

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 5th December 2011 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr P Fenwick
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C Mairs, vice Chair
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr K Twedde

11.77 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr A Turner.

11.78 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

11.79 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed to be a true account of the previous meeting and signed accordingly.

11.80 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Gavin Scott, representative from DCC attended the meeting to provide an overview of the DCC strategic plan and explained how this links with any plan local parish councils may have including a newly introduced Neighbourhood plan; following the presentation the possibilities of incorporating the revised Parish Plan with a Neighbourhood plan were discussed and it was agreed that this would be beneficial and it was also highlighted that it would be a time consuming exercise.

11.81 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT

There were no police present.

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

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

CHEQUE No	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100340	Children in Need walk	£17.73	Y
100341	Poppy wreaths	£52.50	Y
100342	SLCC Subscriptions	£83.00	Y
100343	Purchase and siting of Christmas tree	£200.00	Y
100344	Christmas timetable newsletter distribution	£70.00	Y

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and cheques endorsed for invoices as detailed above. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for the additional payment of £250.00 in appreciation for the work she has undertaken with the development and population of a West Auckland Parish Council website.

11.83 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To discuss purchase of hampers and arrange Christmas meal

It was confirmed that a reservation has been made at the Red Alligator for Monday, 19th December 2011, 7.00 pm for the Christmas meal. The hampers for Roslyn House and Devonshire House have been arranged.

ii. To discuss purchase and siting of picnic tables

Cllr Roberts is making enquiries about various options for picnic tables and will bring a plan and further information to the next meeting.

iii. To discuss farmers' market

It was confirmed that there will be 12 stalls at the farmers' market. Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council should consider the purchase of a generator for future events.

iv. To consider purchase of a notice board

The item was discussed briefly and various options are being considered but no decision can be made until it is decided where the Parish Council will eventually be based.

v. To consider tree planning programme

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

vi. To discuss the possibilities for a skate park

The Clerk was asked to obtain prices of various options for a skate park; she pointed out that she had already obtained prices for two local skate parks, Bishop Auckland being £120,000 and St Helens approximately £60,000 and agreed to seek more prices.

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

11.84 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To discuss Queen's Jubilee

It was agreed that the Parish Council will investigate the cost of providing every child in the village junior schools with a printed mug to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. ACTION: Cllr Charlton to obtain details and quotes.

ii To discuss Parish Plan review

An initial meeting has taken place about the review of the Parish Plan and Cllr Roberts will draft a summary for submission in the next newsletter. The Clerk highlighted that a questionnaire is required to obtain electorate feedback on priorities; this is required for the next newsletter.

iii To discuss the snow contingency plan

Following discussion it was agreed that advice will be sought from DCC about the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing 12 salt bins and filling them within their budget. ACTION: Clerk to liaise with DCC.

iv To receive Westlife articles

Cllr Fenwick agreed to produce an article for submission in the next newsletter about the use of the salt bins as a means of encouraging residents to assist their neighbours as much as they can. The Clerk requested articles for the January Westlife as soon as possible.

v To consider Parish Council premises

The Chapel was considered as a base for the Parish Council but these premises were deemed too expensive and too large. A meeting has taken place to consider the possibility of the Parish Council obtaining Monteith premises as a asset transfer from DCC; this would not involve the flat above the premises. All options will be considered further prior to a final decision being made. The old Village Centre premises were discussed and it was agreed to enquire about the cost of renting and the possibility of buying these premises. ACTION: Clerk to write.

vi To receive update on the Nursery

It was confirmed that the Parish Council approved the correspondence sent as a reply to the objection about the registration of the Nursery land as village green.

vii To consider cemetery improvements

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

11.85 TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED ON USEOF PARISH ROOMS

No items were received.

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

11.86 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2012 MEETING

- Picnic tables
- Christmas tree
- Purchase of generator for farmers' market and similar functions
- Skate park
- Tree planting programme
- Cemetery improvements
- Parish Council premises
- Village green – road adjacent to Pant

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