

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th September 2017 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr V Raine
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Turner

17.72 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Elliott, Cllr Palfreyman and Cllr Roberts.

17.73 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

17.74 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.

17.75 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Anna Caygill, Environment Agency attended to provide information about flood risks in West Auckland. People are being encouraged to take any preventative action where possible. The project encourages residents to sign up for flood warnings. Following discussion, it was agreed that an article will be included in the next newsletter. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

17.76 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- A request has been made for the Parish Council to identify owners of gardens at the rear of Copeland Road and that they be asked to clean up the area and repair broken fences. Ownership needs to be established and a Land Registry search will be carried out to identify who owns the gardens between Copeland Road and Ennerdale Grove. ACTION: Clerk to carry out Ordnance Survey search.
- A resident raised concerns about a rear yard of an empty property on Staindrop Road being using to dump rubbish. It was agreed that the Parish Council will contact DCC on behalf of the residents to address the environmental issues.

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

- Cllr Robinson advised that he had approached the Oakley Cross School Head Teacher to discuss the potential use of the school's external multi-use games area (MUGA). It was advised that due to security plus health and safety the Head Teacher is unable to support the Parish Council's request to use the MUGA for local residents sports activity in the evening. A letter has been received highlighting the Head Teacher's concerns..
- It was confirmed that the overgrown bushes around village entrance sign have been cut back and rubbish cleared from the Station Road area.
- Concerns were raised about a car being parked and left with flat tyres. ACTION: Clerk to contact the PCSO to request any available assistance. ACTION: Clerk to write to Memorial Hall to request that cars park either in the car park or on the grass area opposite.

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

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and the following payments were endorsed:.

HMRC PAYE		£150.00
npower-electric		£18.53
Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Crea8ive Graphics Newsletter- new bank		£140.00
Laptop Grant	£897.76	
npower electricity		£17.97
External Audit		£276.00
CDALC Subscriptions		£304.32
npower gas		£127.74
npower electricity		£17.97
Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Domestic Salary		£52.14
Groups' Rent	£400.00	
Replacement laptop, Office security & software		£1,021.96
NWG Business - water rates		£78.08

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit is now complete and there were no matters of concern raised.

It was advised that the Thursday morning toddler group have regrettably decided to close.

17.78 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To arrange spring bulb planting in late October

It was agreed that Cllr Chris Smith and Cllr Neil Simpson will plant the 2000 flower bulbs during October 2017

(ii) To arrange Remembrance service

It was agreed that an interim meeting will be held on Monday, 18th September 7.00 pm. ACTION: Clerk to request band and cover to provide for refreshments. It was agreed that 2 people can be paid £20 each to provide tea/coffee for anyone requiring refreshments after the Remembrance Service.

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

(iii) To receive an update on the options for an improved play area

To be considered at the next meeting.

(iv) To obtain and update on the request for one-way traffic on Front Street

To be carried forward to the next meeting.

(v) To receive an update on the Heritage leaflet

It was agreed that the Parish Council wish to include some village history and it was resolved that a dedicated interim meeting is required in October.

(vi) To consider replacing the existing speed reduction signs

It was proposed that the missing 'Please Slow Down' signs on approaches to the village be replaced. ACTION: Cllr Robinson to confirm requirements for Clerk to order.

17.79 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

To consider feasibility of continuing Citizens' Advice support

It was resolved that the Citizens' Advice support session is not feasible and will not continue. ACTION: Clerk to notify of termination.

17.80 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were planning issues raised.

17.81 Agenda items for meeting to be held on 9th October 2017

- To agree Budget setting
- To discuss options for play area facilities.
- To consider request for one-way traffic on Front Street
- To confirm Remembrance Service arrangements
- To consider funding allotments' replacement fencing
- To arrange painting of picnic tables and notice board

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