

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th September 2014 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr J Bell
Cllr J Ferguson
Cllr C Mairs
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
Cllr N Thomas
Cllr A Turner
Tracey Routledge, DCC
Local Councillor Christine Wilson

14.41 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Farrer.

14.42 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were no expressions of interest except but Cllr Robinson later left the room whilst a donation request from his wife for a toddler group trip was discussed.

14.43 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Ferguson pointed out two amendments to the previous meeting Minutes; the file copy will be amended accordingly.

- i. It was highlighted that funding to site a bollard at the Nursery to prevent vehicular access was not legally agreed as it was discussed after the meeting was closed. It was highlighted that the Nursery area problems have remained a strong focus on previous agendas and following the recent meeting with DCC Legal Department, the bollard was deemed essential to protecting the newly registered village green at the rear of Front Street and the Nursery and had to be sited to coincide with the deadline given to the original objectors. Funding for emergency measures to protect the area had been previously discussed and it was previously resolved that long-term landscaping and grounds maintenance quotes will be obtained and improving the area will be included in the next budget.
- ii. The second issue raised was that the notes from the Chair's pre-meeting were excluded from the Minutes. It was confirmed the reason they were not included was that the pre-meeting was to discuss in-house meeting protocol and Parish Council members' behaviour and was not considered relevant to the scheduled agenda. These notes have already been circulated to those councillors absent from that meeting and a copy is held on file.

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- **To receive update on cost of tarmac for Pant slip road**

Not discussed as quotes are still to be obtained. ACTION: Cllr Roberts.

- **To receive update on stone seat plaque**

Cllr Roberts provided an update on progress with the siting of the stone seat and suggested that a ceremony be arranged to mark the occasion. It was resolved that this should be considered fully at a future meeting.

- **To receive update on hearing loop enquiry**

No info has yet been obtained. Clerk made initial enquiries via DCC and follow-up on a response. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up.

- **To receive update on Simpson Road recreation area enquiry**

The Clerk advised that she has made two requests via DCC for information about the possibility of providing some toddler recreation facility at Simpson Road. ACTION: Clerk to ascertain relevant contact and continue follow-up.

14.44 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Numerous members of the public attended to raise the following issues:

- It was highlighted that there was no parish council representation at the recent PACT meeting. Cllr Rielly advised that she used to regularly attend the PACT meetings and highlighted that the police are always invited to attend Parish Council meetings. Cllr Mairs apologised for not being able to attend the last meeting due to farming commitments. It was agreed that Parish Council representation will be at the next meeting.
- Concerns about vandalism and general disregard by some tenants in the flats on Station Road were raised. Cllr Christine Wilson advised that the police wardens should always be contacted in the first instance when problems arise.
- Residents attended to ask what progress is being made on improving the Nursery. Cllr Roberts advised on the plans to provide a formal contractual arrangement for long-term grass cutting and general landscape maintenance are ongoing. He advised that the bollard recently sited was just an initial measure to protect the newly registered village green and long-term arrangements will commence after the budget setting process when quotes can be sought to improve the area.
- A resident attended to raise concerns about the return of the caravan which has been sited for use as a permanent dwelling. Concerns were also raised about new tenants of a private rented property in Station Road who are driving at high speeds and carrying out suspicious drug related behaviour.
- CCTV – see Minute reference 14.45.1 below.

It was advised by Cllr Turner that police Commissioner Ron Hogg could not attend the meeting but will be attending next month's meeting to consider the best way to address the numerous concerns around the village. It was suggested that Chief Constable Mike

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Barton also be invited to attend a meeting. It was resolved that a walk-around meeting take place on Sunday, 21st September 2014 at 10.00 am to identify all priority problems ahead of next Parish Council meeting; those wishing to attend should meet at the Mill.

It was resolved that the police and local councillors be invited to the next meeting and the agenda time be dedicated for that as the major priority. Members of the public and Cllr Christine Wilson agreed to attend and police representation will be invited. ACTION: Cllr Turner to invite Commissioner Hogg and Clerk to invite Chief Constable Barton.

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

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

21/07/2014	DD	HMRC NDDS			£150.00
22/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
22/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
29/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
29/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
31/07/2014	DD	npower Gas			£8.22
05/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
05/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
06/08/2014	200004	Cre8ive Graphics-printing newsletter			£140.00
08/08/2014	CR	Big Lottery Main Grant		£10,000.00	
12/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
12/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
19/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
19/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
26/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
26/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
29/08/2014	DD	npower gas			£4.14
03/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00
03/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00
08/09/2014	20006	Newsletter and Cold callers delivery			£100.00
08/09/2014	20007	Donation to music group summer trip			£100.00

14.45.1 Further to the offer of councillors and clerk update training via DCC, Steve Ragg will be asked for availability and it was agreed that the course fee of £250 is acceptable. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

14.45.2 Tracey Routledge, DCC attended the meeting at the Clerk's request and took questions from Parish Councillors surrounding the imminent asset transfer lease of Monteith Community Premises. The following issues were raised:

- Insurance in the event of water or other accidental damage caused by the upstairs resident to the premises. Tracey confirmed that DCC insurance would cover such an event.
- The question of splitting water rates was discussed and the Parish Council suggested that they have a water meter installed in the community premises as that will use a fraction of a domestic property.

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- Fire alarms were discussed and it was agreed that downstairs needs to be isolated and the upstairs resident's requirements needs further investigation by DCC.
- Premises hand-over reports on current building state were requested.

Tracey kindly agreed to follow up on all points raised and the Heads of Terms was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.

14.45.3 Permission is being sought by local resident Maureen Race for the Parish Rooms to be used to hold a Children's Society Fundraising event on Saturday, 1st November 2014. It was agreed that the room could be used free of charge.

14.45.4 A request from a dog handler to use Monteith premises for her personal dog training was resolved as declined as it was not considered appropriate to have a dog using community premises on a floor where toddlers crawl around. ACTION: Clerk to write to Jill Forbes, Dale & Valley Homes, South Church.

i. To receive Westlife articles on Cold Calling and Anniversary

No items received and not discussed due to time restrictions

ii. To consider resolutions and AOB on future agendas

It was agreed that this item would be considered further following a training session provided by Steve Ragg, DCC.

14.46 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

(i) To consider siting CCTV on the Well gable end

This item had been previously discussed with the public present and Cllr Charlton advised that an update from PC Lee Blaney is awaited. The Parish Council agreed that a CCTV camera is needed in the area and it was resolved that this item will continue to remain high priority until it is resolved. It was highlighted that this item has appeared on numerous agendas over the past few years but since the 6 month trial some time ago, the opportunity to site a permanent CCTV camera has not been available to date. Cllr Smith's offer to conduct a survey to obtain residents' views was accepted and it was agreed steps to achieve the appropriate outcome from this will continue.

(ii) To consider and agree on siting of permanent Christmas tree

Cllr Smith has costings for services to the Christmas tree and it will be considered fully at the November meeting.

(iii) To consider request for funding to support toddler group summer trip

Further to a request for funding to facilitate a small group children's outing a £100 donation was resolved. It was also resolved that all future donations will discussed formally at a future meeting and that the Parish Council should be looking to provide summer holiday facilities allowing more local children access to summer activities on the recreation area.

14.47 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

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(i) To consider Wetlands

Cllr Roberts has received correspondence on the Wetlands project that will be circulated to the Parish Council for consideration prior to informed discussion.

(ii) To discuss the Fleece and Nursery village green

A quote has been received to improve the area and it was resolved that the project requires full consideration in the next budget review, which will take place in November.

(iii) To consider Stockton & Darlington railway initiative

To be discussed at a future meeting.

(iv) To consider improving approaches to village with planter and grass cutting

To be discussed at a future meeting.

The meeting concluded with Cllr Ferguson and the Clerk being asked to leave so that an item involving them directly or indirectly could be discussed in a closed meeting.

14.48 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2014

The next meeting will commence at 6.00 pm with the quarterly finance review and time is blocked from 7.00 pm for public and partnership meeting with the police, local councillors and Parish Council in attendance. Any items below unable to be considered after the partnership meeting will carry forward to the November meeting:

- To consider Budget setting
- To arrange Remembrance Service
- To arrange siting of stone seat and ceremony
- To consider future group donations
- To consider maintenance/removal of rose bushes
- To consider siting of the permanent Christmas tree

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