

West Auckland Parish Council



Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12th October 2015 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr Hazel Charlton, Chairperson
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr Raine
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr G Robinson
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Thomas
Cllr G Smith
Cllr A Turner
Cllr R Wright
DCC Cllr C Wilson
DCC Cllr Yorke

15.61 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr Rielly

15.62 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

- Cllr Robinson declared an interest in anything to do with West Fest.

15.63 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

An issue was raised to indicate an error in the Minutes of the previous meeting in that there was no actual vote on the whether the carnival shortfall funding was to be a loan or contribution. Following lengthy discussion it was proposed and resolved that, as stated in the July Minutes, the shortfall would be funded from the reserved funds. It was highlighted that carnival funding had been included in the Budget Setting 2014-2015 and this payment would not impact on allocated funds for landscaping or any other area of current planned spending. The Minutes will be amended accordingly and were otherwise agreed to be accurate.

Matters Arising

- Cllr Turner advised that there is to be some large stones concreted in to specific areas to prevent inappropriate vehicular access. Cllr Mairs advised that a fence will be located near kissing gates along the by-pass to prevent future access.
- It was advised that a remembrance seat to be sited on the village green in remembrance of Cllr John Ferguson has been chased up. Cllr Charlton advised that sample plaques have been requested for Parish Council approval.

15.64 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had the right to donate funding to a non-profit organisation. The Clerk advised that, as far as she is aware, there is no legislation preventing the Parish Council donating to support a carnival for their village.

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

- A resident advised that she strongly objects to public money being used to support West Fest events. The Clerk advised that similar funding of carnivals in other areas is not unusual. DCC Cllr Rob Yorke acknowledged Greg (Cllr Robinson) and his team for their efforts and advised that he will be supporting any effort to hold the event next year.
- A resident raised complaints about car being parked inappropriately around the Oakley Manor estate and surrounding area during football matches. He advised that the gate is opened by the football club but as the parking is not organised only 2 rows of cars are parked leaving potential grass area unused that could be used more effectively.. It was resolved that the Parish Council will write to the football club owners requesting a meeting and asking them to arrange a marshal and use of cones to maximise use of the land available for parking car. ACTION: Clerk to write to Stuart Alderson.

15.65 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Charlton advised that Devonshire House nursing home are happy to accommodate a defibrillator, It was resolved that the Parish Council will pursue the cost of obtaining one in readiness for the next meeting. Cllr Yorke advised that Angelina Maddison would be a useful contact.
- Cllr Smith advised that for the next 6 weeks the PCSOs will be doing a speed watch and they will be issuing fines within the last 2 weeks of the initiative. Cllr Smith also advised that Ron Hogg has issued a report on funding to tackle speeding which didn't include Copeland Road; Cllr Smith has raised issue with this.
- DCC Cllr Wilson advised that the development of East Green nursing home is on hold until a report is complete confirming whether there are bats in the building.

15.66 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORING INVOICE CHEQUES.

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and payments were endorsed for invoices as below:

| | | | | |
|----|--|--|--|-----------|
| BP | Monteith - Weardale Flooring | | | £1,725.56 |
| BP | Monteith - Storage Units C Evans | | | £1,280.00 |
| BP | Monteith Tea Set | | | £16.98 |
| BP | Monteith - Disabled Toilet | | | £4,359.72 |
| BP | Monteith - Joinery shelves, rails & extras | | | £1,550.00 |
| BP | Monteith - Tea sets x 3 | | | £24.97 |
| BP | Domestic - L Beaumont | | | £40.00 |
| BP | Cre8ive Graphics | | | £140.00 |
| BP | Newsletter delivery -Domestic 1 | | | £35.00 |
| BP | Newsletter delivery Domestic 2 | | | £35.00 |
| BP | Monteith - Clock & Battieres | | | £12.23 |
| BP | Hampers M&S | | | £67.00 |
| BP | Northumbrian Water | | | £61.44 |
| BP | Printer cartridges & envelopes | | | £94.89 |
| BP | Reams of paper | | | £40.18 |
| BP | Training DCC (oustanding invoice CP 139/15 | | | £81.00 |

- To receive Westlife articles

It was confirmed that Cllr Farrer will be accepting future articles and will be drafting the newsletters in readiness for publishing at least 4 times per year.

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

- To arrange annual H&S inspection and servicing of Monteith Parish Room

The Clerk advised the annual health and safety inspection of Monteith Close premises will be carried out by Cllr Smith, who is a registered commercial electrician.

15.67 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To confirm quarter end bank reconciliation and proposed budget review

The quarter end finance was reviewed and signed off accordingly. The budget review could not be completed as copies of the proposal, previously sent out, were unavailable. This item will be finalised at the next meeting.

ii. To consider precept setting and draft proposed 2016-2017 budget

It was proposed and resolved that an increase of £3 per annum per Band D property for the next 3 years will facilitate the expected removal of the LCTRS grant in 2019. This increase will be increased as follows: 2016-2017 9.58% , 2017-2018 8.74%, 2018-2019 8.04%, 2019-2020 2.00%.

iii. To consider finalising refurbishment of Monteith Parish Room and use of available grant funding

Following consideration and views obtained from all present, it was resolved that quotes will be obtained for a new fire alarm, dropped ceiling and replacement of inefficient lights. It was confirmed that these works will be completed using the remaining Big Lottery funding and any shortfall will come from the Parish Council reserved funds. It was suggested that replacement chairs may be purchased in the near future.

Estimated costs:

Fire alarm approx. £800
 Lights TBC
 Ceiling between £1,200- £1,350
 Chairs approx. £35 each

15.68 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE.

i. To plan Memorial Hall Autumn Fayre input & Memorial Service

Autumn Fayre

The Parish Council will hold a stall on Saturday, 24th October 2015. It was agreed a small group would get together to pull the material together for the stall to promote the work of the Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Wright, Cllr Thomas and Cllr Raine will undertake this. Cllr Charlton agreed to help set the stall up and 5 parish councillors agreed to support the event.

Memorial Service

The service to be held on Sunday, 8th November 2015 at 3.00 pm – refreshments will

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

follow at Monteith Close Community Parish Rooms.

The Chair advised that it was unnecessary to hold a planning meeting as the format remains the same as previous years. The Clerk has booked the band, ordered wreaths and crosses and confirmed Father McTeer's attendance. ACTION: Cllr Wright agreed to request a piper. The Clerk will ask the police to chaperone the road, RAF representative to marshal the march and invited scouts/guides.

ii. To consider progressing with Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will be promoted at the Memorial Hall Autumn Fayre.

iii. To consider prevention of access to village green areas

It was advised that the areas of vehicular access around the village have been highlighted and it was proposed that, in addition to the measures within Matters Arising, existing mounds will be extended on Oakley Green and bollards sited in some other areas to prevent future inappropriate parking

iv. To receive update on use of sports facilities at Oakley Cross Sports Hall

As the Governors' meeting isn't held until Thursday coming, feedback has not yet been obtained about the possibility of using the premises for sports during the evening. It was agreed that the Parish Council should support the use of these premises should permission to use them eventually be obtained.

v. To consider management of village green

It was highlighted that a resident being allowed to use village green as their private garden is setting a precedent. It was advised that this is a DCC issue and anyone with any queries should contact Neighbourhood Services.

vi. To consider a speed restriction initiative at village entrance points

As the speed watch report will not be back for 6 weeks it was agreed to include this item on the next agenda.

vii. To consider involvement in Wetlands & Station Bridge projects

Wetlands

Cllr Roberts advised that the Parish Council has agreement from the land owner in principal to purchase the land at cost price. It was advised that s106 and available grants could be applied for to meet the costs. As recent enquiries have been to obtain information only, the Parish Council will need to vote should they decide to possibly pursue developing a Wetlands further.

Station Bridge

The Friends of Stockton & Darlington railways envisage that by 2025 the walk from Stockton to Phoenix Row, Witton Park will be open for pedestrian/cycle access. Cllr Roberts advised that an existing project at Brusselton can be currently viewed and that there are various consultations and advisory meetings ongoing for anyone requiring further information. Cllr Yorke advised that steps are underway to acquire some of the land required along the original track.

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

viii. To consider options for additional allotments

It was requested that a Land Registry query be made to ascertain the ownership of Johnson Terrace (grassland opposite the Memorial Hall). It was suggested that the whole village be looked at with a view to securing more allotment space to reduce the waiting list for the existing allotments.

15.69 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues raised.

15.70 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2015 INTERIM MEETING 2ND NOVEMBER

- To consider siting a defibrillator
- To consider road surfacing
- To agree delegates to view weekly Plans.
- To agree salt bin for Nursery area
- To consider Christmas train involvement
- To arrange meeting with Nursery residents and liaise with resident about building his around his wall.
- To provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.

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