

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13th July 2015 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson (arrived late)
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr A Turner
County Cllr Christine Wilson

15.41 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Thomas & Cllr Roberts. Cllr Charlton welcomed Cllr Greg Robinson to the Parish Council and the Clerk informed those present that Cllr Robinson was elected via DCC following a recent vacancy.

15.42 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

- Cllr G Robinson & Cllr W Robinson declared an interest on item 15.47.v

15.43 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting and signed accordingly.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

15.44 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- A local resident attended the meeting to raise concerns about travellers siting 7 caravans on the New Street recreation area. It was advised that numerous people have liaised with the police and Durham County Council regarding the problems and prevention of future access. CCllr C Wilson advised that the Travellers' Liaison Officer had advised that the travellers were made aware they had no right to site on a children's play area. Cllr Smith suggested raising this item at a TLP Committee meeting. It was resolved that the PC would review bollards around the whole village to ensure any potential access points are secured as a preventative measure.

A resident of a neighbouring parish raised the following:

- To state she had called an election under due process and then decided to withdraw her nomination for personal circumstances.
- To ask if there had been any match funding by other organisations for the carnival. It was confirmed that there has been no further funding obtained to date.
- To request a progress update on arrangements for a meeting with the enforcement officer. It was advised that she would be notified when the enforcement officer meeting is arranged.

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

15.45 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Charlton advised that she had a positive meeting with the Oakley Cross school in relation to potential use of the multi-purpose games area by the local community. The Head-teacher agreed to raise issues surrounding this with the Board of Governors and feedback accordingly in due course.

- Cllr Farrer advised that he and Cllr Robinson had met with the allotment holders and informed those present that the allotments are being well kept. There is a waiting list for any allotments that may become available.

15.46 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORING INVOICE CHEQUES.

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

G3 Gift card, stationery, refreshments			£61.82
G3 Bulk tea & coffee			£15.78
G3 - A3 Printer/copier and cartridges bundle			£286.93
BT Annual Line Rental			£183.48
Refund from Northumbrian Water		£63.31	

The Clerk provided an update of the finance group meeting held to review quarter end spending and advised that she would draft a proposed action plan to address recommendations on weaknesses provided by the recent Internal/External Audit.

On Cllr Roberts’ behalf the Clerk requested that the Parish Council consider proceeding with pursuing any available s106 funding. It was resolved that an application should be made.
ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Roberts.

The Clerk reported on a letter received requesting any available support to provide a suitable garden for a family with a disabled daughter. It was resolved that this should be considered fully in a closed meeting and Cllr Charlton agreed meet the family to obtain further information,

The Clerk presented photos sent by a resident to highlight the deteriorated state of a wall along the river at River Walk. CCllr Wilson advised that she is currently liaising with DCC on this issue and it was resolved that the Parish Council would also submit a letter of complaint as support.

To receive Westlife articles

Cllr Smith advised that he has 2-3 items for Westlife. Cllr Charlton agreed to write an article in remembrance of all the efforts over the years of the late Cllr John Ferguson.

15.47 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

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

Cllr Charlton advised that there were several suggestions considered and it was resolved that a plaque be mounted on a new seat on the village green. It was also resolved that, as accolade to a Chairperson’s role, a wall mounted commemorative plaque be purchased for the Parish Rooms to record Cllr Ferguson as Chairman and founder of the Parish Council; Cllr Charlton and any future Chairpersons will be added to the plaque in due course.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

(ii) To consider Christmas lights

To be considered at the next meeting.

(iii) To consider quote for football monument information board

To be considered at the next meeting once Cllr Roberts has obtained the quote from Cre8ive Graphics.

(iv) To confirm maintenance of Monteith Close Parish Rooms' garden

It was resolved that the grass, in the Parish Rooms garden, be fed and cut for the remainder of this year and if it doesn't then improve options to resurface it will be considered in due course.

(v) To consider further support for WestFest

Cllr Greg Robinson provided a detailed account of carnival planning and expenditure. Following in-depth discussion and consideration of the benefits of holding a carnival in the village and lack of funding from elsewhere, it was proposed and resolved that the Parish Council will reluctantly support any shortfall from reserves within the Parish Council budget for this initial year.

15.48 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To consider proposals to improve Nursery areas

Dave Gillet, DCC has confirmed that works to improve the area at the Nursery will commence October 2015. Cllr Rielly proposed that a site meeting be held will all residents of the Nursery to consider the planned improvements. It was advised that the Parish Council cannot support any resident's request to take registered village green for additional car parking.

(ii) To consider use of Oakley Cross sports hall

As reported above a response from the Oakley Cross school Head teacher is awaited.

15.49 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

No items were raised.

**15.50 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2015
(NO AUGUST MEETING)**

- To consider preventing future traveller access to village green areas.
- Christmas tree, lights & festivities
- Bus shelter quotes
- Oakley Cross sports hall
- Traffic management
- To review options of acquiring a defibrillator
- Neighbourhood Plan

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