

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th October 2019 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman

19.82 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Curl, Cllr Gargett-Gillens, Cllr Rielly, Cllr Roberts & Cllr Simpson.

19.83 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.84 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.

19.85 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was a request to use the Parish Room on Saturday, 16th November 2019 for a coffee morning to raise funds for 2020 Village in Bloom project; this was agreed as a free of charge room hire event.

Residents advised that the village was awarded with grade 3 for the 'It's Your Neighbourhood Britain in Bloom'. The residents and Cllr Simpson were thanked for their efforts. A judge offered to mentor the Village in Bloom team in future years.

An update was given on recent and future planned village flower tub planting.

Concerns were raised about large vehicles parked near a corner on Darlington Road; it was advised that as there are no lines preventing parking nothing can be formally done to remove the vehicles.

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

19.86 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was reported that the beck area to the rear of Staindrop Road is overgrown and requires clearing of weeds and debris. ACTION: Clerk to report to Environment Agency.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

01/10/2019	SO	Domestic Salary		£73.00
01/10/2019	SO	Telephone & Broad Band		£30.00
01/10/2019	SO	Clerks Salary		£600.00
13/10/2019	BACS	Turf lifter and petrol		£60.00

19.88 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider a Community Woodland

This item will be carried forward to the next meeting as Cllr Roberts advises that he intends to give a briefing; it was resolved that this item will be removed from the agenda if not raised at the next meeting.

ii To consider options for watering planters

Various options were discussed to consider the provision of a water supply for tubs around the village. It was highlighted that some businesses have expressed a willingness to water tubs near their premises but there are still other options required. It was resolved that an article be included in the next Westlife and the Village in Bloom.

iii To consider options for Perspex backing to the noticeboard

Cllr Robinson produced a sample Perspex holder for leaflets; it was resolved that this would work well at the noticeboard and bus shelter. The Clerk also suggested it as an information holder for the Parish Room entrance porch window.

iv To consider repair of the picnic tables

It was resolved that a quote will be obtained to replace the picnic tables with maintenance free materials prior to arranging repair of the existing tables which have rotted wooden legs.

v To consider improvement to the footpath between Oakley Cross school and the A68

It was resolved that road plainings are required to level the footpath. It was resolved that Smurfit staff be asked to assist with distributing the chippings. ACTION: Cllr Mairs agreed to arrange the road plainings and Clerk to contact Smurfit representative.

19.89 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To complete 2020-2021 Budget Setting

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

The draft budget was discussed as part of the quarter end review; the final version will be considered for approval at the November meeting. The quarter end financial review was completed and signed off as required.

ii To consider funding Christmas lights

It was resolved that a feasibility study is to be carried out to ascertain the possibility of providing additional lighting for this year. It was resolved that a maximum of £5,000, as previously agreed, could be allocated for this project.

iii To consider funding to support youth activities in the Workingmen’s Club for a 6 month project

It was advised that the old Youth Club has been purchased and the new owner is willing to lease the premises to be used as a youth club if funding can be obtained.

It was resolved that the Parish Council would prefer to support an initiative at the youth club rather than the Workingmen’s Club premises. The Parish Council expressed reservations about the ability to financially support any youth club project without a significant increase to the precept; it was resolved that the Parish Council would be unable to support with any match funding at this time due to funding already allocated to improving the play area in 2020.

It was resolved that the Parish Council are keen to obtain the details of any definite proposal for a youth club.

19.90 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There are currently no planning issues for review.

19.91 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2019

- Request for donation for additional tubs
- Confirm 2020-2021 budget and precept setting
- To receive project details of youth club equipment
- To receive update on purchase of waste land

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....