

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

PRESENT

Councillors Mr A.D.N Addison, G Anderson (Chairman), D Dixon,

Also in attendance: Miss L. Stephenson (Clerk) and Councillor C Burton (AAP)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

1213/29 AAP UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

A Coulthard, Mid Durham AAP was in attendance to discuss a number of projects relating to Healeyfield parish and the AAP in general as follows:-

Bike Track – The ecological survey of the proposed site had now been completed the report outlined various recommendations for any design proposals. He further advised that he would be setting up a meeting with an officer from Assets at County Hall and the Clerk with regard to the potential lease of land.

Following lengthy discussion it was suggested that a joint partners meeting be convened for the beginning of September to gauge the level of interest in pursuing this project.

Gateways – A Coulthard referred to previous correspondence which had been circulated regarding further improvements to the two main entrance gateways. He advised that some additional funding had been secured to complete this project and therefore sought the views of the parish council on their preferred option. After lengthy discussion regarding signage etc, it was suggested that A Coulthard take back the pc's suggestions and check them with Highways Officers at County Hall. It was noted that a large stone sign would be the preferred option, similar to that used in Tow law.

Further debate took place regarding the work which had not been completed and whether any further improvements could be made as much of the feedback received from residents indicated that the work completed to date did not have a significant impact on motorists. A Coulthard agreed to feedback the comments and discuss further options with the Highways team.

AAP Questionnaire – Members had been provided with in advance of the meeting with a copy of a questionnaire relating to the AAP. A Coulthard asked if members could return the questionnaire as soon as possible via the Clerk.

1213/30 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2012 be approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1213/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

1213/32 POLICE AND PACT

Councillor Anderson provided a brief update on the policing matters for the period 28th June – 26th July 2012 as reported as the PACT meeting which included:-

- Overall crime figures showing downward trend.
- Quarry – some issues regarding land ownership, police are engaging with the owner with a view to tidying the area up.
- Joint partnership working regarding safety measures to be installed on Hownsgill Viaduct.

1213/33 PARISH COUNCILS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councillor Burton provided an update in respect of recent developments / discussion which had taken place at the parish councils committee.

He further advised that the next meeting of the AAP was scheduled to be held on 12 September 2012.

1213/34 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Johnson provided an update in relation to County Council matters as follows:-

- County Durham Plan – Draft out for consultation.
- Issues across County with grass cutting and cleaning of gulleys. Suggested that if anyone wishes to report a blocked gully that they do so via the Highways Action Line at County Hall where the job will be allocated to the street cleaning team.

1213/35 FINANCE**EXPENDITURE - Cheques presented for approval on 26th July 2012**

CHQ No.	Date	Cost	VAT	Total (£)	Payee	Detail
1145	26 - July	270.10	0.00	270.10	Conway Printing	Newsletter June
1146	26 - July	185.00	0.00	185.00	DCC Printing	News Dec 2010
TOTAL		455.10	0.00	455.10		455.10

INCOME RECEIVED 28/06 – 26/07/12

Community Account	0.00
Business Money Manager	2.98
Total Income in month (£)	2.98

BALANCES

Balance B/F	17821.07
Add Income	2.98
	17824.05
Less Expenditure	455.10
Balance C/F	17368.95

1213/36 ANNUAL RETURN 2011/12

The Clerk advised that the Small Bodies Annual Return for 2011/12 had been received and the external audit had been completed. BDO Stoy Haward had advised that there were no issues arising from the external audit.

The Clerk advised that a notice advising that the external audit had been concluded should be displayed for 14 days advising that the annual return was available for inspection by the general public.

RESOLVED: that the completion of the external audit be noted and notice of such displayed for a period of 14 days.

1213/37 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence to report at this time.

1213/38 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

There were no planning applications relating to Healeyfield Parish to report.

1213/39 MEMBER REPORTS

RESOLVED: that the following Member reports be received:-

(i) Councillor Wotherspoon provided an update Castleside Primary School in particular good news relating to SATS results and increases in admission numbers.

She further advised that a vacancy for a School Governor had become available. After some discussion members agreed that they wished to support Councillor H Thompson in her application for School Governor.

(ii) Councillor R Thompson provided a number of updates in relation to the Parish Wood as follows:-

- Reports of ASB in the woods, and damage to trees. It was agreed that this should be reported to the Police along with publicity regarding the use of the wood and the existing bike track made within the parish news and on the website.
- Parish Wood Signs – permission has been sought from a resident to site the sign within the grounds of their property, further permission would be sought from a resident in the second proposed site.

(iii) Councillor H Thompson sought members' agreement to approach nurseries and schools within the area to determine their level of interest in using areas of the wood for extended classroom space and outdoor activities. The Clerk agreed to speak with Councillor Thompson after the meeting with a view to contacting local nursery / school establishments over the next few months.

An update would be provided at the earliest opportunity.

1213/40 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Councillor Robson commented that he was very disappointed regarding the state of the grass cutting and the way in which the grass was left on the footpaths and subsequently blocking gully's. Councillor Johnson advised that as previously mentioned the service was reducing the number of cuts and the number of times per year that the gully's were being cleaned. He agreed that this situation was not ideal; however at this stage unfortunately this was the situation right across County Durham.

Councillor Robson further commented that he felt that some of the cuts were unjustified and restructures of services were

Councillor Addison queried where the County Council in relation to savings which were identified in advance of LGR. He commented that as a resident he had saved £1.00 during the lifetime of the new authority.

Councillor Robson further commented that he felt that some of the cuts were unjustified given that in some areas jobs were being created. He made particular reference to those services which were depended upon by the residents of County Durham.

(ii) Councillor Dixon advised that permission had been granted for the permanent placing of a Christmas tree, he suggested that a site visit be undertaken to the tree transplanter company in Lanchester to select a suitable tree. All Members agreed that they would attend. D Dixon agreed to arrange and inform members of the date and time in due course.

(iii) Councillor Anderson raised a query with regard to the enforcement proceedings against Foxhill stables. The Clerk agreed to contact the Enforcement officer to provide an update, however it was noted that the appellant would have a period of 6 months to comply with the enforcement notice.

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed.....Chairman
Thursday 27th September 2012