

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th April 2019 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr Gargett-Gillens
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman (deputy Chairman)

19.31 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bolton, Cllr Curl and Cllr N Simpson. A Teesdale Mercury reporter attended the meeting to obtain a photograph and details of the recently installed defibrillators.

19.32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.33 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.

19.34 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident gave thanks to the Parish Council on behalf of Highcroft School staff who used Monteith Community Parish room to raise £400.90 by holding an afternoon tea event. It was confirmed that enough funds have been raised, by other local volunteers, to purchase all planters planned for this year.

It was confirmed that the Village in Bloom competition is to be held in July and it was agreed that a dedicated meeting should be arranged to consider practical improvements that can be achieved to enhance the look of the village in readiness for the judging,

19.35 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

An update was provided on the target hardening programme. It was confirmed that a recent meeting had been held to discuss further improvements required to prevent vehicular access. It was confirmed that Heritage Park at Tindale, Westerton and Byers Green are approved

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

designated sites which will be available for travellers to stay overnight whilst travelling to and from Appleby Fayre.

It was highlighted that stop over sites are not open outside the Appleby period and travellers use the village for overnight parking throughout the year. It was confirmed that the stopover sites opening times have been extended for 1 week either side of the Appleby Fayre period and could be opened for specific events throughout the year if required.

It was confirmed that previous Parish Councillor, Jack Bell's widow has given her approval to have a plaque placed on a village seat as a mark of respect for Jack's dedication to the village.

It was highlighted that Gaunless Gateway and Coalfield Regeneration both have funds available for approved identified projects and suggested they may be keen to match fund for the planting and other similar projects.

Following a well attended and productive litter pick at the weekend, it was highlighted that there are several areas around the village requiring intense clearing where rubbish could not be reached in shrubs and along beck side areas. Clerk to report to DCC.

- Roslyn House, Oakley Green car park. A wash basin, tyres and a large amount polystyrene were reported.
- Stone steps near Oakley Green recreation area.
- Rear of Crusty Loaf, laden with litter.

It was resolved that Cllr Curl will be asked to carry out the weekly maintenance checks on the defibrillators and Cllr C Smith agreed to carry out the checks when Cllr Curl is unavailable. Cllr G Smith will continue with the required periodic electric checks.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Cre8tive Graphics Newsletter & leaflets		£335.50
Scouts newsletter delivery		£100.00

It was confirmed that the year end expenditure was checked and approved prior to submission for review by the Internal and External Auditors

19.37 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider options for re-opening a youth club

Options to revive a youth club were discussed and it was generally agreed that a youth club is required but there was concern raised about the long term feasibility of running it. It was confirmed that the youth club was closed when DCC withdrew funding as it was unsustainable. It was agreed that there is a lack of facilities for children in the village but it was resolved that unless a specific project can be implemented, funding cannot be sought. It was confirmed that the youth club is being sold by the Church and resolved that the Clerk will make enquiries about possible availability of the old youth club. ACTION: Clerk to write.

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

It was suggested that the old community centre at Sycamore Grove is a wasted property whilst it is boarded up. It was suggested that Durham County Housing Group be asked what their plans are for the property.

19.38 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

There were no finance items raised on this agenda.

19.39 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was advised that the Old Hall has submitted a planning request in to remove internal office partitions.

It was confirmed that there is a request for internal restructure at the Eden Arms, West Auckland.

It was advised that on occasion it is difficult to view plans on the weblink

19.40 MONDAY, 13TH MAY 2019

An Annual General and Public Meeting has no additional agenda items.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....