

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th June 2015 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson (arrived late)
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr G Smith
Cllr N Thomas
Cllr A Turner
DCC Cllr Christine Wilson

15.32 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bell & Cllr Robinson.

15.33 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

- There were no items of interest declared.

15.34 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting, with the exception of Cllr Turner's missing apologies; the Minutes were then signed accordingly.

Matters Arising

Consideration of Amendment to Standing Orders

It was requested that this item be removed at present; it may be re-considered in the future.

15.35 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- A resident attended to raise her concerns about the state of a wall near the river on the south side of River Walk. Cllr Wilson advised that she has commenced with enquires on ownership of the wall as it is deemed a hazard for children playing locally.

15.36 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Roberts produced a draft plan of potential improvements to the terraced houses at The Nursery. Following discussion, it was agreed that this item requires full consideration and a meeting with residents will be arranged. This item will be considered fully at a future meeting.

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

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

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

npower gas			£14.56
Domestic 1 Salary			£34.76
Broadband/phones			£20.00
Ordnance Survey Subscriptions			£65.70
Domestic 2 Salary via H Charlton			£40.00
GRANT - Durham Community kitchen		£4,000.00	
West Auckland Workingmen's Club - wreath		£25.00	
CDALC Annual Subscriptions			£289.54
Northumbrian Water			£63.31
Northumbrian Water-duplicate - refund requested			£63.31
GRANT -Neighbourhood Plan UK		£1,050.00	
Neighbourhood Plan consultation resources			£105.36
Neighbourhood Plan consultation resources			£13.79

To receive Westlife articles

It was advised that articles are forthcoming for Westlife on the Gaunless Gateway, the Memorial Hall activities and article in remembrance of the late Cllr John Ferguson. The Clerk requested submissions at the earliest convenience.

15.38 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To consider a monument in remembrance of Cllr John Ferguson

As there were various options to be considered it was resolved that it would be appropriate to debate this item in a closed meeting and then the agreed option be suggested to Cllr Ferguson's widow for her approval prior to proceeding. The outcome will be documented at the next meeting.

(ii) To consider landscape Fleece/Nursery village green

It was confirmed that DCC have agreed to maintain the grass area at the Nursery village green site as part of their annual programme. At a recent meeting it was agreed between Parish Council and DCC that the area would require some levelling and re-seeding as part of the improvement. DCC confirmed their willingness to improve and maintain the area.

(iii) To consider quote for replacing rose beds

It was agreed that as the roses are currently thriving, this item will be reviewed later in the year.

(iv) To consider quote for football monument information board

Cllr Roberts requested a quote for a bus shelter display board containing the text as shown on the windows of the Prince of Wales. ACTION: Clerk to contact Cre8ive Graphics again.

(v) To consider quote for managing Monteith Close Parish Rooms' garden

A quote was received from Brian Mundell for gravelling the garden area to eliminate maintenance; it was confirmed could not facilitate weekly cutting of the garden. Following discussion it was agreed that James Graham be asked to maintain the garden to retain the grass. ACTION: Cllr Mairs to obtain further details.

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

(vi) To consider quote for disabled access toilet at Monteith Close

It was resolved that the final of 3 quotes, from Chris Evans Joinery, be approved in readiness for the work to commence in October when it can be factored into the next year's budget.

(vii) To consider training and purchase of a defibrillator

Cllr Roberts had obtained details of a grant scheme for a defibrillator and advised that a contribution of £400 would be required once the criteria is met. Several ideas were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Charlton would liaise to investigate Smurfit's interest in supporting this scheme.

15.39 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To receive an update on the Wetlands

Cllr Roberts provided an update on the revised Wetland Nature Reserve 'The Meeting Of The Waters' bid and requested agreement from the Parish Council to support the scheme. It was resolved that the Parish Council will support the scheme in principle but, at this stage, no financial commitment was agreed.

Cllr Wilson advised that a previous bid for this initiative was deemed over ambitious and the revised bid is being fully considered in October 2015.

(ii) To consider East Green and Mill sites

Cllr Roberts advised that a meeting has been requested with the Enforcement Officer and Callum Proudlock to review the state of both East Green and Mill sites. It was also highlighted that The Station public house, which is not in West Auckland, also requires attention. Cllr Smith advised that a newly appointed fire officer aims to review their approach to dealing with such sites due to the high number of times the fire brigade are called to the area.

(iii) To consider use of Oakley Cross sports hall

Cllr Roberts advised that local police support officer has met with the head teacher of Oakley Cross school and she is keen to support community use of the interior sports hall. It was proposed that a further meeting be arranged and those attending will feedback to the next meeting.

15.40 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Rendering on two Front Street properties was discussed and it was agreed that enquiries be made as to whether planning permission was obtained or needed.

15.40 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 13TH JULY 2015

(INTERIM MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 29TH JUNE AND FINANCE SUB-GROUP WILL MEET A 6.00 PM PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING)

- To consider replacing Christmas lights
- To consider support WestFest
- To consider proposals to improve The Nursery area.
- To consider use of Oakley Cross school sports hall
- To propose monument for the late Cllr Ferguson

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