

Minutes of a meeting of Healeyfield Parish Council
Held on 17 September at 7.00 p.m. Castleside Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillors D Dixon, A Hird, J Forster, J Robson, A Pearson (Chair).
County Councillors O Johnson.

G Miller (Outgoing Clerk).
R Wright (Incoming Clerk).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Burton and County Councillor R Young. Members agreed that a card should be sent to Councillor Burton on behalf of the Parish council.

1516/41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

1516/42 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public participation policy was on display. No members of the public were present.

1516/43 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting 30th July 2015 were agreed as a true record.

No matters arising from the minutes.

1516/18 MINUTES OF PARISH WOOD COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Wood Committee 20th August 2015 were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising from the minutes no date has been set for the planning committee to meet regarding DM/15/02158/CLU. An objector is working with the planners to provide information.

1516/44 RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR P ARCHER

Mr Archer's resignation was formally accepted. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for all the Mr Archer's hard work. Electoral services will be informed and due process will be followed to either elect or co-opt a new member.

1516/45 AAP & PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT

The Young Farmers Club successfully applied for a grant of £5000 from the AAP to help rebuild their club house (originally the Methodist Chapel). The group have raised much of the money themselves and also done most of the work. It will provide a club house where both adults and children will be able to take part in the activities of the club.

It was agreed that Andy Coulthard be invited to the November Parish Council meeting to provide more information on Dementia Friendly Awareness.

A Neighbourhood Networking programme originally started in the Brancespeth/Esh are is to be rolled out over more of the county. The email will be circulated to members and it was felt this programme could bring benefit to many members of the local community.

1516/45 POLICE AND PACT REPORT

The way PACT is being conducted is being reviewed. Initiative such as using Facebook, holding roadshows and attending coffee mornings are being tested. It was agreed that a Parish Council representative will attend the PACT meeting if an issue needs to be raised otherwise the report will be circulated by email. The clerk will contact PCSO Mark Rodgers for the report.

1516/46 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Johnson informed members that the County Council Chief Executive will retire at Christmas and internal candidate interviews are in progress. He pointed out that the salary had been reduced by one third and was part of the ongoing cost saving measures. The home to school free transport limit has been reduced to the statutory level however a hardship fund was available and discretionary grants can be awarded. The Care Connect service has also been reviewed and all users will be assessed on their ability to pay for the service. The County Council does have substantial reserves however these are ear marked to keep front line services protected as long as possible because government grants are being reduced.

1516/47 FINANCE

It was RESOLVED that the finance report be received.

The Clerk explained that the £200 cheque for the summer scheme had been made out to the wrong organisation and had been returned and a new one issued. Mr Archer reimbursed the £27 from a Councillor training course he attended.

EXPENDITURE - Cheques presented for approval on 17 September 2015

CHQ No.	Date	Cost	VAT	Total (£)	Payee	Detail
1380	17 Sept	177.50	0.00	177.50	A Cranney	A. Addison Ceremony
1381	17 Sept	97.68	0.00	97.68	G Miller	Additional Salary July- Sept 2015
1382	17 Sept	45.96	0.00	45.96	HMRC	Tax /NI July-Sept 15
1383	17 Sept	200.00	0.00	200.00	NEEN	Re-issue summer activities
1384	17 Sept	31.06	0.00	31.06	G Miller	Administration
Total		552.20	0.00	552.20		

INCOME RECEIVED	
Community Account	0.00
Business Money Manager Bank Interest	3.50
Durham County Council	9027.69

Cancelled Cheque no 13979 made payable to wrong organisation	200.00
P Archer Councillor training reimbursement	27.00
Total Income in month (£)	227.00

BALANCES	
Balance B/F	21764.55
Add Income as above	227.00
Less Expenditure	552.20
Balance C/F	22439.35

1516/47/1

External Audit Report There was one minor issue raised concerning grant monies received being included with the income in box 2 however it should have been shown in box 3 under other receipts. There was no fee made for this external audit..

1516/48 CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were received;

1516/48/1 Email from Mrs June Henderson.

1516/48/2 Notice of AGM from Society of Local Council Clerks.

1516/48/3 Notice to receive Ron Hoggs newsletter to be displayed on the noticeboard.

1516/48/4 A meeting concerning Kinship Care will be circulated to members.

1516/48/5 A Standards Training day at County Hall in November the email will be circulated to members.

1516/48/6 The parish Council comes under the Transparency Code for local councils under £25000 and funding is available for IT equipment and training. It was agreed that the Clerk will apply for funding for 3 hours IT training at County Hall (cost £25 per hour).

1516/48/7 An email concerning the extension of the Neighbourhood networking programme will be circulated. Councillors agreed that it would be of benefit to some local residents and more information is required.

1516/49 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

One application to reduce the crown and resize 2-3 metres of two sycamore trees at Lincoln House, Front Street, Castleside. It was agreed to support this application

1516/50 CLERKS REPORT

The MTFP information was received from DCC and provisional figures show if the Parish council were to remain on the same level of precept due to the increase in council tax base the net position for 2016/17 would be an increase of £37.48. This information is only for members to note.

1516/51 MEMBERS REPORT

1516/51/1 Feedback from Councillor Surgery – no residents attended. The Parish Council agreed to continue making the surgery sessions available.

1516/51/2 Parish seats – It was RESOLVED to spend £1000 this year upgrading some seats to plastic slats which are maintenance free. Councillor Pearson will draft a rolling programme prioritising the seats which require urgent attention.

1516/51/3 Defibrillator – Councillor Forster has the necessary forms to be signed by NHS ambulance to enable the acquisition to proceed. It is proposed to put the defibrillator in a crate attached to the village hall wall. Grants are available and an application will be completed and sent to Andy Coulthard.

1516/51/4 Chairmanship fundraiser – It was RESOLVED that a charity fundraising event will be held early in 2016. It was RESOLVED that members will explore prices for entertainment options. No charity has been selected as yet.

1516/51/5 Sandy path – An email was received from Mr Dancer concerning problems with water overflow on the path. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk will contact the original contractor to see if he will do the remedial work to fix the problem
The path is now subject to speeding off road bikes which are dangerous to path users. It was RESOLVED to seek Police advice and also contact DCC to discuss signage and gate alterations.

1516/51/6 Letter from Mrs Elizabeth Moore – Members considered the contents of the letter and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk would send a response to the concerns raised.

1516/52 COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

No Councillor questions were submitted.

Conclusion of Meeting 9.05p.m.

Signed.....Chairman of the Council 17th September 2015