

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th October 2013 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C CMairs, vice Chairperson
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith

13.68 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Turner, Cllr Rielly, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Raine,

13.69 TO CONSIDER A CO-OPTED MEMBER

It was confirmed that Neil Thomas was interviewed and will be invited as a co-opted member of the Parish Council. ACTION: Cllr Mairs to invite to next meeting and provided the welcome pack to include Standing Orders, Financial Interest and Declaration of Interest forms.

13.70 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no expressions of interest made.

13.71 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Matters Arising: The following actions require follow-up: None

13.72 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

John Raw attended the meeting to introduce PC Steve Callaghan, new local police officer for the area. PC Callaghan agreed to lay a wreath on behalf of the police at the 10th November 2013 Remembrance Service.

A local resident attended to enquire about the plans for the previous East Green home. She was advised that the property is back on the market with outline planning permission.

The resident advised that a neighbour and herself requested at the recent PACT meeting that a camera be sited in the area to record incidents.

Concerns were raised by a local resident and various members about incidents where quad bikes are being unsafely ridden across public walk ways. The police advised that one quad bike has been confiscated and a further two are under surveillance.

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

A request was made for some paving to be sited across the green between Oakley Green and East Green home where turf is churned up by regular foot traffic crossing at the area. The Parish Council agreed to make a request to DCC. ACTION: Clerk to write.

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

CHEQUE NO	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100461	CNK Landscaping – pruning Christmas Tree site shrubs	£60.00	Y
100462	Newsletter	£140.00	Y
100463	Local Councils Book	£40.91	Y
100464	Newsletter delivery	£70.00	Y

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

Two requests for donations were raised and it was agreed that they can be considered at the November meeting after the budget setting process.

13.74 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To consider planting permanent Christmas tree

A reply has been received from Bryan Harris about the request. Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will respond advising that the Parish Council has not asked for a raised bed or railings to accommodate the requested tree.

It was agreed that the selected tree should be a spruce or similar that looks like a Christmas tree and an alternative type of tree will not be suitable.

ii. To confirm provision of salt adverse weather

Cllr Robinson provided details of where salt bins are located. ACTION: Clerk to relay to Cllr Yorke.

iii. To consider skate park application

An application for a skate park has been submitted and the outcome is awaited. Various parish councillors raised reservation about the project and it was highlighted that any areas of concern will be addressed during the consultation process; the Parish Council will only fully commit to this project when they are unanimous agreement.

iv. To consider Budget Setting for 2013-2014

The September quarter end spending was discussed and it was agreed that the precept will need to be increased by 4% to make up some of the shortfall when the grant funding is removed by central government from the precept. ACTION: Clerk to action with DCC.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

As there has been no increase in recent years, it was agreed that the Clerk's salary will be increased to £3,500 per annum with effect during 2013-2014.

It was resolved that a separate meeting will be held on Monday, 28th October 2013 to consider the budget fully. Clerk to attend and provide proposed budget statements for previous years.

13.75 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To commence Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and the clerk advised that she has applied for a grant to support its production. It was proposed that local groups be approached to become involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. An article has been included in the recent newsletter inviting residents to become involved.

ii To receive update on Monteith Close asset transfer

The Clerk advised that Ross Cowling has submitted funding applications for the replacement of windows and kitchen at Monteith Close. He advised that a colleague would be handling the legal part of the process which should take approximately 8 weeks. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up.

iii To receive update on village green application process

It was advised that the result of the enquiry is imminently expected. ACTION: Clerk to continue liaising with DCC legal department.

iv To consider siting stone seat

It was advised that Atkinson's will donate the building materials and transport has been arranged by a local builder to site the stone seat to be donated to the village by the local quarry. It was agreed that the site at the top end of the village is a prime location but it was considered inappropriate to relocate the seat recently sited in memory of the late Cllr Fenwick.. Following consideration, it was proposed and agreed that the seat near the Manor House be replaced. ACTION: Clerk to inform Cllr Roberts

v To discuss Remembrance Sunday service

It was advised that a meeting will take place on Wednesday, 30th October 2013 to make final arrangements for this event.

13.76 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2013 7.00 PM (INTERIM MEETING 29TH OCTOBER)

- Donation to local groups will be discussed at the November meeting
- Bus shelter
- Pant slip-road
- Christmas tree permanent
- Neighbourhood Plan
- The village green registration application

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