

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th September 2020 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith

20.52 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the remainder of the Parish Councillors who refrained from attending due to Covid-19 restrictions. It was resolved that because Cllr Rachel Gargett-Gillens has now exceeded the 6 months absence she can no longer be part of the current Parish Council and the vacancy will be advertised as required.

20.53 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

20.54 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed accordingly with the exception of a required amendment as the Minutes should have stated that Cllr Ed Farrer was elected as vice-Chairman.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

20.55 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Due to current maximum of COVID-19 restrictions the regular attendees could not attend this meeting. It was resolved that options will need to be considered fully to allow them access to future meetings.

20.56 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Roberts advised that he has been asked to represent the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway; Cllr Roberts was thanked for volunteering to become involved.
- Cllr Simpson confirmed that he has ordered the spring bulbs and they will be planted over coming weeks.
- Cllr Roberts provided an update on the proposed Community Woodland on the 'old washeries', along the Leazes incline and up towards Etherley. There have been a couple of meetings and in principle there appears to be support for the initiative; funding would need to be secured for the project to proceed.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

HMRC - PAYE		£150.00
npower – electric		£27.57
B McGregor - bus shelters cleaned		£150.00
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
ICO Subscription		£35.00
Allotment Rents	£1,300.00	
Ordnance Survey		£65.70
HMRC - VAT Reimbursed	£700.15	
npower – electric		£20.32
Anglian Water rates		£10.76
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
West Auckland in Bloom		£500.00
npower electric		£17.98
DCC - grant reimbursed		£10,000.00
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Salary		£850.00
Internal Audit - Mike Batey		£200.00
CEF - COVID sanitiser dispensers, masks, gloves		£271.98
HMRC		£212.50
Cllr Simpson- Village in bloom materials		£25.05
Cllr Simpson- Village in bloom materials		£47.34
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
B McGregor - bus shelters cleaned		£150.00
Stockton & Darlington Railway Subscription		£50.00
npower-electric		£13.76
npower – gas		£126.92
New land plants - combined payment		£145.96
DCC Grant	£10,000.00	
New land plants - combined payment		£262.96
CDALC Subscriptions		£321.81
Protech Direct Pest Control		£372.00
Notice board repair - Cllr Simpson		£29.90
npower electric		£5.87
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
npower Gas		£28.95
Domestic's Salary		£75.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Salary		£850.00

Further to a request from Etherley Parish Council it was highlighted that they are working to enforce speed restrictions at the bottom of the Buildershaw Bank on the A68 road. It was resolved that West Auckland Parish Council will provide any available support as required.

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

20.58 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider Remembrance Service planning

It was resolved that the Remembrance Service will, with restrictions as required, proceed without provision of refreshments in Monteith Close Parish Room. The Clerk will seek to book a bugler and investigate options for the provision of hot soup for those attending. The event would need to be cancelled if pandemic lock-down is enforced over the coming weeks.

ii. To consider improvements to the path between Oakley Cross between the school and the A68

It was confirmed that the path between Oakley Cross school and the A68 can be completed providing JJ Gill can supply a risk assessment to ensure there are no trip hazards remaining on completion. It was resolved that the path should be laid at the earliest convenience to avoid further delays due to any change in the weather.

20.59 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. **To arrange annual Budget Setting** - It was resolved the Budget will be drafted, circulated and considered prior to the next meeting when final amendments will be confirmed and approval given at the 9th November 2020 meeting.

- **To consider Christmas lights and hampers** - It was confirmed that the additional Christmas lights will not be installed this year.
- It was resolved that cakes and biscuits will be delivered for the residents and staff at Devonshire House and Roslyn House instead of hampers.

ii. To consider funding for the new village boxing club

It was resolved that the Parish Council will not contribute to funding the boxing club on this occasion.

iii. To consider options available to install Parish Room wifi

Following discussion about COVID-19 and parish councillors' attendance, it was resolved that wifi will be arranged at the earliest convenience in readiness for future meetings.

20.60 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Plans to develop land attached to a bungalow, between the Parish boundary and the bypass roundabout was discussed. The Parish Council expressed concerns about access and will consider the plans further prior to submitting comment.

20.61 To receive any items for Monday, 9th November 2020 meeting

- To consider developing the recent landscaping at Oakley Beck Bridge, Darlington Road
- To consider suggestions for Smurfitt volunteers to support with village improvements
- To consider signage to deter parking on the village green
- To consider the purchase of weight training equipment for the new village boxing club facility

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

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