

**Minutes of the meeting of Healeyfield Parish Council
held on Thursday, 23rd February 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 (AAP)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Robson.

1112/100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

1112/101 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1112/102 POLICE REPORT & PACT MEETING

Councillor Anderson provided an update on matters which had reported by the Police at the PACT meeting, which had taken place prior to the Council meeting in the Village Hall.

1112/103 NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that no update had been received via the local Neighbourhood Warden. A Coulthard (AAP) had been contacted regarding the lack of information coming through to the Parish Council and a response was awaited to this request.

**1112/104 AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP & PARISH COUNCIL'S
COMMITTEE**

Councillor Burton provided an update in respect of recent issues being dealt with within the AAP and PCC as follows:-

- Local Councils Forum took place, approximately 20-30 people attended and it had proved to be a very useful meeting. A further meeting was to be scheduled and local councils would be informed of its timing accordingly.
- PCC – presentation given by Chair of Durham Police Authority on the Police Crime Commissioner.
- Gateways – A Coulthard meeting with Highways Officers on 27th Feb regarding dissatisfaction with gateway improvement works, a further update would be provided following this meeting.
- Small Projects Fund – still progressing, funds still available during 2011/12.
- 'Silver Knowledge Project' – being progressed, further details to follow.

1112/105 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

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

- Medium Term Financial Plan – Budget and Council Tax set by County Council.
- Police Authority – ongoing consultation regarding the Police Crime Commissioners role. Details of the consultation were provided to members by the Clerk.
- Well at Castleside Cemetery – reported via DCC and assurance given that it will be cleaned regularly.
- War Memorial – Funds have been set aside from the Members Neighbourhood Budget to replace the lettering on the war memorial.

Councillor Dixon added that he wished to thank the County Councillors for their kind contribution to the refurbishment of the war memorial. It was agreed that an article should be placed in the next newsletter expressing the Parish Council's thanks.

Further discussion took place regarding the ongoing Library consultation and the closure of community buildings.

1112/106 FINANCE

EXPENDITURE - Cheques presented for approval on 23rd February 2012

CHQ No.	Date	Cost	VAT	Total (£)	Payee	Detail
1122	23-Feb	34.00	0.00	34.00	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths x 2
TOTAL		34.00	0.00	34.00		34.00

INCOME RECEIVED 26/01 – 23/02	
Bank Interest – Community Account	0.00
Bank Interest – Business Money Manager Account	0.00
Total Income in month (£)	0.00

BALANCES	
Balance B/F	14871.32
- Bank Charge	8.00
	14863.32
Less Expenditure as above	34.00
Balance C/F (£)	14829.32

1112/107 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED: that the following correspondence be received:-

- Durham County Council – Invitation to take part in Library Consultation.
- Castleside Primary School – Request for funding, for school grounds maintenance. Agreed: No donation shall be made this year, given restraints on budget.
- Great North Air Ambulance – Request for donation. Agreed: £50 donation.

1112/108 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

RESOLVED: that the following planning applications relating to Healeyfield Parish be received:-

- (i) 1/2012/0037 – Erection of 3-4 bedroom bungalow and detached double garage. Land to the South of 3 West View, Castleside.

1112/109 OLYMPIC TORCH - UPDATE

Councillor Dixon provided an update on the Olympic Torch celebrations following a meeting which he and the Clerk had attended earlier in the month.

The Clerk provided a copy of the presentation which had been given, which provided some detail of the weekends events including planning and preparation for the relay through County Durham.

Members were made aware that information regarding the route was limited at this time, however updates would be provided as and when information became available.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council shall hold a public meeting on 25th April at 7.00 p.m. at Castleside Village Hall. The meeting should also be published in the Newsletter and on both noticeboards.

1112/110 CLERK'S REPORT

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

- Web Training – date to be confirmed.
- Gateways – A Coulthard to report back following meeting with Highways scheduled 27th February, further information to follow.
- Wood Sculptures – Photo's of work circulated to members, it was agreed that some costs should be obtained from both artists, and the project be discussed further at the next meeting.

1112/111 MEMBER REPORTS

The following Member reports were received:-

Christmas Tree – Councillor Dixon advised that following the last meeting, he had undertaken a visit to a tree transplanting company, who had shown him a number of options which would be available to the Parish Council or a permanent Christmas tree. He advised that the company offered a slow growing blue spruce, approximately 8ft in height which could be purchased for £200. This would then be a permanent fixture and would be available for full use in 10 -15 years time.

Further debate took place with regard to options for growing trees for cultivation in the Parish Wood, It was noted however that this option may prove difficult given issues with access for machinery.

Members further discussed possible locations for the tree, although it was generally agreed that the church grounds was the most suitable location given its central location in the Village.

Following lengthy discussion it was

AGREED: that the Council shall purchase a tree at a cost of £200, subject to permission being sought for its planting, within St John's Church grounds.

Parish Wood – Councillor R C Thompson reported that he had been made aware of some disturbance to a badger set within the wood and the matter had been reported to the Police. The Police had agreed to report any further information may they get regarding this incident to the Parish Council.

Moving on Councillor Thompson reported that all forms had now been completed in respect of applications for woodland improvement funding. He suggested that the Parish Council should write to the AONB, to express their thanks for all of the support that they had received from Liz Airey. The Clerk agreed to forward a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council.

Friends of the Village Hall – Councillor R C Thompson reported that financial arrangements were progressing and it was hoped that bank mandates would be available soon for circulation to the wider public.

Picnic Area – Councillor Anderson raised a query with regard to action to clean up the picnic area, following works which had been completed by Lumsden Carroll. The Clerk agreed to follow this matter up and report back to the next meeting.

Councillor Anderson further raised concerns regarding litter in the Village area and ongoing issues which were still occurring at the Quarry site. The Clerk agreed to contact the Neighbourhood Warden's service outlining the dissatisfaction of the service which was being provided in the area.

He further raised concerns with the safety of a wood stile on a footpath (Derwent Grange). The Clerk agreed to report this to the Public Rights of Way Officer at DCC.

1112/112 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following further items of business were raised:-

- (i) Smelters Pub – news received that there was uncertainties over the pub's future and imminent closure. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Punch Taverns to seek information on the breweries intentions.
- (ii) Complaint – The Clerk advised that a complaint had been received from a Mr B Stokoe, who resided in the village. The Clerk was instructed to respond to the complaint in line with the Parish Council's findings.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman
Thursday 29th March 2012