

# West Auckland Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr C Mairs, Chairman  
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr E Farrer  
Cllr A Palfreyman  
Cllr L Reilly  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
DCC Cllr C Wilson

## **17.82 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr C Smith & Cllr Turner. Cllr Mairs commenced the meeting by thanking everyone for their support during his first 6 months as Chairman.

## **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 and signed accordingly.

### **Matters Arising**

Everyone's effort and good attendance at the Remembrance Service were acknowledged. The Parish Council expressed their pleasure at seeing so many from the community attend the service. Ferryhill Band played an active part and walked through the village with other marching towards the Pant war memorial site.

The Clerk sought advice from Cllr Wilson on the best means of making specific requests to DCC as there has been no reply to recent emails sent requesting a site visit to consider:

- 1-way traffic around McCalls' shop side of Front Street (DCC ref 24185944)
- Relocating the New Street play area goal posts – Barrie Alderson
- The potential of a recreation area at the 'old washery' – [assetmanagement@durham.gov.uk](mailto:assetmanagement@durham.gov.uk)

## **17.85 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- Concerns were expressed about the cost and poor attendance at Citizen Advice Bureau sessions funded by the Parish Council over the previous year; it was confirmed that the sessions were run on a 1-year trial and will not continue.

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

- Rubbish, furniture and litter from an upstairs flat at 22 Ennerdale Grove has been left in a garden. Cllr Wilson agreed to follow-up by arranging to have the rubbish removed, if permitted at a private rented property; Cllr Wilson will also ask the street wardens to assess the area and submit a report.
- A resident raised concerns about the state of bus shelters. It was resolved that the Parish Council would seek to have the bus shelters cleaned.

**17.86 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

It was reported and West Auckland could be considered for one suitable temporary stop-over traveller site and updates will be given in due course.

It was reported that the ‘purple play bus’ purchased by the Gaunless Gateway is almost complete and will be available for agreed community use in coming months.

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

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

Cre8ive Graphics		£175.00
Hampers1		£72.60
HMRC PAYE		£150.00
npower electricity		£17.25
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Clerk's Salary		£800.00
Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Ferryhill Band		£150.00
Pant raised cross bed		£948.00
Guides Wreath	£20.00	
Bulbs and turf lifter		£33.41
npower gas		£93.81

The Clerk requested that the attached Code of Conduct be adopted; it was resolved that the latest version will be used in future; this will be added to the website at the earliest convenience.



Code of Conduct - revised October 2017

The Clerk attended General Data Protection Regulation on 1 November 2017 and the Parish Council will receive a bill for the training in due course.

It was agreed that, providing no election is called by 16<sup>th</sup> November, interviews will be held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 7.00 pm and 7.30 pm.

It was acknowledged that the bike racks donated by DCC have arrived and confirmed that the fittings were missing; Clerk to contact DCC.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

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

**(i) To consider defibrillator training**

It was resolved that costs be ascertained for the provision of defibrillator training. It was also resolved that the availability of the defibrillator be advertised. ACTION: Clerk to source cost and availability of training and Cllr Mairs to visit Devonshire House to enquire whether staff are/would be willing to use the defibrillator.

**(ii) To receive update on the Pant**

Cllr Roberts advised that as the Pant is a registered listed building, permission to site a cast aluminium plaque will be necessary. It was advised that Cllr Rob Yorke has agreed to provide an inscription once the plaque is designed and purchased. It was highlighted that permission would also be required to remove a brick for the two schools to insert a time capsule each. It was advised that Mr Niven is replacing a tap which was once part of the Pant. ACTION: Cllr Roberts agreed to draft the plaque wording and obtain an update on Mr Niven's progress prior to the next meeting.

It was resolved, subject to detailed design, that this project will proceed with the support of the Parish Council.

It was reported that one of the blocks from the paving at the Pant has raised and caused someone to trip during the Remembrance Service; it was confirmed that this has been reported to both local county councillors.

**(iii) To review village interest leaflets**

This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

**(iv) To receive untidy sites report and update on footpaths**

The state of various areas within the village was discussed and it was resolved that further Land Registry searches will be carried out to confirm ownership of the abandoned gardens at the rear of Copeland Road.

It was resolved that the following builders be asked to provide an update on their partially built premises.

- Owner of partially built wall at the rear of the Nursery.
- Owner of Prince of Wales renovations

**17.89 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**(i) To finalise funding for allotments' replacement fencing**

It was confirmed that the allotment fencing project is to go ahead at the earliest convenience as the allotments' secretary has obtained an extension for completion until the end of December 2017.

It is anticipated that the fencing will commence the last week of November 2017. The

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

Gaunless Gateway have donated £1,000 and the Parish Council will contribute the remaining cost. The Parish Council suggested making a further application for support with funding to replace another section of worn allotment fencing in due course.

**17.90 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- It was confirmed that there are plans for the Manor House to extend a conservatory.

**17.91 Agenda items for meeting to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

- To consider cleaning of bus shelters
- To review village interest leaflets
- To obtain update on Copeland Road abandoned gardens
- To review and consider improving the cemetery entrance
- To consider 'old washery' potential play area

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