

**Minutes of the meeting of Healeyfield Parish Council
held on Thursday, 26th January 2012, at 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT

Councillor A.D.N Addison, D. Dixon (Chairman), G Anderson, H Thompson,
R C Thompson and M Wotherspoon.

L Stephenson (Clerk), County Councillor O Johnson and Councillor C Burton

1 member of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Robson.

1112/86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

1112/87 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1112/88 BIKE TRACK UPDATE

A Coulthard (Mid Durham AAP) was in attendance to provide an update to Members on progress towards the development of a bike track. AC advised that a newt survey was to be undertaken in early March, estimated costs of which were provided. Further information was provided in respect of funding the project and AC agreed to talk to Derwent Valley AAP with a view to exploring a joint venture on this project given its proximity to the site.

AC further provided details with regards to the legality of the ownership of the land and agreed to liaise with the Clerk and Nigel Douthwaite from Sport and Leisure, DCC with a view to taking this forward.

Further discussion took place regarding the opportunity for young people to be involved in the undertaking of the newt survey given its educational benefits.

ACTION: AC to liaise regarding the legal ownership / lease of land.

**1112/89 AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP & PARISH COUNCIL'S
COMMITTEE**

Councillor Burton gave a report on recent activity within the AAP and Parish Council's Committee, with particular reference to:

- Gateway Schemes;
- AAP Priority for Older People, new group set up 'Silver Dreams' in partnership with Derwentside Homes;
- Setting future AAP priorities.

AC further advised that there was an open meeting scheduled to be held on 15 February at Quebec, providing information regarding the Olympic Torch celebrations in County Durham.

1112/90 POLICE REPORT & PACT MEETING

Councillor Anderson reported on policing matters and issues raised at the PACT forum which had taken place prior to the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding Farmwatch and recent changes to policing boundaries. It was agreed that the Clerk shall write a letter to Durham Constabulary regarding the dissatisfaction with the current Farmwatch boundaries.

1112/91 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS REPORT

There was no Neighbourhood Warden report available.

1112/92 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Councillor Johnson reported on matters relating to Durham County Council as follows:-

- Land Purchase - situated at redundant toilet blocks on Front Street, Castleside.
- Planning Permission refused for Horse Sanctuary at Foxhill Stables. Enforcement issues still ongoing with land owner and planning department.
- Salt bins filled at 'The Rise' during icy weather
- County Council commencing programme of works to replace all stolen gully tops with recycled composite covers.
- County Council agreed a zero percent increase in Council Tax.

Councillor Dixon queried whether there had been any further developments with the Quarry site. Councillor Johnson advised that there had not, but would chase this up with the Neighbourhood Warden.

1112/93 FINANCE

EXPENDITURE - Cheques presented for approval on 26th January 2012

CHQ No.	Date	Cost	VAT	Total (£)	Payee	Detail
1115	10-Jan	226.30	0.00	226.30	Conway Printing	Printing News
1116	10-Jan	50.00	0.00	50.00	C O'Hanlon	Winter News
1117	26-Jan	160.00	32.00	192.00	CC Martell	Christmas Tree
1118	26-Jan	635.82	0.00	635.82	L Stephenson	Salary 01.01.12 – 31.03.12
1119	26-Jan	159.00	0.00	159.00	HMRC	Tax 01.01.12 – 31.03.12
1121	26-Jan	34.41	0.00	34.41	D Dixon	Whisky
TOTAL		1265.53	32.00	1297.53		1297.53

INCOME RECEIVED 24/11 – 26/01	
Bank Interest – Community Account	0.00
Bank Interest – Business Money Manager Account	2.34
Total Income in month (£)	2.34

BALANCES	
Balance B/F	16166.51
Add Interest	2.34
	16168.85
Less Expenditure as above	1297.53
Balance C/F (£)	14871.32

1112/94 BUDGET 2012/13.

The Clerk circulated a report which outlined for members the estimated spend for 2012/13 including details which would enable the Council to set its annual precept and budget.

After lengthy debate and consideration of all issues the Council,
RESOLVED: that the budget as outlined within the report be approved, and the Council agree to a zero percent increase in Council Tax Precept for 2012/13.

Members further agreed to allocate any balance carried forward into 2012/13 to fund 2013 Parish Election costs.

1112/95 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED: that the following correspondence be received:-

1112/95/1 Great North Air Ambulance – Request for donation. Defer until known whether donation awarded in 2011/12.

1112/96 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

There were no planning applications relating to the Parish area to report.

1112/97 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported on the following issues for information:-

- New Website – Now 'Live'. Training to be arranged for interested Members in due course.
- Olympic Torch – Meeting to be held at County Hall on 2nd February for those Parishes where the Torch will pass through. Councillor Dixon and the Clerk agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Christmas Tree – It was reported that the tree provided by CC Martell was not up to its usual high standard, and there had been a number of issues with not only the tree but the power supply to the festive lighting. Members discussed options for planting a tree in the Church grounds, and it was agreed that costings and options be brought back to a future meeting for consideration.

1112/98 MEMBER REPORTS

RESOLVED: that the following member Reports be received:-

- (i) Parish Wood – Councillor R Thompson provided an update on the progress of the application to the Forestry Commission. Further details would be reported to the next meeting once further progress had been made.
- (iii) A68 Traffic Calming – Councillor Dixon asked Members whether they would be interested in pursuing options for a sculpture to be placed on the A68, in a bid to try and reduce speeds upon entering the village. It was agreed that he Clerk shall contact Lanchester Parish Council who have details of a similar scheme which they undertook in their village. Details would be reported to the next meeting. The Clerk further agreed to query whether planning permission would be required for such.

1112/99 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Discussion then ensued with regard to an environmental issue at the Picnic site, following works which had been undertaken by Lumsden Carroll. It was noted that the area had been left untidy once works had been completed. The Clerk agreed to contact Lumsden Carroll to inform them of the Parish Council's dissatisfaction.
- (ii) Cemetery – Open well blocked. Councillor Johnson agreed to raise this with the County Council.
- (iii) Further discussion took place regarding the Gateway scheme. It was agreed that an update against scheduled works should be presented to the Council as members were unaware if all works had been undertaken, as outlined in the original plans / proposals.

The meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman
Thursday 23th February 2012