

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th September 2013 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C CMairs, vice Chairperson
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr G Smith
Cllr A Turner

In attendance:
Cllr Rob Yorke
Cllr Christine Wilson

13.59 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Robinson & Cllr Farrer

13.60 TO WELCOME CO-OPTED MEMBER, CLLR GEORGE SMITH

Cllr Smith was welcomed as a co-opted member of the Parish Council and provided with a welcome pack to include Standing Orders, Financial Interest and Declaration of Interest forms.

13.61 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Smith expressed an interest in agenda item on Christmas tree lights.

13.62 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Matters Arising: The following actions require follow-up:

Nothing revisited.

13.63 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- A local volunteer attended to advise that the Monteith Community rooms book swap facility is not being well used at the dedicated time she attends each week. It was therefore agreed that the specific session will cease at the end of September and she will continue to manage the books on an occasional basis. The book swap facility will continue to be available only when community groups are using the premises.

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

- Cllr Lynne Rielly requested that any available parish councillors attend the Big Local meeting on Wednesday, 25th September 2013. Cllr Rielly also advised that parish council representation is required at the Big Local meeting on 4th October 2013, which she cannot attend.
- Cllr Rob Yorke provided plans of a skate park and requested parish council support for the project. Following a brief presentation and project plan details provided by Oliver, Groundwork it was agreed that the parish council will support the project and the item will be placed on the next agenda for financial commitment confirmation. Cllr Yorke will be submitting the application for s106 project funding at the earliest convenience and confirmed that he and Cllr Wilson could pledge up to £15,000 to support the project. The parish council will need to agree match funding and any available options will be pursued by Cllr Yorke and the Clerk to obtain that .
- Cllr Roberts stated that he has been approached by a local quarry offering a carved seat to be used somewhere in the village as a commemorative monument. This was discussed and it was agreed that such a seat could demonstrate a token of respect for all miners who lost their lives mining local coal pits and collieries in the past. The local cemetery was suggested as a suitable site for the seat but it will be considered and discussed fully once Cllr Roberts has confirmed the parish council's interest and obtained confirmation and further details about the proposed stone seat.
- Concerns were raised about a local resident who has sited and is living in a caravan on the Nursery land. Cllr Yorke advised that the police and DCC are considering options of dealing with this issue. Cllr Christine Wilson also agreed to follow-up on this problem and encourage progress where she can.

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

CHEQUE No	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100454	External audit	£312.00	Y
100455	Cre8ive Graphics	£24.00	Y
100456	M Henderson = siting seat	£170.00	Y
100457	Smith Roddam Nursery Village Green application	£2,550.00	Y
100458	J Ferguson – locks and bollards	£89.57	Y
100459	M Roberts Inquiry and Heritage presentation	£69.84	Y
100460	M Henderson Picnic tables	£500.00	Y

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

Various quotes have been received for the siting of the picnic tables on the village green and it was considered and agreed that they will be sited by Chris Evans Joinery at the earliest convenience; this project has been agreed and outstanding for several months..

13.65 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

- To consider replacement shrubs at Christmas tree site

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

It was proposed that the Christmas tree site shrubs be removed and replaced. Following discussion it was agreed that a hard prune be tried initially. ACTION: Clerk to arrange with Darren Hardman to check trees on East Green, remove 1 hanging basket bracket and hard prune Christmas tree shrubs. Cllr L Rielly to be contacted for site meeting at Christmas tree shrub area.

ii. To consider purchase of Christmas tree lights

Cllr Smith submitted an estimate for replacement Christmas tree lights. It was proposed and agreed that the existing lights be requested from DCC for checking prior to agreement to purchase new ones. ACTION: Clerk to request lights back from DCC.

iii. To consider planting permanent Christmas tree

Confirmation from John Day is awaited on the suitability of the potential site at the small triangular green at the top of the village to plant a permanent Christmas tree. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up.

iv. To consider provision of salt adverse weather

The provision salt for the bins was discussed and Cllr Yorke advised that he could provide as much salt as necessary. ACTION: Clerk to advise where salt is required.

13.66 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan

It was proposed and agreed the Parish Council do want to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and Clerk to express an interest in funding to support the process. ACTION: Clerk to express interest in bid for funding support production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

ii To receive update on Monteith Close asset transfer

It was confirmed that the upper floor resident at Monteith Close does not want to vacate the premises. Therefore the parish council agreed they are willing to take asset transfer of the lower floor only, which was their initial preference. Quotes have been obtained to replace the windows, kitchen, carpets and decorating and grants are being pursued by Ross Cowling, DCC.

iii To receive update on village green application process

Following several requests for a progress report, Jill Errington has agreed to contact the legal Chambers to obtain details of the village green application Inquiry outcome.

13.67 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 2013 7.00 PM . (INTERIM MEETING 23RD SEPTEMBER)

- Budget setting for 2014-2015
- Remembrance Sunday arrangements
- Planting of permanent Christmas tree
- Village green application update
- Siting of stone seat
- Skate park application progress

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