

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 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 C Mairs  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr G Smith  
Cllr N Thomas

Prior to the meeting consideration was given to what issues were to be raised with the police. In view of time restriction due to the police and public attendance, it was agreed that the precept review will be drafted in 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in readiness for consideration and approval at the November meeting.

**14.49 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rielly & Cllr Raine

**14.50 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

There were no expressions of interest raised.

**14.51 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed accordingly.

Matters arising:

- **Pant slip road**  
Not discussed as quotes are still to be obtained. ACTION: Cllr Roberts.
- **Stone seat plaque**  
Following discussion it was resolved that a plaque costing £500 would be purchased by the Parish Council for the base of the stone seat. It was emphasised that this is the only contribution from the Parish Council for this long-term village asset.
- **Hearing loop enquiry**  
The Clerk advised that she has not been able to obtain details from DCC about the installation of a hearing loop. Cllr Smith advised that he would arrange for a hearing loop system to be fitted in Monteith Close premises. ACTION: Cllr Smith to provide quote and installation timescale.
- **Simpson Road recreation area enquiry**  
No reply has been received despite several requests to DCC.

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**14.52 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Following the opening of the meeting, a meeting between the police and members of the public took place; a list of those present will be centrally filed. The following issues were discussed:

**Caravan being used as residential home** - A member of the public advised that the caravan is now gone from the Station View area; it has apparently been set on fire and the resident has left. The police advised that they have found out that the land where the caravan was sited is owned by the landowner who built the Station Road flats. The police are considering all options to prevent the resident returning with another caravan. It was suggested that bollards be sited until such time that the landowner raises objection. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

**Station Road Flats** - A resident advised that there are various issues that need to be addressed including wheelie bins being rolled in the road and tipped out, there is rubbish and graffiti around the place and youths congregate there regularly.

It was advised that nuisance youths have removed and burnt the perimeter fencing to the rear of the flats; hence providing an escape route for anyone needing a quick access through the flats. Chief Constable Mike Barton suggested a problem solving exercise to include police, youths, landlords and any other party involved. He offered to attend a site visit and lead an initiative to improve and resolve problems in the area. It was agreed that this would provide a more sustainable solution.

It was highlighted that containers at the rear of the Spar are being thrown around and, on occasion, burnt. The police agreed to liaise with the Spar manager about this problem. ACTION: Police to initiate problem solving meeting and liaise with Spar manager.

**The Nursery & Station View** - Suspected drug activity and speeding vehicles by minority of residents in a private rented house at the Nursery is causing locals numerous problems. Various issues were raised and it was agreed that police resource will be allocated to resolve any problems and prevent the continuation of any illegal activity in the area. ACTION: Police to arrange appropriate input.

**Oakley Green** - A resident complained about a caravan being secured in a car park on Oakley Green and horses being tethered leaving manure around the footpaths and green areas. The police agreed to take ownership of this problem as the resident stated she has contacted the county council numerous times but has been unable to achieve results. ACTION: Police to investigate further.

**Air rifles** - It was highlighted that a couple of locals are using air rifles and have been seen shooting signs, birds and greenhouses. The police emphasised that any incidents should be reported as they cannot deal with anything they are not aware of. Anyone unable to report any issues directly to the police by dialling 101 can also make anonymous reports to the Independent Crime Stopper on 0800 555 111.

**Station Road** - Vehicles parking on footpaths on Station Road and in the middle of the road on occasion are causing problems for other vehicles passing through this busy bus route main road. Litter outside the Best-One shop is reported as specifically bad on a weekend. Photographs were distributed to evidence some of the problems raised and

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it was agreed that these problems should be addressed as part of the initiative proposed by Chief Constable Barton.

**Bypass** - Issues regarding caravans siting on the by-pass for prolonged periods of time on occasion were raised. These issues have been raised in the past with the police and councils but to date no resolution has been found.

It was agreed that Superintendent Karen Smith and the Travellers' Liaison Officer would meet with a small group of Parish Councillors. ACTION: Police to provide contact for PC to arrange meeting.

A lady pointed out that since residents have been working with police and attending PACT meetings, problems with quad bikes and other anti-social behaviour are definitely improving in the East Green area.

Those present thanked the police for their continued effort and fresh approach to tackling crime and nuisance behaviour in the area.

#### **14.53 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.**

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

10/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
10/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
16/09/2014		Deposit Bond Maturity		£30,053.86	
16/09/2014		Deposit Bond Reinvested			£30,000.00
16/09/2014		Interest Received		£54.55	
17/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
17/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
22/09/2014	20008	Monteith Dividing Fence			£350.00
24/09/2014	BACS	Stamps and paper			£132.97
24/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
24/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
30/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
30/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
01/10/2014	SO	Clerk's Salary			£600.00
03/10/2014	DD	Npower			£4.07
07/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
07/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
09/10/2014	BACS	BT Broadband & phone Jul-Oct inc			£80.00
14/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
14/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
14/10/2014	20009	Evans Solicitor			£500.00
14/10/2014	20010	CDALC Budget training			£81.00

#### **14.53.1 To receive Westlife articles**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would provide items as follows:

- Copeland Road Speeding survey – Cllr G Smith
- Tackling Crime & Anti-social behaviour – Clerk
- Head Teacher Oakley Cross – Cllr Ferguson
- CCTV camera – Cllr C Smith

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- Christmas tree vandalism – Cllr Charlton
- Picnic tables & stone seat – Cllr M Roberts

Articles are to be submitted at the earliest convenience to avoid delays in circulation of Autumn edition of Westlife. Articles on Cold Calling and Anniversary of PC are still awaited.

**14.54 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.**

**(i) To arrange budget setting meeting**

Quarter end income and expenditure was reviewed and a specific meeting arranged for Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to finalise this and consider precept and budget setting.

**(ii) To consider siting CCTV on the Well gable end**

Cllr Smith has worked with police on the provision of the CCTV which will be sited at The Well gable end for 6 months.

**(iii) To consider and agree on siting of permanent Christmas tree**

. For consideration at the next meeting.

**14.55 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.**

**(i) To arrange Remembrance Service**

Clerk to arrange as per agreed event management programme. It was agreed that Cllr Ferguson will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

**(ii) To discuss maintenance/removal of rose bushes.**

For consideration at a future meeting.

**(iii) To consider Stockton & Darlington railway initiative**

To be discussed at a future meeting.

**(iv) To consider improving approaches to village with planter and grass cutting**

To be discussed at a future meeting.

**14.56 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

- To agree precept and budget setting
- To receive report on DCC AGM – Cllr Ferguson
- To consider request for supporting Christmas party
- To provide litter bin on picnic table area
- To consider improvements to Nursery and Fleece village green
- To consider draft points raised by Cllr Roberts about Fleece and Nursery
- To consider future group donations
- To consider maintenance/removal of rose bushes
- To consider siting of the permanent Christmas tree

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