

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr C Mairs, Chairman  
Cllr K Bolton  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr E Farrer  
Cllr Gargett-Gillens  
Cllr A Palfreyman  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith  
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman

## **18.101 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Gargett-Gillens. Cllr Karen Bolton was welcomed as a newly co-opted Parish Councillor.

## **18.102 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no expressions of interest received.

## **18.103 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed accordingly.

## **Matters Arising**

### **18.104 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident attended to advise that she has sought interest in donations to provide plants for spring, summer and autumn displays around the village. It was advised that there are 6 volunteers working on this initiative. The residents have also applied for Civic Pride funding and requested that the Parish Council consider a donation; this will be included in the agenda and considered at the next meeting.

It was requested that an article be included in the spring newsletter to ask residents for any donations. It was advised that the Gaunless Gateway may be able to contribute towards the funding of planters.

It was reported that Traffic Management signs have been left on the village green.  
ACTION: Clerk to request that they be removed.

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**18.105 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- Cllr George Smith was thanked for his efforts in arranging the Christmas tree lights; his efforts were acknowledged as much appreciated by those present.
- It was proposed that the late Cllr Andy Turner’s family be approached for their permission to site a plaque on the seat near the Football Monument. It was resolved that a plaque will be purchased once family approval is obtained.
- It was reported that there has been a complaint about a dog fouling in the cemetery. It was requested that DCC be notified to raise their awareness. It was resolved that Cllr Mairs will contact SMURFIT to re-establish a relationship with the new manager and request that they continue to open and lock the cemetery gates as well as continue to litter pick their scattered cardboard which blows across from the factory.
- It was reported that the Memorial Hall meeting is held at 7.00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month. It was highlighted that the Memorial Hall is an excellent village facility and the Parish Council, as Custodians, should be supporting the Committee to ensure it continues to be well managed and maintained.
- It was reported that a Simply Social, held at the Memorial Hall between 1.00 pm – 3.30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, is well received.

**18.106 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES**

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

HMRC – PAYE		£200.00
npower electric		£5.53
Hamper drinks		£41.05
A-Byte 2018-2019 Website Subscription		£144.00
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Telephones & Broadband		£30.00
Speeds Matrix x 2		£21,830.00
Cre8tive Graphics Newsletter		£175.50
Scouts newsletter delivery		£100.00
npower electric		£53.14
npower gas		£119.56

**18.107 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**I. To consider advertising boards**

This item was discussed and it was agreed various options should be sought and considered. ACTION: Clerk to obtain samples.

**II. To consider cemetery remembrance garden**

It was reported that there has been no progress on provision of a cemetery remembrance garden. It was agreed that Tony Johnston be invited to a meeting to consider cemetery improvements. It was highlighted that the cemetery is the responsibility of Durham County Council and Cllr Rielly requested that she be invited to attend any meeting. It was highlighted that up to £5,000 has been allocated to support

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the cemetery improvements. It was suggested that a copy of cemetery regulations be obtained to clarify what is and isn't allowed with regard to headstones and grave curb stones. ACTION: Clerk to invite Tony Johnston.

**III. To receive update on request to have the Miners' Banner returned to the village**

It was reported that there has been no further progress with the request to return the Miners' Banner to the village. The Clerk reported that Beamish Museum had advised they were considering the request but no further communication has been obtained. It was reported that there is only one suitable wall at the Memorial Hall to site the banner. ACTION Clerk to follow up.

**IV. To expedite progress with the flower bed landscaping**

Cllr Chris Smith agreed to liaise with DCC to arrange the landscaping at the flower bed opposite the Workingmen's Club to expedite progress with the overdue initiative at the earliest convenience.

**V. To consider a Remembrance Woodland**

This item is to be considered as part of the cemetery improvements programme. It was envisaged that this proposal will not prove feasible.

**VI. To arrange delivery of hampers**

It was confirmed that the Christmas hampers can be delivered To Devonshire House and Roslyn House residential homes on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December; those attending to meet at Monteith Community Parish Room at 2.00 pm.

**vii. To receive update on siting of defibrillators**

Various options were reconsidered to ascertain the most suitable premises to site the four defibrillators. It was resolved that one defibrillator will be sited at the Memorial Hall and one near the football monument within the next 4 weeks.

**18.108 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- To consider funding by-pass target hardening

It was resolved that the Parish Council will contribute up to £1,000 towards the £6,500 required for target hardening at the local village by-pass to prevent vehicular access for travellers. Gypsy, Romany Travellers (GRT) will contribute £3,500. It is anticipated that Etherley Parish Council will match fund the West Auckland contribution.

**18.109 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

It was highlighted that more trees have been planted near the Eden Arms. ACTION: Clerk to report to DCC again.

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**18.110 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MONDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 MEETING**

- To consider suitable long-term options for planters and request for a donation.
- To consider options for leaflet display boards.
- To receive an update on the Miners' Banner.
- To consider planning for 2019 Christmas lights and decorations.
- To receive update on cemetery improvements.
- To consider progress and funding bypass target hardening.

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