

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 4th July 2011 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr H Charlton, Chair
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr A Turner
Cllr K Tweddle

11.37 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Fenwick and Cllr Ferguson

11.38 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Mairs expressed an interest in agenda item 9.

11.39 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed to be a true account of the previous meeting and signed accordingly.

11.40 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Cllr Robert Yorke attended the meeting to advise that a bid for funding of £1.7 million has been secured for sustainable projects of the next 10 years in the Bishop Auckland, St Helens and West Auckland areas. It was suggested that Angelina Maddison attend a meeting to advise on bidding for a proportion of the money. It was immediately highlighted that Oakley Cross sport hall could benefit from such financial commitment. **NOTE: A meeting is arranged with Angelina Maddison and James Lowther, Groundwork for Tuesday, 19th July 2011 6.00 pm at the Manor House – all to attend if available.**

Cllr Yorke advised those present that it could be beneficial to seek information from DCC on how the County Durham Plan affects West Auckland. The Boundary Review is also being considered and will be submitted by August for consideration December 2011.

Cllr Yorke informed those present that options are being considered on how to prevent travellers from siting caravans inappropriately around the village. It is proposed by DCC that a designated site near the community fire site be used as a travellers' temporary stop-over for nominated 28 day periods of next year.

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There is a new Neighbourhood Officer, Craig Sams and Cllr Yorke suggested he be invited to a meeting to a future meeting to discuss how in his role he can benefit the village.

11.41 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT. - There were no police present.

11.42 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.

CHEQUE NO	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100322	Hanging baskets	£248.00	Y
100323	GB Computers	£20.00	Y
100324	Village Green signs	£	Y
100325	GB Computers	£20.00	Y

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and any cheques endorsed for invoices as detailed above.

11.43 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

Further to a last month’s request from the Prince of Wales to support establishing a football team it was agreed that the Parish Council will donate £200.00 to this.

i. To consider costs of allotment fencing

Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Mairs have visited the allotments to assess the state of the allotments perimeter fencing and have obtained a £3,000.00 quote to replace it. Cllr Yorke advised that he had recently obtained funding at Escomb for pallisade style fencing and he agreed to enquire whether there was any further funding still available.

ii. To consider purchase of village notice board

It was proposed that a notice board be sited at the mound of grass near the Post Office, this proposal was seconded but opposed due to conflict of views. It was suggested that a 3-sided style notice board be used and also suggested that the top of the village should be considered for siting a board. Following a vote it was unanimously agreed that a standard notice board be purchased by the Parish Council and an offer from Talk Talk to provide one will be declined.

iii. To consider purchase of Parish Room tables

It was proposed and agreed that 8 tables will be purchased at a cost of £90 each.

iv. To consider purchase of Copeland Road bus shelter/seat and village green seat

There has been no response to a letter sent requesting a site meeting on Copeland Road following last month’s meeting. Cllr Turner and Cllr Yorke agreed to liaise with Steve Forster on this. Cllr Yorke also agreed to provide a village map to be used for future discussion and planning of projects within the village.

v. To consider AAP Board request for funding from Parish Councils

This subject was covered in Cllr Yorke’s update. It was highlighted that the

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community and safety crime budget has been cut from £50,000.00 to £20,000.00 and the AAP will be requesting funding from individual Parish/Town Councils towards specific target projects for this priority. This will be considered once a formal request has been received.

11.44 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To discuss signs outside the village perimeter

Various options were discussed to site signs on the approach roads but nothing was decided.

ii To discuss the prevention of access for caravans and heavy vehicles near Spar shop

This was previously discussed and steps are being taken to resolve the issue. It is anticipated that the temporary stop-over areas will eradicate this problem.

11.45 TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED ON USE OF PARISH ROOMS

It was highlighted that the Parish Room door has been left open on at least one occasion. It was agreed that a more suitable self-closing lock should be fitted.

11.46 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING (INTERIM MEETING 22ND AUGUST)

- Signs approaching the village
- Siting picnic tables
- Loose dogs
- Tattoo shop
- Parish Plan revision
- Westlife – summary of funding to-date
- Consideration of alternative Parish Council premises.

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