highlighted that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction over illegal parking other than to liaise with police/local authority and to lobby for improvements. It was agreed that various options have been investigated over recent years but as yet no mutually acceptable solution has been found.

15.05 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Farrer advised that Parish Council representatives met with the allotment holders recently and reviewed current agreements and criteria for renting allotments.
- It was resolved that allotment members would provide a list of allotment holder's names and addresses.
- It was agreed that two allotments' inspections a year, by nominated Parish Council representatives, would take place.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

- It was resolved that it would be unreasonable to request that existing allotment holders be asked to leave because they now dwell outside the parish.
 - It was resolved that any intended relocation of home by an existing members will be reviewed case by case. It was confirmed that the agreed ruling is that any future allotment holders must have a West Auckland address; this has reduced the waiting list slightly.
 - It was agreed allotment holders will adhere to a request that rubbish be burnt with due care and consideration of local residents.
- Cllr Charlton advised that the Clerk and herself had recently met with the solicitor to review the responses from DCC on questions raised by the solicitor, on behalf of the Parish Council, about the Monteith Close asset transfer lease. It was confirmed that with further slight amendment the lease will be ready to sign by the end of February 2015. Following which time plans to improve the premises can commence. It was highlighted that the guttering and heating require attention prior to the hand-over. ACTION: Clerk to contact Jill Forbes, Dale & Valley Homes.
 - Cllr Yorke provided an update on the skate park project. It was advised that Play Builder funding has now gone for this year and, should the Parish Council wish to continue with this project, a further grant application will need to be submitted. It was confirmed that this item will be considered and a decision made at the next meeting.
 - Cllr Yorke advised that there is a current initiative for a Bishop Auckland/West Auckland firework display following an AAP forum event vote. The Parish Council have been asked to contribute towards the display and agreed to consider this and provide a decision at the next meeting.

15.06 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.

i. To receive update on actions agreed for Neighbourhood Plan

Further to the recent informal meeting it was confirmed that a further two informal meetings will take place on 16th February and 16th March to plan the Neighbourhood Plan public consultation event.

ii. To consider and confirm eligibility for use of the General Power of Competence

It was resolved that, as the Parish Council meet the criteria to use the General Power of Competence, this will be their first option in future when considering decision making authority on any given initiative as this power allows the Parish Council to do "anything that individuals generally may do". Use of this power will remove the need to seek approval via previous Acts as, providing the usual transparent scheduled meeting procedures are followed, any legal and moral decision which benefits others can be made by the Parish Council as an elected body during formal meetings.

iii. To receive Westlife articles

The Clerk requested that any Spring Edition articles be provided by Parish Councillors at the next meeting and agreed to follow up on completion and distribution of the current edition of Westlife with the publisher.

iv. To consider resident's request for support with revival of the carnival

Greg Robinson attended the meeting and presented a case of reviving the carnival on Saturday, 25th July 2015. He advised that he has produced a forecast make the event self-sufficient for future years. Greg advised that in addition to the carnival there will be a music festival, vintage family fun, dog show and football tournament. He has approached local businesses and various other sources of funding. It was advised that the Parish Council do hold £500 in readiness for such an event and it was resolved that a decision on any Parish Council contribution will be agreed at the next meeting.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and cheques were endorsed for invoices as below:

13/01/2015	BACS	Broadband update			£39.99
13/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
13/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
20/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
20/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
26/01/2015	DD	npower gas			£43.17
26/01/2015	200028	BDM Services - removing tree & filling salt bins			£140.00
27/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
27/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
02/02/2015	SO	BT Broadband & phones			£20.00
09/02/2015	200029	Donation to Thursday toddler group farm trip			£200.00

15.08 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To consider toddler group farm trip donation request

It was proposed and resolved that the Thursday morning toddler group receive £200 towards a farm trip.

(ii) To consider comments and quotes for a permanent Christmas tree

As no further quotes have been obtained, a further landscaping company will be approached to provide a quote for a permanent Christmas tree. ACTION: Clerk to arrange a representative meeting with SE Landscaping.

(iii) To consider security alarm/light on residential property.

It was proposed and resolved that the Parish Council will provide a security light to a maximum of £200 at the gable end 10 Station Road. ACTION: Cllr Smith to arrange.

15.09 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To receive update from meeting to consider improving approaches to village planters and grass cutting

It was advised that some Parish Councillors met recently to consider planting flowers at the approaches to the village. Following consideration, it was resolved that the Parish Council are not in a position to maintain any planting outside the village at present.

(ii) To consider anti-social behaviour at old East Green nursing home site

Cllr Wilson advised that Mr Fenwick is in the process of selling the the land and the former East Green home; he apologises for the state of the premises and expects an imminent sale.

(iii) To consider tackling vandalism at the Christmas tree site

The problems with vandalism were discussed and it was agreed that this year was unusual with a minority of youths vandalising the tree and lights; the main perpetrators were reprimanded by police. Changing the lights was considered and it was agreed to consider this fully at the July 2015 meeting.

(iv) To consider Stockton & Darlington railway initiative

Cllr Yorke provided an update on this initiative and advised that World Heritage status is being sought for the whole of the old Pheonix Row, Witton Park to Eaglescliffe railway line. Parish

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

Councils support being requested to support the project. The Clerk advised that West Auckland Parish Council have already pledged their support for the initiative.

(v) To discuss Fleece and Nursery village green

Landscaping and maintenance of this area will be considered during the meeting with SE Landscaping. It was resolved that the Clerk contact Stuart Timmons to make enquiries about registering the Nursery village green as Parish Council land. It was suggested that the local developer be asked to tidy up his building site as part of the improvement programme for that area. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

(vi) To review Allotment Holders' Tenancy Agreement

It was resolved that the Tenancy Agreement be updated to include the points raised at 15.09.vi. as per embedded file. ACTION: Clerk to update.



allotments
groundrules.doc

15.10 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues raised at this meeting.

15.11 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 9TH MARCH 2015

- To obtain quote for treating current roses.
- To consider funding applications for a skate park
- To consider a donation for Tuesday morning toddler group
- To consider quotes for landscaping Nursery/Fleece village green and permanent Christmas tree
- To consider replacing Christmas lights – July meeting
- To provide report on Monteith Close asset transfer
- To consider donation towards provision of carnival
- To consider information board for football monument

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....