

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th April 2014 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Bell
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs - Chairperson
Cllr V Raine
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr N Thomas
Gordon Wooding, Crime Services
PC Heather Fenwick
PC Lee Blaney

14.17 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Charlton, Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Turner.

14.18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no expressions of interest.

14.19 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Matters Arising: Feed-back on actions as follows:

- All actions were carried out.

14.20 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence in respect of Mrs Betty Saunders, who died recently, a few days after falling in the Parish Rooms when attending the Thursday afternoon bingo session. DCC were informed immediately of Betty's fall and are in the process of investigating the incident.

No members of the public present but concerns were raised that the grass cutters ploughed grass in the rain. ACTION: Clerk to write to Dave Gillet about the bad state of the Millbank Close green area.

Numerous complaints have been received about people being unable to walk, with dogs and pushchairs, passed the caravan currently parked on the by-pass. The caravan is sited on Etherley Parish Council land just outside of West Auckland boundary. The police attended the meeting to advise that the family staying at the by-pass have been given permission to stay there by the traveller liaison officer of Durham County Council. ACTION: Clerk to contact Etherley Parish Council.

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

A problem of fly tipping of a fridge and carpets were reported. PC Blaney agreed to report the incident to Street Scene.

PC Blaney provided an update on the East Green home area to advise that the current owner has sold the site to a building company from Yorkshire and anticipates that the building may commence later 2014.

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

CHEQUE NO	DETAILS	AMOUNT	PRIOR AGREED
100490	Local Councils Explained	£40.91	Y
100491	CDALC Neil Thomas training	£27.00	Y
100492	CDALC Subscriptions	£307.21	Y
100493	BDM Services	£700.00	Y

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

To receive Westlife articles – the draft Westlife was discussed and minor amendments were made.

A quote received from BDM to site the picnic tables was agreed; this is the best of the 3 quotes received.

Cllr Charlton has been invited to the Queen’s garden party this year and it was resolved that the Parish Council will provide travel and accommodation for Cllr Charlton and her guest to attend this event.

14.22 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To receive update on skate park land application

The leasing of the land to accommodate to the skate park was considered by those present and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the lease of the land. ACTION: Clerk to inform Leila Dawson, DCC of the decision.

ii. Siting of seats at Copeland Road and Windermere Drive

It was agreed that the seat to be removed from the Manor House site, when the stone seat is in place, will be relocated to another agreed site. It was resolved that Cllr Mairs and Cllr Robinson will consider options for the most appropriate site.

iii. To consider possibilities of a replica iron bridge

Further to liaison with Stockton to Darlington railway it was agreed that the Parish Council should become involved with the preservation of railway walks in and around West Auckland. It was agreed that this and the replica iron bridge project could possibly be combined. ACTION: Clerk to reply to Alan McNab and confirm Parish Council support of the project.

iv. To consider purchase of permanent Christmas tree

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

An estimate has been received from DCC to provide electric for a proposed permanent Christmas tree on the small triangular village green. This was considered unrealistically high and alternative options were discussed. Alternative sites on the main green were considered and a special site meeting was agreed at the **Pant, Tuesday, 6th May 2014 at 6.30 pm** to consider options. It was agreed that in the meantime the Clerk will provide John Day, DCC with an update.

14.23 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To receive update on village green application

Thanks were given to everyone involved for their input over the years in this campaign. The Parish Council are delighted that The Nursery green area has finally been registered as village green. A meeting is being arranged with Pat Holding, Senior DCC representative Friday, 16th May 2014 at 10.00 am to consider potential options for future maintenance and adoption of the land by DCC.

ii. To consider Community Service Initiative

Gordon Wooding attended the meeting to explain what offenders on community service could possibly do to help West Auckland. He pointed out that he doesn't have a large workforce at present but would consider the skill mix available to provide labour on an appropriate project. Cllr Thomas highlighted that there is always some element risk with community service projects. It was agreed that the Parish Council will consider the priority of proposed projects and Cllr Thomas will liaise with Gordon Wooding once the Monteith Close Community Parish Room asset transfer is complete.

iii. To consider progressing the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Thomas attended a 3-day seminar in York and kindly produced a report for consideration for inclusion in the Summer edition of Westlife. Cllr Thomas emphasised that producing a Neighbourhood Plan is no a small undertaking and could take up to 2 years to complete. It was agreed that key parishioners need to be engaged for the process to gather and maintain momentum. A summarised version of Cllr Thomas's report will be included in the next Westlife.

iv. To receive update on siting of stone seat

The stone seat is now complete and it is anticipated it will be sited near the Manor House June 2014.

14.24 PUBLIC MEETING & AGM MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2014 7.00 PM

- No additional items are for consideration at this meeting.

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