

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th November 2013 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Reilly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr N Thomas
Cllr A Turner

13.68 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs

13.69 TO WELCOME A CO-OPTED MEMBER

Cllr James McNeil (Neil) Thomas was welcomed as a co-opted member of the Parish Council. He had previously been provided with a welcome pack to include Standing Orders, Financial Interest and Declaration of Interest forms; these were duly completed and returned.

13.70 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no expressions of interest made.

13.71 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: None

13.72 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A local attended to request support for a newly founded jazz band, The Parish Council thanked her for presenting the case and agreed to contact her following consideration at item agend 13.74ii.

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

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

CHEQUE NO	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PREVIOUSLY AGREED
100465	Zurich Insurance	£506.73	Y
100466	Memorial Service Band (pipers and drummers volunteered)	£100.00	Y
100467	Thursday morning toddler group Christmas party	£150.00	Y
100468	Thursday bingo group	£250.00	Y
100469	Royal Fusiliers Jazz Band foundation	£250.00	Y
100470	Newsletter production	£200.00	Y
100471	Memorial Service Manor House tea/coffee	£74.00	Y

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

13.74 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To consider planting permanent Christmas tree

As there has been no further correspondence received from Bryan Harris, Cllr Roberts agreed to liaise with him and request a site visit to discuss this and other issues including the Pant slip-road, stone seat and Nursery. ACTION: Cllr Roberts to include representatives of the Parish Council at meeting an Clerk to write again..

ii. To consider donation requests from local groups

Further to discussion it was agreed to make the following donations to local groups:

Thursday toddler group x 18	£150
Thursday bingo group x 30	£250
Newly formed jazz band	£250

iii. To receive update on bus shelter request

As Cllr Charlton has not received any notification, the Clerk was asked to write again to request a meeting. ACTION: Clerk to write.

iv. To confirm Budget Setting for 2013-2014

In light of information about the restrictions on any precept increased being capped at 2% in at least the next 2 years, it was unanimously agreed to rescind the agreed 4% and change to a 5% precept increase. It is noted that it is unusual and against good practice to annul previously made and documents decisions. This was considered an exceptional case.

The proposed budget was agreed as attached.

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

13.75 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i To confirm Christmas arrangements

- Cllr George Smith has agreed to test and provide replacement lights for the Christmas tree.
- Cllr Mairs is arranging the provision of a tree.
- It was agreed that hampers will be made up and given to Roslyn and Devonshire House at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 12th December 2013. Clerk advised she is willing to make up the hampers if required to do so.

ii To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan

As there has been no expression of interest in producing a Neighbourhood Plan, this item will be carried forward to one more meeting for consideration to commit or abandon.

iii To receive update on Monteith Close asset transfer

The Clerk advised that there has been no communication regarding the legal process of the asset transfer. She confirmed that the grant application to replace the kitchen has been completed and submitted.

iv To receive update on village green application process

Following the recommendation of the recent inquiry, a meeting is to be arranged with the appropriate people to lobby support prior to the application being formally considered by DCC Committee. ACTION: Clerk to write to Jill Errington to obtain confirmation that the meeting will not take place prior to the Parish Council having the opportunity to meet with relevant parties. ACTION: Cllr Charlton to invite Helen Goodman and Rob Yorke to a site meeting.

v To confirm siting arrangements for donated stone seat

Details of the siting of the proposed seat was considered and this will be discussed further with Bryan Harris during his meeting in the near future.

vi To consider reverting Pant slip-road back to village green

Cllr Roberts will raise this issue during his meeting with Bryan Harris and will feedback to the parish council following this.

13.76 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 9TH DECEMBER 2013 7.00 PM

(INTERIM MEETING 25TH NOVEMBER)

- Village Archive
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Christmas arrangements
- Monteith asset transfer
- Village green application
- Pant slip-road
- Community volunteer service
- Permanent Christmas tree
- Speed warning signs

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