

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 5th March 2012 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr P Fenwick
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C Mairs, vice Chair
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr K Tweddle
PC Rob Simpson

12.20 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bell, Cllr Turner and Cllr Roberts.

12.21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Fenwick expressed an interest in agenda item 8.

12.22 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed to be a true account of the previous meeting and signed accordingly. An slight amendment was made to the minutes item 12.13 should have read 9th March 2012 and not 9th February 2012 as stated in error.

12.23 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were no members of the public present.

12.24 TO RECEIVE POLICE REPORT

PC Rob Simpson attended the meeting and provided an update of local crime statistics. He advised that the Eden Arms public house is now closed due to ongoing licensing and anti-social behavioural problems. Youth nuisance behaviour around the Manor House and Pant area are being addressed by the police to prevent stones, eggs, etc being thrown at passing cars. He pointed out that resources poured into that area will only be effective with the support of the local business affected. PC Simpson raised concerns about a dark area near the Pant and possibilities of improving lighting to increase visibility were discussed. It was advised that the provision of an additional street light would be beneficial in addressing problems in this area. The issue of a previously raised problem of the badly lit area between Ennerdale Grove and George Street was also raised and it was suggested that the AAP be approached. ACTION: Clerk to write to Angelina Maddison.

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A problem of parents dropping children off at the no parking area of Copeland Road is being addressed. PC Simpson advised those present that various measures have been introduced to prevent this including letters to parents, a talk in assembly and the street wardens have been advised to place £30 fine tickets as required.

12.25 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING INVOICE CHEQUES.

CHEQUE No	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100355	DCC Christmas lights	£1038.00	Y
100356	CDALC Subscriptions	£267.19	Y

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and cheques endorsed for invoices as detailed above.

The Clerk advised those present that commitment to the attached Statement of Intent would need to be agreed by the Parish Council to ensure that the Clerk and Parish Councillors attend relevant training and development courses over the next 4 years as part of their commitment to a Quality Status Parish Council. It was resolved that West Auckland Parish Council will adhere to the Statement of Intent.

The Clerk asked that the Parish Councillors to recall when the Code of Conduct was adopted and informed them that the minutes had not specifically stated that adopting the Code of Conduct was inclusive of paragraph 12(2) as follows:

Effect of prejudicial interests on participation

12.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority—

(a) you must withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting considering the business is being held—

(i) in a case where sub-paragraph (2) applies, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence;

(ii) in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at that meeting;

unless you have obtained a dispensation from your authority’s standards committee; and

(b) you must not seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.

(2) Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise

Parish Councillors were reminded that they have previously received a copy of the Code of Conduct including paragraph 12(2) and the Clerk offered to supply further copies if required. The Parish Council acknowledged receipt and confirmed that the Code of Conduct, including paragraph 12(2) have been adopted by West Auckland Parish Council. The Clerk apologised for any oversight on her part in not making the original minutes specific enough.

The Clerk advised that she had investigated options for a higher interest account for Parish Council funds; she has been advised that the rate offered by NatWest was not for business customers. The Clerk requested guidance from Parish Councillors and it was resolved that the deposit bond funds should remain with HSBC for the next 3 months at least.

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The Clerk advised that whilst doing the annual accounts she noticed that no gas or electric bills have been received this financial year.

It was resolved that the annual PAT testing is due. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

12.26 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To discuss Parish Council premises

There has been no formal notification received but it is believed that Monteith Parish Room will probably asset transfer to the Parish Council for future management.

ii. To consider minor road at rear of Pant and Manor House/Crusty Loaf sliproad

Cost details are awaited for making the Pant slip-road village green and re-surfacing the road between the Manor House and the Crusty Loaf.

iii. To consider providing bus services via estates

Information about the Link 2 scheme was brought and it was confirmed that West Auckland will not fit into the specified criteria of the service being available for:

- Anyone living further than 600 metres or 10 minute walk from a bus stop
- That no service bus will run within one hour of the time required
- The journey would require a change of bus.

The possibility of asking local bus services was considered and it was agreed to write to Arriva, Go-ahead and the Tesco courtesy bus to ask if they would consider providing a service around the estates in West Auckland. ACTION: Clerk to write.

iv. To consider skate park

The skate park meeting is due to take on Friday, 9th March 2012 at New Street play area at 2.00pm. Cllr Rielly has visited Bishop Auckland and St Helens skate parks and recommends that any play area could be the size of the St Helens skate park but made of the same material as the Bishop Auckland version to reduce injury on falling.

v. To consider purchase of trees for East Green

A quote has been received for 6 trees for East Green and 1 for the Crusty Loaf. It was resolved that the planting should go-ahead. ACTION: Clerk to request permission from DCC and confirm with the supplier that the larger root ball will be required.

vi. To confirm salt bin progress

Following discussion, it was agreed that DCC should be asked again for advice on where to site bins and to provide a cost. ACTION: Clerk has chased up via Ian Raine and requested a response within next 7 days.

vii. To consider purchase of seat for by-pass

Cllr Charlton confirmed that Cllr Turner has informed her that a seat has been ordered and

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will be sited in due course.

2.27 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To discuss village green registration application

This application process is still ongoing and will be carried forward to the next agenda.

ii To consider amendment to monthly meeting date

It was agreed that meetings will revert to the 2nd Monday of each month with effect from the AGM 2012.

iii To consider cemetery improvements

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting as there has been no feedback from DCC as yet.

iv To consider litter picking project

No confirmation has yet been received. This item will be carried forward to the next agenda.

v To discuss Oakley Beck and Old Mill Race footpaths

To be carried forward to the next meeting.

vi To consider Queen's Jubilee celebrations

It was resolved that 350-400 china cups should be purchased for children attending both junior schools in West Auckland to acknowledge the Queen's Jubilee Parish Council.

Cllr Roberts is to confirm whether he has managed to find out if the amusements are available around the time of the Jubilee.

12.28 TO DISCUSS ISSUES RAISED ON USE OF PARISH ROOMS

No items were received.

12.29 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 2ND APRIL 2012 MEETING

- Consideration of replacement if mobile library service is lost.
- To consider village green registration application
- To consider cemetery improvements
- To discuss Oakley Beck and Old Mill Race footpaths
- To consider Queen's Jubilee
- To consider skate park
- To request Newsletter articles
- To receive update on Memorial Hall Trustee status
- To receive update on football monument

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