

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 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 V Raine  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr G Smith  
Cllr N Thomas  
Cllr A Turner  
Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner  
Cllr Christine Wilson  
Cllr Rob York

**14.57 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs.

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

Cllr Ferguson expressed an interest in agenda item 7.

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

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

Matters Arising

- Update on Police Progress. The Police & Crime Commissioner, Ron Hogg attended the meeting and provided an update on the actions raised at the last meeting as detailed below.
- Update on quote for Pant slip road – Cllr Roberts has not yet obtained a quote to revert the slip-road and agreed to provide one at the December meeting.
- Update on DCC AGM – Cllr Ferguson advised that he attended the recent AGM and indicated that subscriptions to CDALC could increase significantly as DCC will not fund the area representative role in future. He also predicted that the grant which is received as part of the precept by the Parish Council is likely to discontinue; there is no confirmed decision from DCC on this as yet.

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**14.60 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Commissioner Hogg provided the following feedback in response to issues raised at the previous meeting.

**Caravan** - It has been established that the current owner of the land cannot be established as they have now gone into administration and the company is in liquidation. Due to this, no eviction can be administered and there is no owner/victim to proceed with a court ruling. It was decided that (unofficially) the Parish Council would be looking to place fence posts down to stop any further incursions onto the land until the new owner can be identified. Process is ongoing.

**Station Road Flats** - The walk around session is currently being arranged with the Chief Constable and various other representatives from the community as well as the controllers of the flats and the housing group Castle Dene who has responsibility for all but 2 of the properties.

**SPAR Shop** - 4 local youths have been identified as being responsible for the arson attacks where the large plastic pallets have been burned to the rear of the SPAR. The youths have been caught on CCTV and can be clearly seen and identified committing the offence. The SPAR shop manager has advised that he has struggled to obtain backing from his head office to secure funding for a lock-up area to prevent further loss and arson attacks with the pallets. The Neighbourhood Police Team is currently working with the Manager to identify simple cost effective solutions to address this problem. Investigation into the arson attacks and problem solving is still ongoing.

**The Nursery & Station View** - On 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, a dual warrant was executed at both 9 and 10 Station View. 9 Station view can be eliminated from the investigation and are not linked to any drugs. At 10 Station View, 10 persons known to the Police were within the address and parties were searched. Three of the occupants were found with a controlled drug on them and are currently under investigation. Since the warrant, the occupier of the premises is being visited on a daily basis by the NPT to assist in disruption tactics which has been very effective. A resident advised that there is still significant activity around number 10 with visitors driving at high speed to and from the premises.

**Oakley Green** - The resident has been visited and provided with information regarding the current horse problem in the West Auckland area and what future action is taking place with the residents of Green Lane in relation to a previous multi-agency warrant which included partners from Environment Agency, RSPCA, Northumbrian Water and the relevant electric supplier. The warrant was in relation to the mistreatment of the animals in their care which may result in them receiving lifetime bans. Partnership work with DCC Housing is currently ongoing in relation to the Bow Top caravan that is situated near to the resident's home address.

**Air Rifles** - There have been no incidents reported since the meeting in relation to the area identified where the locals are using the air rifles. At this stage there are no confirmed names of who may be responsible but local males known to the NPT have been spoken with shortly after the meeting and advised to keep away or to pass onto any known associated persons.

**Station Road** - Mr Kumar, manager/owner of the Best One Shop, is to be invited to the walk around meeting. A local resident advised that the problems with litter outside the Best One shop are still ongoing. Cars are still parking illegally and she has not seen improvement to any of the problems reported at the last meeting. Commissioner Hogg agreed to feedback this information.

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**Bypass** - Police agreed to work with the Parish Council to remove any future travellers parking/dwelling along the bypass.

**CCTV** - Since the meeting a CCTV camera has been installed onto the front of 'The Well' which covers the problem area. This will further support any evidence for the Police to take positive action.

Mr Hogg advised that he is willing to assist with making improvements wherever he can and will feedback on all points raised at the next meeting. Prior to leaving the meeting, Mr Hogg was thanked for his contribution. Following the feedback local residents raised the following items:

- Concerns about the speeding traffic in Copeland Road. Cllr Smith advised that a report is awaited from Stephen Jones, DCC who carried out an assessment of the area. The Parish Council advised that they have tried to tackle the problems for a number of years without success. Speed matrix, calming ramps and moving speed signs have all been suggested and requested in the past by the Parish Council.
- Issues of salvaged fridges, washing machines, etc are being dumped in a car park on Leven Road. Cllr Christine Wilson agreed to raise the problem with DCC and it was also advised that the PCSOs are aware of this problem but, as the dumping takes place during the night, it is difficult to catch them actually dumping.
- Objections to the proposed seat being sited at the top of Copeland Road. The petition submitted to support residents' objections will be centrally filed.
- It was suggested that the monthly agenda be included on the website and possibly publicised in local shops. It was advised that the agenda is centrally displayed on the noticeboard but can also be placed on the website as suggested. The resident also requested explanation of why the stone seat is being sited at the Manor House and why funds are being used to remove and relocate the existing seat. Cllr Roberts explained that the new seat will be a focal point and the existing seat was being covered with tree sap which would damage the stone of the new seat. It was emphasised that the existing seat which was removed will be used elsewhere within the village in due course.
- Progress update was requested on improving the Nursery site. The resident advised that she has rang DCC to arrange for a missing street sign to be replaced. She suggested if it was that easy for her it shouldn't be taking so long for the Parish Council to improve the landscaping at the Nursery. Cllr Roberts explained at length what the process has been so far and advised that following a recent walk around meeting, a proposed action plan for the area was to be discussed as a later agenda item.

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

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

14/10/2014	DD	HMRC NDDS			£250.00
21/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
21/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
28/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
28/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
01/11/2014	200011	Removal of Manor House seat/base			£120.00
01/11/2014	200012	British Legion Poppies wreaths and crosses			£160.00
01/11/2014	200013	Remembrance Service Band			£100.00
01/11/2014	SO	Clerk's Salary			£400.00
03/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
03/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
10/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
10/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
10/11/2014	200014	Zurich Annual Insurance			£402.28
10/11/2014	200015	Annual payment -Newsletter graphic production			£200.00
10/11/2014	BACS	Blue rolls, toilet rolls and dispensers			£102.47

##### 14.61.1 To receive Westlife articles

The Clerk requested that the schools be asked to submit an article on the Remembrance Sunday project that students participated in. The Clerk suggested asking schools to produce an article for each edition of Westlife on projects around environment, local history, etc under a heading of 'Let's hear it from the kids'.

**ACTION:** Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Smith, as school Governors, agreed to liaise with schools.

#### 14.62 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.



Proposed  
Budget.xlsx

##### (i) To agree precept and 2015-2016 Budget Setting

Cllr Ferguson provided an overview of the draft budget setting. Cllr Roberts pointed out that, if agreed, grass cutting at the Nursery would be an annual revenue cost and needed to appear in addition to any capital planning cost. Cllr Farrer pointed out that there is no provision made for any group/organisation that may request a donation. It was proposed that £1,000 be removed from Seating and a reduction of bedding plants by £500 be made to accommodate this. It was resolved that £1,500 be included in the budget for unspecified items. Following consideration of the draft budget proposals, it was agreed to include the above mentioned amendments as per embedded file – a manual copy is available on request.

It was resolved that there will be no increase on the precept for the coming year; the precept will remain at £21,041.00, which is inclusive of £4,558.00 LCTRS grant. **ACTION:** Clerk to submit the 2015 precept request.

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**(ii) To consider funding Christmas party and future group donations**

It was resolved that future donations to groups will not be given for parties and trips but the Parish Council aim to provide support to the elderly and young via the provision of required equipment for local group activity.

Two proposals were made for a donation towards the Thursday group Christmas meal request. It was proposed that £200 be donated and also proposed that £100 be given to coincide with recent group requests. Following discussion and a vote it was resolved that £200 be given on this occasion.

Cllr Ferguson abstained from voting due to an expression of interest as his wife participates in running the Thursday group.

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

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

This item was briefly discussed and will be included in the next agenda due to time restrictions.

**(ii) To consider provision of litter bin at picnic site.**

Cllr Wilson had agreed to request that a litter bin be sited near the picnic tables; it has since been reported that the Parish Council need to make the request direct as they sited the picnic tables. ACTION: Clerk has requested a litter bin via DCC and a reply is awaited.

**(iii) To consider action plan points drafted by Cllr Roberts**

A proposed action plan was produced following a walk around meeting between residents and Parish Council representatives; a copy of the plan will be filed centrally for viewing on request.

**(iv) To discuss Fleece & Nursery village green**

The proposed Action Plan as above will be considered fully and finalised at the December meeting.

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

Cllr Martin provided an update on the initiative and requested it be considered fully at the next meeting.

**(vi) To consider maintenance/removal of rose bushes**

It was requested that the existing roses be removed as they are diseased. It was resolved that the Parish Council will remove and replace the roses; Cllr Roberts will obtain a brochure for agreement at the next meeting.

**(vii) To consider improving approaches to village with bed plants**

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

This will be considered fully at a future meeting.

**(viii) To consider siting seat at top of Copeland Road**

Further to residents' objections it was resolved that the seat will not be sited at the top of Copeland Road at present.

**14.64 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

- To consider internal audit
- To consider changes to Quality Status
- To discuss allotment fires
- To consider Hawthorn edging at top of Copeland Road
- To consider quote/approval of siting bollards at SPAR shop
- To consider tidy up quote for site near Crusty Loaf
- To consider quotes for Monteith Close flooring
- To consider site for permanent Christmas tree
- To consider finalising Nursery action plan
- To consider Stockton & Darlington railway initiative
- To confirm hamper deliveries
- To consider improving approaches to village entrance
- To consider request for support on local wind farm objections
- To arrange removal and re-planting of village green rose beds

Apologies were received for the December meeting by Cllr Rielly & Cllr Thomas

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