

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th March 2020 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr G Smith, Deputy Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr J Curl
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

20.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gargett-Gillens, Cllr Mairs and Cllr C Smith.

20.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

20.23 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.

20.24 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Local residents attended to raise their concerns about the volume of traffic coming through a lane at the rear of their house on Darlington Road on route to the allotments. They reported that a mud track is being created by the number of cars and vans using the lane. ACTION: It was resolved that a letter will be sent to the allotment holders reminding them that their main vehicular access should be via the locked gate for which they all have a key and requesting that they seek to build a mutual respect with the residents.

Concerns were also raised about the number of used dog bags which have built up; the resident complained that he had picked 30 bags up tonight. ACTION: It was resolved that the Clerk would report the concerns to DCC.

It was confirmed that the Thursday evening craft group have made hundreds of poppies to decorate the Pant.

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

It was reported that Mr Kenny Close has repaired the picnic tables free of charge; he was thanked verbally, via his sister-in-law, for his efforts and the Clerk will follow up with an official thank you.

20.25 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that Copeland Road school have obtained £3,000 and the West Auckland in Bloom received £2,500 from the Gaunless Gateway.
- It was advised that there is a Town and Village Business Grant available for windows and doors that local premises within the conservation area are taking advantage of.
- It was reported that a couple of community-based youth leaders are employed by the Vinyard church and they will be coming more involved in youth and community initiatives.
- It was reported that a Community Woodland may be possible at the ‘old washery’. Cllr Roberts is meeting someone to discuss and will report back on any progress at the next meeting.
- It was reported that there is a sunken manhole and pot holes near the cemetery cottage on the A68. ACTION: Clerk to report.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Npower		£35.62
Domestic Salary		£73.00
Telephone & Broadband		£30.00
Npower		£60.80

It was confirmed that the transfer of land documentation is finally drafted and has been signed by the Chairman and the Clerk in preparation for finalisation by the solicitors.

20.27 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider approval of Leaflet Number 1

It was confirmed that the outstanding map for Leaflet 1 has now been provided and it is expected that the leaflet will be completed in the very near future and the final draft will be circulated before the next meeting.

ii To receive an update on the installation of the 4th defibrillator

It was resolved that the 4th defibrillator will be sited at the school perimeter as previously discussed; a power supply is currently being sought for the agreed location. Cllr G Smith is leading this initiative and will provide an update at the next meeting.

iii To consider and plan litter pick April 2020

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

It was agreed that the litter pick will be arranged for Saturday, 25th April 2020 between 10 am – 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided afterwards at the Parish Room for volunteers.

iv To receive an update on the New Street Play area improvement

The Clerk confirmed that Barrie Alderson, DCC has advised that the scheme to improve the play area is expected to be complete by the school summer holidays. It was confirmed that no news is yet available on the application for Pocket Park funding; the Clerk advised that other areas have been notified that they were unsuccessful but Wet Auckland is still awaiting a reply.

20.28 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider soldier silhouettes at the Pant Memorial

It was confirmed that the soldier silhouettes cost £540 each installed and it was resolved that 2 will be purchased to be sited at either side of the Pant. It was suggested that the shrubs be trimmed to 4 feet high. ACTION: Clerk to arrange for shrubs to be trimmed. Cllr Farrer and Cllr Robinson are to arrange siting of the soldiers.

ii To consider 2020 Christmas lights

It was confirmed that the cost to provide Christmas white lights for 4 trees and a star lit on the existing Christmas tree would be £3,800. It was resolved that this will proceed for completion in readiness for Christmas 2020.

20.29 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was confirmed that the old ‘Station’ pub has been sold and there are plans being considered to build bungalows at that site in due course.

20.30 TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 20TH APRIL 2020

- To consider the conservation area extension
- To consider a Community Woodland
- To receive confirmation of litter pick to be held Saturday, 25th April 2020
- To request the opinion of the enforcement officer on the old Queens Head (the Zoo) and the house next door
- To consider an information/history board
- To consider improving the Mill Race pathway adjacent to The Mill

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....