

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th January 2017 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr H Charlton, Chair
Cllr V Elliott
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr C Mairs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr G Smith
DCC Cllr Wilson

17.01 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Turner.

17.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest declared for any agenda item.

17.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed as a true account and signed accordingly.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising discussed.

17.04 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A local resident highlighted the poor state of a grassed area adjacent to the recently built Darlington Road Oakley Manor estate; it is believed that the land is being retained for potential future development. ACTION: Clerk to ascertain ownership and write to request landscaping improvements.

Mrs Audrey Becks was thanked for her dedication to the weekly litter picking she voluntarily undertakes. ACTION: Clerk to arrange a supply of bags, hoop and grabber. (Andrea DCC, Ref: FS11524103)

17.05 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- A Parish Councillor raised concerns about the poor lighting provided by new lights in the Oakley Green area. It was also highlighted that the same problem is occurring between West Auckland and Spring Gardens. Cllr Wilson agreed to raise concerns but advised that it is a county wide cost reduction initiative.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

- There is no further progress on the bollards required on the grassed area at the old 'Earl of Warwick' site. It was resolved that the Clerk will follow-up and seek detail from Cllr York on the job number he raised to have the bollards replaced

17.06 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

- The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and payments were checked on invoices as below:

A Byte Website - 1st part payment		£400.00
Domestic 1 Salary		£52.14
Clerk's Salary		£600.00
Telephones & Broadband		£20.00
npower electric		£58.26
Laptop tune and 2 year security update		£105.00
Groups' room hire income	£205.00	
Replacement website final payment		£400.00
Transparency Grant - website	£580.00	

17.07 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To consider replacement of existing village green rose beds.

A scheme to replace the rose beds was discussed and it was agreed that the allotment holders should be invited to support the plan. Cllr Roberts has agreed to draft a summary of proposed suitable roses. Cllr Robinson will feedback on the allotment holders' decision to support with re-planting the existing rose beds at the next meeting.

(ii) To receive update on speed matrix

The Clerk advised that Brian Stevens has arranged an assessment and will feedback in due course. Cllr Wilson agreed to follow-up with this.

(iii) To consider play equipment

Photographs of adult play equipment in Shildon were produced for consideration. It was pointed out that the area is locked every night to prevent vandalism. Following discussion it was resolved that, in view of recent local vandalism of the Christmas tree fencing and potential health and safety risks of the proposed new equipment, it was resolved not to pursue this initiative.

It was resolved that a suitable size five-a side football pitch be sited at the area where the existing redundant zip rope is. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up with DCC after Cllr Wilson has made the initial enquiry about removing the zip wire frame.

(iv) To consider illegal signs on village green

Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council have no problem with signs being used by local business owners to promote their premises around the village green. It was highlighted that, since the introduction of the by-pass, shop owners should be supported wherever possible to retain their facilities within the village.

Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

17.08 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To consider quote for resurfacing a path between New Street play area and rear of Staindrop Road

A quote has been requested but not yet received. Additional quotes will be sought to compare and a decision will be made to proceed with the preferred tradesman at the next meeting.

17.09 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was advised that plans are available to convert the Queen’s Head public house into 3 dwellings. Restricted car parking space was discussed and it was resolved that the Parish Council will query the inclusion of resident parking within the plans. ACTION: Clerk to write,

17.10 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING BEING HELD MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2017

- To receive update on speed matrix.
- To receive update on replacing rose beds.
- To consider replacement Christmas lights.
- To receive quote for resurfacing path between New Street play area and rear of Staindrop Road.
- To receive update Citizen’s Advice activity.
- To receive councillor’s report on village green Toadpool area.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....