

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th November 2015 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr G Robinson
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr A Turner
Cllr R Wright
DCC Cllr C Wilson

15.71 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs, Cllr Roberts & Cllr Thomas

15.72 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

- There were no expressions of interest declared in any agenda item.

15.73 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

15.74 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- A resident asked when a salt bin will be sited at the Nursery and also when any landscape works will commence in that area. She was advised that the missing salt bin, taken by DCC and belonging to the Parish Council, is being sought and will be sited there when found. It was advised that DCC plan to level the village green area adjacent to The Nursery in the next few weeks.
- A resident attended to raise concerns about an overgrown path from Oakley Grange to the Oakley Cross area. He requested that the Parish Council consider improving the access path to encourage walking to school and ease access for local residents. He advised that the rough terrain is encouraging local youths to congregate with bikes. It was agreed that improvements to this area are needed but as the path belongs to a local resident there may be limitations to what can be done. Cllr Wilson agreed to investigate options to improve the path.
- A resident voiced concerns about the Parish Council providing the majority of funding for the recent Westfest music festival and carnival. Although he agreed that the event was good for the village he did not feel that was the best use of tax payers' money.

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

15.75 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Charlton advised that the Parish Council's stall at the Memorial Hall went well. It was confirmed that the £90 raised by Cllr Raine's tombola will be split between the Memorial Hall and a carnival for next year.
- Cllr Charlton advised that the head teacher of Oakley Cross school has not replied to another request to meet to discuss the possibility of using the community sports facility attached to the school for community fitness and leisure activities on evenings and weekends. DCC Cllr Wilson agreed to ask DCC why the sports facility, built for community use, is not being used for that purpose. It was advised that the football club are keen to use the premises and other organisations may well also be interested if the premises became available again as it was well used in the past.
- Cllr Charlton advised that DCC Cllr York rang her to say that if West Auckland could use the £1,000, pledged by the Parish Council for fireworks, elsewhere he would manage without it. Since then Cllr York emailed to say that he cannot meet that shortfall and an invoice for £1,200 inc VAT has been received. It was resolved that £1,000 only will be paid as committed as there was no expectation by the Parish Council for the invoice to include VAT.

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

The Clerk requested reimbursement of £64.99 which she had inadvertently paid from her own bank account for the previous year's Norton laptop security. It was resolved that this money could be reimbursed. The Clerk advised that she has cancelled the Norton automatic opt-in laptop protection and will seek a local company's support for future laptop maintenance and security updates.

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and payments were checked on invoices as below:

Domestic - L Sams			£34.76
Broadband/phones			£20.00
Clerk's Salary			£600.00
npower electric			£66.95
HMRC PAYE Tax			£150.00
Domestic - L Sams			£34.76
Broadband/phones			£20.00
Clerk's Salary			£400.00
Domestic - L Beaumont			£16.00
Remembrance Refreshments			£16.47
Clerk's reimbursed NORTON payment			£64.99
Enterprise Agency- Fireworks			£1,000.00
Zurich insurance			£438.71
Poppy crosses and wreaths			£155.00
Plaque & honours board			£150.00
Remembrance Service Band			£100.00
Newsletter production - annual honorarium			£200.00

The Clerk raised concerns about Monteith parish room building security as the doors have been found unlocked on several occasions. It was agreed that a key holders' signing in and out book be introduced in addition to the posters being displayed as a reminder to those using the premises.

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

15.77 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To confirm proposed budget

Cllr Farrer went through the proposed budget and requested comments from Parish Councillors. The budget was agreed by those present and it was resolved that the items suggested to be purchased from the reserve funds be discussed at the next meeting.

ii. To review quotes for fire alarm, ceiling and lights

It was resolved that a quote for £1,460 received to replace the parish room ceiling be approved. The new ceiling will be lower, provide some insulation, noise reduction for the upstairs resident and incorporate new lights, at additional cost, and the already planned hearing loop. Lights will cost £853 including cables and fittings; Cllr Smith advised that he will not be charging labour. A replacement fire alarm costing approximately £800 will also be sited at Monteith Close premises. These items will be funded from the remaining Big Lottery grant money and the additional funding required to complete the works will be taken from Parish Council reserves.

iii. To consider purchase of defibrillator

Cllr G Robinson advised that the cost of the defibrillator will be £1,200 and he has applied for a grant for the whole amount. Cllr Wright advised that another local parish had obtained one for approximately £400. It was agreed to wait until next month for the outcome of the grant application. It was also resolved that if the grant is not obtained by the next meeting the course of action will be to pursue Cllr Wright's proposal.

iv. To consider road surfacing

It was resolved that this item be removed without action.

15.78 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To receive update from recent meeting and consider progressing with Neighbourhood Plan

As Cllr Thomas and Cllr Roberts were both absent it was resolved that this item should be included on the next agenda when a progress report can be obtained.

ii. To arrange Nursery residents' meeting and obtain update on builder's wall

Options to consult with Nursery residents on potential improvements to the area were discussed and it was agreed that Parish Council representatives will meet with residents on Saturday, 5th December 2015 at 10 .30 am. In the meantime residents will be given a questionnaire to obtain their perceptions of any Parish Council intervention required to improve groundworks surrounding their dwellings. The grass land of the village green area has been dealt with and vehicular access to the now registered village green is prohibited. It was suggested that the residents should be asked if they would contribute towards any identified shared improvements scheme for the area. ACTION: Clerk to draft a questionnaire and send a letter to Mr Robinson about progressing with completion of the wall and tidying of the site.

ACTION: Cllr Rielly and Cllr Wright agreed to meet with the Workingmen's Club Committee to raise concerns about the damage the dray wagon causes whilst accessing the rear of the workingmen's club via the Nursery.

iii. To receive update on use of sports facilities at Oakley Cross Sports Hall

This item was addressed at item 15.75 ACTION Cllr Wilson will liaise with DCC.

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

- iv. To agree delegates to review weekly Planning applications

Cllr L Rielly and Cllr G Robinson were asked to participate in reviewing any new development plans along with Cllr Roberts and Cllr Thomas.

- v. To arrange Christmas train involvement

It was advised that the local DCC councillors will be arranging for the Santa Run train to come through West Auckland and other villages in the build up to Christmas; the dates and times were not confirmed.

- vi. To arrange provision of salt bin at Nursery area

Discussed at item 15.74

15.79 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was advised that plans have been submitted to develop 10 houses at the rear of the youth club.

15.80 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2015 (INTERIM MEETING 23RD NOVEMBER AT 7.00 PM)

- To consider options for procuring a defibrillator
- To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan
- To receive an update on speed checks on Copeland Road & consider siting a speed matrix at village entrance points.
- To consider funding specific items from reserve funds.
- To consider football monument history display
- To consider Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth on 14th March 2016

It was confirmed that the Clerk will prepare two hampers for delivery to local nursing and residential homes by 10.00 am Thursday, 10th December 2015.

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