

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr C Mairs, Chairman  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr E Farrer  
Cllr A Palfreyman  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith  
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman

## **19.102 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bolton and Cllr Gargett-Gillens.

## **19.103 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no expressions of interest received.

## **19.104 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.

## **19.105 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- A resident attended to complain about the state of the footpaths following the installation of Virgin media cabling. It was resolved that the state of the footpaths throughout the village are not acceptable but the resident has been advised that the footpaths are within an approved specification and have Government approval. It was resolved that DCC are responsible for the footpaths and the Parish Council were fully supportive of their concerns and it was resolved that the Parish Council will contact DCC to raise concerns about the trip hazard the fibre optic feeder pillow on Copeland Road is causing.
- The Gaunless Gateway Development Worker attended to advise that West Auckland have been awarded £13,000 funding to support a youth club pilot for 6 months. It was advised that a similar project has proved extremely successful and reduced anti-social behaviour by 95% in a neighbouring area. ACTION: Clerk to ascertain cost, if any, of Parish Council Zurich Insurance to cover a weekly out-reach youth club session 2-3 nights per week.

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

- Concerns were raised about the site of speed matrix on Toadpool as it is said to be flashing into the living room and bedroom window of the adjacent house. It was agreed that the current site of the speed matrix appears unsuitable. It was resolved that due to the stress it is causing, DCC be asked to switch the speed matrix off until any alternative positions can be considered.

**19.106 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

The were no additional reports from Parish Councillors.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Domestic Salary		£73.00
Telephone & Broad Band		£30.00
Newsletter delivery - Scouts		£100.00
Cre8ive Graphics - newsletters		£175.50
Bus shelters - B McGregor		£125.00

The annual precept was agreed to remain the same with no increase for 2020-2021 and the required form was signed accordingly.

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

**i. To review 2019 Remembrance Service and consider improvements for 2020**

It was resolved that overall the service was very successful and numbers attending are increasing year on year. It was suggested that a police car be parked near the bus stop to discourage car from speeding past.

It was agreed that availability of refreshments is to be announced in future to ensure everyone has the opportunity to attend.

**ii. To arrange Christmas Hamper delivery Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 1.00 pm**

Cllr Gargett-Gillens has confirmed that the hampers will be dropped into Monteith on Sunday or Monday in readiness for delivery on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December; everyone attending will meet at Monteith at 1.00 pm.

**iii. To consider approval of Leaflet Number 1**

There is a meeting arranged for next week to finalise Leaflet Number 1 and it is to be brought to the next meeting for approval.

**iv. To receive an update on the installation of the 4<sup>th</sup> defibrillator**

It was confirmed that, due to the change of school Headteacher at Copeland Road school, landlord’s approval is still awaited for the defibrillator to be sited outside the school.

**19.109 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**i To receive an update on proposals to support a youth club trial**

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

As this issue has previously been discussed a brief overview of the project was provided. It was resolved that the Parish Council would fund the insurance for the pilot if required. It was suggested the Workingmen’s Club insurance may already cover a youth club facility within their existing insurance.

**ii To consider quotes for repair of picnic table**

Quotes were not available and a second request will be made to provide them in readiness for the January 2020 meeting.

**19.110 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- There were no specific planning issues raised.
- Environmental health concerns were raised about the number of chimneys burning wood at the Darlington Road industrial estate.
- It was highlighted that some Parish Councillors are unable to open the Planning email attachments over the past 3 – 4 months. ACTION: Clerk to raise with DCC.

**19.111 To RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2020**

- To consider newsletter delivery
- To consider approval of the draft Leaflet No 1
- To receive update on the siting of the 4<sup>th</sup> defibrillator
- To receive quotes for repair of the picnic tables

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....