

**Minutes of the meeting of Healeyfield Parish Council
held on Thursday, 29th September 2011, at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor D. Dixon (Chairman) and Councillors A.D. Addison, G. Anderson, W. Robson, H. Thompsom, R. Thompson and M. Wotherspoon.

Also in Attendance: Miss L. Stephenson (Clerk), Councillors R. Young, C. Burton and A. Coulthard (AAP) and D Battensby (DCC Highways)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O. Johnson.

1112/43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

1112/44 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 28th July 2011 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1112/45 CASTLESIDE GATEWAYS – PROGRESS UPDATE

Mr D Battensby, Area Traffic Manager, DCC was in attendance to provide an update to Members on the implementation of the gateways project for Castleside.

He advised that the project was awaiting speed activation signs, and work would be undertaken to remove existing speed signs and replace in line with planned works. Once the speed activation signs had been installed this would complete the civil works side of the scheme, he advised that it would then be up to the Community Speedwatch scheme to continue to monitor and record speeding traffic through the village.

Councillor Robson added that following the recent PACT meeting residents had noted concerns that since the works had been completed the speeding was now worse. He added that a number of residents of Front Street had raised concerns regarding the speed of high sided lorries which were passing through the village.

Further discussion then ensued with regard to the installation of Speed Camera's. Mr D Battensby advised that there were currently no fixed speed cameras within County Durham. It was noted that the number of accidents which had occurred on the A68, through the village were not speed related but mainly related to the crossroads.

Andy Coulthard suggested that there was a clear need to revisit the gateway and address what was not working. He added that this should be done in partnership with the Police and the Parish Council.

Further discussion took place regarding the speed visors which were currently installed within the Village. Councillor Dixon added that data downloaded from the two devices had never been provided to the Parish Council.

In response Mr Battensby advised that the County Council did not at present have the means to download this data from the devices, however this was being looked in to, and it was hoped that equipment to carry out this task would be purchased by the County Council in the near future.

Councillor Dixon then raised a query with regard to the installation of traffic lights at the crossroads. It was suggested that this had been looked at previously, however had not at that time been a feasible option.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transport, backed up with data downloaded from the speed devices, which would fully outline the issues with speeding etc in the area and look for some guidance as to what else can be done to help rectify the current issues.

In conclusion Andy Coulthard advised that it was clear that both main entrances into Castleside were an issue, and it was important that the residents of No 21 Front Street were consulted throughout any further changes.

Councillor Wotherspoon suggested that improved road markings may assist, for example hash lines would encourage drivers to the centre of the road and prevent drivers from overtaking. Andy Coulthard advised that he would take forward the comments of the meeting and discuss further with Maxine

1112/46 CASTLESIDE BIKE TRACK – PROGRESS UPDATE

Andy Coulthard, Mid Durham AAP was in attendance to discuss the development of a bike track within Castleside. He provided a brief update with regard to the recent meetings which had taken place with ecologists etc in respect of land adjacent to the Horse & Groom pub. It was noted that a new survey would have to be undertaken on this piece of land before any development could take place, however the landlords of the pub had indicated that they were more than happy for the land to be utilised for this purpose.

With this in mind, it was reported that work on this site would be unlikely to commence before summer 2012, however the young people involved in this project had indicated that they would still like to see the project through to completion.

Andy Coulthard advised that if the chosen site was not suitable following relevant wildlife surveys, then it may be necessary to look at alternative sites. He advised that monies for this project had been committed during 2011/12;

however it would be possible to carry this sum forward until a time when the project could proceed.

Further discussion took place with regard to the use of the site by children from the Moorside area. It was suggested that if this was the case it may be possible to gain support from the Derwent Valley AAP.

Councillor H Thompson added that in her opinion the children who had been initially interested in this programme were getting older and questioned whether their interest would remain. She questioned the sustainability of the project and whether there was any point in proceeding further with this project.

Councillor Burton added that in his opinion there was a need for somewhere for children of all ages to go, although recognised that interests change and there would be movement.

Councillor Anderson suggested that options should be explored for a bike track within the Parish Wood, which could be developed on a much smaller scale involving less financial commitment.

In conclusion Andy Coulthard suggested that he should approach the young people to discuss option and needs further and would come back to the next meeting of the Council to discuss a possible way forward.

1112/47 POLICE REPORT & PACT MEETING

The Clerk reported on policing matters for the period 25th August – 29 Sept 2011. It was noted that a PACT meeting had taken place prior to the meeting.

1112/48 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

The Clerk provided an update on matters which had been raised and which action had been taken against via the local Neighbourhood Warden .

1112/49 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Young reported on a number of issues relating to the County Council with particular reference to:

- Implementation of new Taxi Licensing Policy.
- DCC to become responsible for parking enforcement in the North of County Durham from 7 November 2011.
- Boundary Commission – Review of County Council electoral boundaries, Lanchester division to remain unchanged.
- Review of Community Buildings
- Review of Cuts to public transport.

1112/50 AAP & PARISH COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE REPORTS

Andy Coulthard advised the AAP were working on initiatives based around Driver education and road safety, in particular working with under 25's and new drivers. In addition John Atkinson from the CVS was working on a website to get community information on line, this was scheduled to go live in November 2011.

Further information was provided with regard to establishing a Credit Union. It was suggested that this should be advertised within the newsletter to gauge whether there was any interest from the local community to set up a community bank.

Further projects / updates were provided as follows:-

- Sports Development – for older people, those in isolation and intergenerational.
- 3 trails, masterplan – walking, horseriding etc.
- Looking at costs towards running Youth Centres.
- Engaging with young people.

Moving on to developments within the PCC, Andy Coulthard advised that options were being explored for creating a directory, which would promote community venues and provide useful information for residents including contact details for services.

Councillor Burton provided a further update with regard to discussions at the PCC, with particular reference to:-

- Smaller PC's forum to be developed. Further details would be provided in due course.
- Carer's allowance – currently provisions for carer's stop at the age of 65, this has been raised with the Government and it was hoped that Parish Councils would support this cause.

1112/51 FINANCE

EXPENDITURE - Cheques presented for approval on 29th September 2011

CHQ No.	Date	Cost	VAT	Total (£)	Payee	Detail
1104	29-Sept	50.00	0.00	50.00	Cath O'Hanlon	Newsletter Summer *
1105	29-Sept	50.00	0.00	50.00	Cath O'Hanlon	Newsletter Autumn
1106	29-Sept	175.00	0.00	175.00	George Elliott	Delivery Tubs
TOTAL		275.00	0.00	275.00		275.00

INCOME RECEIVED 28/07 – 29/09	
Bank Interest – Community Account	0.00
Bank Interest – Business Money Manager Account	3.26
HMRC VAT Repayment	395.03
Total Income in month (£)	398.29

BALANCES

Balance B/F	18106.82
Income Received	398.29
	18505.11
Less Expenditure as above	275.00
Balance C/F (£)	18230.11

1112/38 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED: that the following correspondence be received:-

- 1112/38/1 Durham County Council – Community Buildings Review.
1112/38/2 Friends of Castleside Village Hall – Request for 2 representatives. Agreed Councillors Anderson and R Thompson be elected as representatives to site on the Management Committee.
1112/38/3 Castleside Village Hall – Energyshare Funding.

1112/39 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

RESOLVED: that the following planning applications be received:-

- (i) 1/2011/0415 Mount Pleasant Farm, Rowley – application to vary existing planning conditions.
(ii) 1/2011/0416 Treetops, Rowley – Erection of dwellinghouse.
(iii) late application to weekly list – 24 Rowley Bank – installation of viewing platform.

There were no objections to any of the above applications.

1112/40 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported the following matters for information / discussion:-

- New Website – agreed to terminate contract with 1&1, new web address will be provided through DCC. New site to be launched within next few weeks.
- Savings Bond – The Clerk provided Members with interest rates for various savings bonds offered to community organisations. It was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Various issues have been raised with DCC during the month.
- Newsletter printed by local company, Conway Printing Services, members agreed that a memory stick shall be purchased for Cath O'Hanlon to help with formatting issues for the next edition.
- Remembrance Day Wreaths ordered x 2.
- DCC Christmas Lighting Quote - £617 + VAT. Agreed to accept quote.

1112/41 MEMBER'S REPORTS

Councillor Robson advised that he had been in attendance at a recent meeting of Shotley Bridge Hospital support group, and provided a brief update with regard to future provision of services and Queens Road Surgery.

Councillor Anderson provided a report on the Parish Wood, he advised that there had been reports of youth's cutting down a tree, however upon inspection it was noted that the tree had fallen naturally.

The AONB had been in touch with Councillor R Thompson and had subsequently requested that information be provided on the history of the wood, in particular when the last extraction of timber had taken place.

Councillor R Thompson further reported that a complaint had been received from a Mr A Thackwray with regard to the state of the boundary wall within his garden which adjoined the school. Discussion took place over the ownership of this wall and Councillor Young agreed to take this forward with Durham County Council.

The following further matters / issues for action were reported:-

- Drains outside Dixon's Shop – unresolved.
- Drainage Drover Road – unresolved.
- Overgrown footpath Lyredene Road – unresolved.
- Pre-fabricated building being erected – old Treatment Works, to be queried with the Enforcement Officer, DCC.

1011/42 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following further items of business were raised:-

- Fly tipping occurring at sub-station on Moorland View, to be reported to NEDL.
- Repairs required to a number of Parish seats, to be followed up.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman
Thursday 27th October 2011