

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 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 Mairs  
Cllr V Raine  
Cllr Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr G Smith  
Cllr Thomas  
Cllr A Turner  
DCC Cllr Christine Wilson

## **15.12 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rielly.

## **15.13 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

- Cllr Robinson expressed an interest in agenda items 15.18.i & 15.18.ii.
- Cllr Roberts expressed an interest in agenda item 15.18.v

## **15.14 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be accurate and signed accordingly. Cllr Ferguson highlighted that County Councillors should be listed as such when in attendance to avoid confusion. This comment was acknowledged and will be actioned in future Minutes.

### **Matters Arising**

- Update on Pant slip-road quote

This item was deferred and will not be included in future agendas until specifically requested and costings have been sought.

## **15.15 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

There were several members of the public in attendance but none made comments.

## **15.16 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- Cllr Charlton confirmed that the 30 year Asset Transfer Lease has been signed and the formal hand-over meeting between DCC and the Parish Council took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015. As the Asset Transfer process for Monteith Close Community Parish Room is now complete, the Parish Council is responsible for future management and internal maintenance of the ground floor of the premises.
- Cllr Roberts provided an update on a recent meeting with the appointed joiner who is replacing doors and windows at the Parish Room. Cllr Roberts advised that from the meeting came ideas on improving storage facilities within Monteith Close and provided a proposal to improve internal storage and remove the need for a canopy between the back door and shed externally. It was resolved that

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

this will be considered fully when the appropriate permission has been obtained from DCC to make the requested improvements to the premises.

- Interviews to replace the cleaners have taken place and it was recommended that the two candidates interviewed be appointed at 1 hour each per week. It was highlighted that the proposal would incur an increased cleaning cost of £8 per week. The proposal was discussed and it was resolved that both ladies be appointed to provide additional security, support and cover for each other. ACTION: Clerk to hold new employee meeting and register both ladies with PAYE.
- Cllr Ferguson advised that he receives numerous telephone calls from a local resident complaining of the problems with dog fouling. Cllr Wilson advised that she has asked community wardens to patrol the area and Cllr Smith has included an awareness raising article in Westlife.

**15.17 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.**

- i The latest Westlife was recently delivered and it was agreed that the next edition will be devoted to the Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors were asked to draft appropriate articles in readiness for submission at the next Parish Council meeting.
- ii Spring Clean - Further to residents’ concerns, a Spring Clean litter pick will be held Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 10.00 am. Cllr Wilson expressed her concerns about the amount of litter in the area. There was some debate about problem areas throughout the village and Parish Councillors were invited to encourage support via Scouts, Guides and other groups. Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Smith agreed to invite the schools to participate and it was suggested that the children should do something during school hours around the village green area only to assure their safety.
- iii It was proposed and resolved that the Parish Council subscribe to the Open Spaces Society for 1 year and review any support received prior to subscribing next year.
- iv Youth Club – further to discussions with youth club managers about the nuisance youths complaint from last month, Father McTeer has requested that the Parish Council consider providing financial support to the youth club. This will be considered at next month’s meeting.
- v Further landscaping quotes have been obtained and following discussion, Cllr Wilson was asked to check whether DCC intend to maintain the rose beds this year as they are actually their responsibility.

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

17/02/2015	BACS	Monteith Cleaning Materials & Mops			£39.09
19/02/2015	200030	Monteith Asset Transfer- solicitor's balance			£140.00
19/02/2015	200031	Resident's Security Light			£200.00
24/02/2015	DD	npower gas			£47.37
02/03/2015	CR	DCC reimbursed asset transfer legal costs		£640.00	
09/03/2015	200032	Cre8ive Graphics - newsletter and flyer			£205.00
09/03/2015	200033	Newsletter delivery			£100.00
09/03/2015	200034	West Auckland Community Partnership-carnival			£2,000.00

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

**(i) To consider request for donation towards carnival revival**

Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council will donate £2,000, which includes the £500 obtained when the Village Centre folded, to support a 2015 West Fest carnival day.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

**(ii) To consider funding donation to Tuesday toddler music group**

This request was withdrawn.

**(iii) To consider contribution towards fireworks display**

It was resolved that the Parish Council will contribute £1,000 towards the fireworks display.

**(iv) To consider comments and quotes for a permanent Christmas tree**

Another quote has been received for a Christmas tree. This item was debated at length and it was agreed that the decision to plant a permanent Christmas tree should be reviewed at the next meeting in view of the potential cost of providing electricity to light the tree in the future.

**(v) To consider quotes to landscape Fleece/Nursery village green**

Pat Holding, DCC has advised that the Parish Council cannot obtain ownership of the newly registered village green as they would need to prove exclusive use of the land.

It was resolved that Brian Mundell be asked to relocate a sign in the area and lay turf as required. It was also resolved that local builder, Mr Robinson be asked to tidy up his building site.

**(vi) To consider quote for treating and pruning rose beds**

A quote has been obtained to replace and landscape the rose beds. Cllr Wilson agreed to ask DCC whether they can maintain the rose beds prior to a final decision on this at the next meeting.

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

**(i) To consider funding re-application for skate park**

Following lengthy discussion it was resolved that Cllr Yorke be asked to pursue the grant application and invite Olly, Groundwork to the next meeting. It was suggested that any plans and costings be circulated to the Parish Council for consideration prior to the meeting. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

**(ii) To consider village signage and football monument information board**

Various options were considered and following discussion it was resolved that a specification be drafted and a quote obtained. ACTION: Clerk to arrange via Cre8ive Graphics.

**15.20 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

No specific planning issues raised at this meeting. Cllr Roberts highlighted that Parish Council comments were taken into consideration and had influenced a recent DCC planning decision.

**15.21 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

- To consider replacing Christmas lights – July meeting
- To arrange Neighbourhood Plan public meeting
- To consider feedback from youths and financial support for the youth club.
- To consider quotes for landscaping at Fleece/Nursery
- To consider rescinding decision to plant a permanent Christmas tree
- To consider siting an additional seat at the Manor House.
- To replace shrubs at end of Rydal Grove
- To receive update on the Wetlands
- To consider maintenance of Monteith Close garden

Apologies from Cllr Turner for the April 2015 meeting.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....