

West Auckland Parish Council

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

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman

17.82 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Palfreyman, Cllr Rielly and Cllr Simpson. Cllr V Elliott has now resigned.

17.83 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

17.84 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, with the exception of an amendment on page 2, line 10; it was 2 cars parked with flat tyres; the file copy will be amended. The Minutes were then agreed to be a true account and signed accordingly.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

17.85 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident raised a concern about the state of bins and seats around the village.
- The Clerk raised a letter of concern from a local resident about the reduction of lights at Toadpool, West Auckland. The Parish Council resolved to send a representative to a meeting when arranged. ACTION: Clerk to respond to letter and include Etherley Parish Council for their information.

17.86 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Roberts reported on an initiative to promote Wear Rivers Trust works.
- Cllr Robinson produced photographs of paths in the area requiring improvement. It was agreed the highlighted areas are neglected. ACTION: Cllr Roberts agreed to search the Land Registry to obtain any available information on ownership.

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

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

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

DD	npower electricity		£18.67
BP	Zurich insurance		£418.45
100515	Quality Status approval		£80.00
BP	Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
DD	Clerk's salary		£600.00
DD	Domestic Salary		£69.33

The Clerk raised a query about the specification of a raised bed at The Pant. Quotes have been obtained but as the specification required is now different, it was resolved that a site meeting will be held and, providing it can be arranged, the works will proceed at the earliest convenience.

17.88 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To obtain an update on the request for one-way traffic on Front Street

Following discussion, it was resolved that a peak traffic time site visit with DCC will be requested. Following concerns raised about the number of near-misses at the Manor House roundabout it was agreed this should be highlighted with DCC too. ACTION: Clerk to request meeting with Highways Department, DCC.

(ii) To confirm Remembrance Service arrangements

All arrangements for the Service were confirmed as complete. Cllr Smith will arrange with local schools to lay wooden crosses prior to the Remembrance Service.

(iii) To arrange painting of picnic tables and notice board.

It was resolved that a local handyman will be approached to paint the picnic tables and notice board. ACTION: Clerk to arrange and seek advice on re-coating village seats. Cllr G Smith agreed to raise concerns about the local rubbish bins at a forthcoming DCC meeting.

(iv) To discuss options for play area facilities

Several options were discussed and it was resolved that DCC will be approached to relocate the goal posts on the New Street play area. It was also resolved that an enquiry be made about the possibility of using the 'old washery' land. ACTION: Clerk to contact DCC.

17.89 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To agree Budget Setting



The attached proposed budget was agreed. It was confirmed that the Clerk and

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

domestic's salaries will be raised with effect from 1st October 2017 to coincide with current roles at national rates of pay. It was confirmed that there will be no increase to the Precept for 2018. ACTION: Clerk to notify DCC.

(ii) To consider funding allotments' replacement fencing

As it was confirmed that there is a £1,000 grant approved by Gaunless Gateway towards replacing allotment fencing, it was resolved that the Parish Council will seek details of the quote and consider contributing the outstanding balance to cover the quote. An extension to the project is to be requested and this item considered at the next meeting.

17.90 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- The Pizza Parlour was discussed and it was confirmed that the frontage will be restored to the originally approved standard.
- It was highlighted that plastic windows are being considered for the 'Old Church Manor' on Mill Bank. It was resolved that a letter be sent to request that wooden windows as the property is within a conservation area.

17.91 Agenda items for meeting to be held on 13th November 2017

- To consider replacing allotment fencing.
- To consider defibrillator training.
- To review village interest leaflets.
- To receive a current untidy sites report.
- To receive update on the Pant (time capsule, tap and cast aluminium plaque).
- To receive update on footpaths.

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