

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12th March 2018 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr J Curl
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr C Smith

18.21 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gargett-Gillens, Cllr Palfreyman, Cllr Simpson, Cllr G Smith and Cllr Turner.

18.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

18.23 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

18.24 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident reported a car crossing the shrub area near The Well and suggested additional fencing to prevent access. It was advised that some access is required for emergency services and the Parish Council agreed to investigate options to prevent access where possible.
- A replacement litter bin is required near the Crusty Loaf to replace one that is broken.
ACTION: Clerk to request.

18.25 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- A land ownership search on the area where a resident has fenced off the land on the Stockton to Darlington railway route confirms that the land is not owned by DCC. It is anticipated Stockton and Darlington Railway will ask in future for the small piece of land to be returned to them as part of their project to provide a footpath/cycle route between Stockton and Pheonix Row, Witton Park.

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- It was reported that recent negotiations have provided a resolution about land agreed for use as a temporary stop off for travellers; the outcome is expected to be publicised in the near future.
- It was advised that new fencing is being erected at the George Street/Edith Terrace gardens; this was seen as a positive step towards improving the area.
- A meeting with Dave Gillett, DCC Groundwork was requested to discuss the rose beds, provide an update on the planting of bulbs and consider reducing weed killer scorching. ACTION: Clerk to request meeting and contact Steve Johnson, DCC Landscaping to request a meeting with Cllr Chris Smith about the rose bed planting scheme.

18.26 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

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

Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Crea8ive Graphics newsletter		£175.50
Water rates - NWG		£52.62

- Cllr Gargett-Gillens has offered to produce and manage a Facebook page for the Parish Council. It was resolved that this is a useful suggestion and agreed it can proceed.

18.27 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To receive update on defibrillator training

Tracey Storey, Associate Practitioner for Cardiac Attack Prevention attended the meeting to provide training for those present. It was advised that an additional defibrillator could be made available providing the Parish Council are willing to purchase a box to secure the machine in a public place for access 24/7. It was resolved that a box will be purchased for the existing defibrillator and another purchased if the donated one is obtained. It was agreed that the most effective locations for the defibrillators will be agreed at a future meeting.

(ii) To receive update on the Pant

It was advised that progress is being made with replacing the tap on the Pant. It was resolved that St Helens school be invited to be included in a time capsule project and Cllr Rielly agreed to liaise with the school.

(iii) To receive update on request to site four bike racks adjacent to village green

The Clerk agreed to continue following up on a decision from DCC to allow the bike racks to be sited. The Clerk was asked to also follow up on the request for double yellow lines and relocation of football pitch goal posts.

(iv) To receive draft leaflets

Cllr Farrer has drafted a leaflet of general information on the background and history of West Auckland. The Clerk has also drafted a ‘Local Walks’ leaflet from directions provided by Alan Holmes which will be produced in the spring when photographs are available. A

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meeting was arranged for Monday, 19th March at 6.00 pm at Cllr Roberts house for anyone interested in attending to consider layout and content for a set of leaflets.

18.28 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To receive update on requirements to improve DCC owned cemetery

Cllr Mairs met with a representative from DCC to discuss the parish residents’ concerns about the poor state of the cemetery. DCC have since carried out various works to clear and improve the area and painted the gates. They have agreed to support the Parish Council in any way they can to improve and maintain the area. It was resolved that a further meeting with Tony Johnson and Dave Gillet is required to discuss longer-term plans to continue tree planting, potential for a woodland burial ground, memorial wall and general maintenance. ACTION: Clerk to request a meeting with Parish Council representatives.

18.29 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues discussed.

18.30 Agenda items for meeting to be held on Monday 9th April 2018 (interim meeting 26th March)

- To consider location of defibrillators
- To receive an update on the Pant
- To consider distribution of Westlife
- To receive an update on siting bike racks
- To arrange a Spring Clean litter pick
- To consider dog fouling
- To discuss options following complaints about allotment fires

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....