

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th July 2019 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 A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman (deputy Chairman)
Cllr C Wilson, DCC

19.62 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gargett-Gillens & Cllr Roberts.

19.63 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.64 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.

19.65 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Local residents attended to raise their objections to the plans for an additional take-away in the village. The points raised were:

- It's within a conservation area which already has too much litter from other local take-away shops.
- There's already a lack of car parking; parking on the A68 corner or double parking will add to an area already fraught with hazards.
- It is considered there are already too many take-away food shops in and surrounding the village.
- Volunteer litter pickers highlighted the amount of rubbish already produced from Tindale Crescent take-away shops.
- Residents living adjacent to the shop strongly object to the noise and smell an extractor fan would create.

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

- Another take-away would encourage youth congregation outside nearby residencies and increase anti-social behaviour in general.
- The Parish Council agreed to support the objections. It was suggested that residents consider a petition to obtain a wider residents' group opinion. It was advised that a Planning Department meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th July at Durham County Council and Cllr Wilson agreed to advise the DCC Planning Department of the strong objections to the proposed change of use of premises prior to that meeting.
- A coffee morning was requested for Saturday, 21th July 2019 to raise funding for West Auckland in Bloom. Thanks were given to Cllr Rielly and Cllr Simpson for their support and Cllr Wilson was asked to arrange for the road and path sweeper prior to the Village in Bloom visit on 24th July.
- It was reported that dog faeces is on the new planted area on the village green and around the new planters near the Manor House. It was agreed that this is a problem throughout the village.
- It was reported that an A68 sign is required on the Darlington Road corner to avoid motorists being confused when approaching the small roundabout. Cllr Wilson agreed to raise this with DCC.

19.66 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that the 2 new bus shelters will be sited in the coming week; the Clerk highlighted that the Parish Council had requested consultation prior to the purchase of the bus shelter to allow the opportunity to have potential influence on the choice made.
- It was reported that there is a cost associated with changing the colour of dog waste bins.
- It was resolved that a litter pick be held on Saturday, 28th September and the Clerk agreed to arrange it.
- Cllr C Wilson agreed to request a 2nd rubbish bin at the picnic tables area further to a local resident's request.
- It was reported that Oakley Cross school are arranging a summer time library with volunteers to run the sessions during the summer holidays and for this to continue into term time. It was resolved that, with the correct security and supervision in place, the Parish Council agree to the use of the book storage room at Monteith Close.
- It was reported that the Gaunless Gateway are opening up a new round of grant applications and anyone can apply for up to £3,000 funding for identified projects.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

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

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk could apply for play area funding in addition to the improvements already planned with DCC for next year.

It was resolved that the Clerk will organise the Remembrance Service and confirm arrangements at the September meeting.

19.68 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider a Community Woodland

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting in the absence of Cllr Roberts who requested that this item be added to the item.

19.69 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To review quarter end income/expenditure

The quarter end income and expenditure was reviewed and approved.

ii. To consider improvements to New Street play area

Cllr Robinson provided an update on the plans for improving the play area. Due to funding this will not happen until 2020. It was resolved that the Parish Council will match fund the £15,000 already allocated by DCC. The Clerk has also applied for £3,000 funding from the Gaunless Gateway funding. Cllr Wilson was asked to seek additional support from the Shildon AAP.

19.70 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- DM/19/01762/FPA plans to change use of premises from Barber shop to an Indian take-away was strongly objected to by local residents who attended the meeting.

19.71 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019

- To consider a Community Woodland
- To confirm arrangements for the Remembrance Service
- To agree options for a notice board
- To confirm September litter pick plans

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....