

West Auckland Parish Council

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

Present via Zoom: Cllr G Smith, Chairman

Cllr K Bolton

Cllr J Curl

Cllr E Farrer

Cllr C Mairs

Cllr L Rielly

Cllr M Roberts

Cllr W Robinson

Cllr N Simpson

20.52 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr A Palfreyman and Cllr C Smith.

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 approved and signed accordingly. It was highlighted that Cllr Farrer was away at the last meeting and it was not COVID-19 restrictions preventing his attendance.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

20.55 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Residents joined the virtual meeting to raise concerns about anti-social behaviour around the East Green car park becoming increasingly problematic. The various unacceptable activities mentioned included drug use, fireworks, laser pointers, eggs being thrown and cars speeding to and from the East Green car park. Between 7.00 pm and 1.00 am were identified as the usual times for these ongoing unacceptable problems.

It was pointed out that there is some AAP funding for a mobile CCTV for Bishop Auckland, Shildon and West Auckland.

It was highlighted that nitrous-oxide is not illegal and it was proposed that the residents liaise with the local MP who would be the most appropriate source to escalate this issue with. It was suggested that the residents also raise their concerns in writing to the Durham Constabulary Chief Constable at Aykley Heads, Durham.

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It was suggested that a representative from the Parish Council meet with the residents to consider options to improve the area and deter youths from gathering in the car park. Cllr Roberts agreed to arrange a meeting.

It was resolved that once permission is obtained a temporary camera can be sited at the earliest convenience.

20.56 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was advised that a support group for West Auckland St Helens (WASH) has been formed to assist with clearing the land for the Stockton and Darlington Railway for the half mile local length of the disused railway line which is intended to become part of the 26 miles walk/cycle route between Stockton and Phoenix Row.

It was advised that at a meeting with the Gypsy Romany Travellers (GRT) today it was confirmed that the temporary site near the football ground will be moved.

It was reported by a resident that there is some destruction of trees and movement of earth at the rear of the APTEC area. It was queried whether there is planning permission for this activity which is taking place during the evening. There are reports of foul-smelling smoke from the site and residents are having to close their windows. It was suggested that the DCC Environment Officers be asked to investigate what is happening and resolved that one of the Parish Councillors will investigate this complaint further to obtain full details.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenditure
Oakley Cross Path		£1,320.00
Turf lifter Tool-Time		£58.00
Replacement laptop mouse		£12.99
npower gas		£31.95
wave - water rates		£5.84
ACER Laptop for Virtual Meetings		£434.98
Cre8ive Graphics - newsletters		£180.00
Newsletter delivery - Scouts		£100.00
Zoom Standard Pro Annual		£143.88
Poppy Wreaths and 120 crosses -RBL		£200.00
WI Room Use - 2 years	£125.00	
3 HP 10 Tablets – Amazon for Zoom use		£539.97
3 tablet cases - Amazon		£37.02
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
npower gas		£37.70
Headphones		£42.99
Mouse for multi-media screen laptop		£12.99
Thursday Bingo Group - room use	£50.00	

The September 2020 quarter end bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.

It was confirmed that the annual External Audit is now complete with no issues other than it was highlighted that West Auckland Parish Council's reserve fund is high. This is due to the lack of spending on planned projects for this year and it was agreed that projects will

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resume when COVID-19 restrictions are permit. It was resolved that there will be no increase in the annual precept for 2021.

It was agreed that Cllr Curl, Cllr Rielly and Cllr Roberts will carry out an interview for any expressions of interest on the Parish Council current vacancy for a co-opted member.

20.58 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider developing the recent landscaping at Oakley Beck Bridge, Darlington Road

Quotes for bird-mouth fencing and 2 replacement treed will be obtained for consideration at the next meeting.

ii. To consider suggestions for Smurfitt volunteers to support village improvements

It was confirmed that Smurfitt volunteers are not allowed to support projects at present due to COVID-19 restrictions.

iii. To consider signage to deter parking on the village green

It was highlighted that a sign is missing at the Crusty Loaf. It was resolved that a new sign is required and the Clerk will request a replacement via DCC.

20.59 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider the purchase of weight training equipment for the new village Boxing Club facility

It was proposed that a maximum of £3,000 be earmarked to purchase equipment identified by the Boxing Club.

20.60 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was confirmed there are 9 volunteers interested in supporting a Community Woodland initiative and a meeting will be held in due course.

A planning application has been submitted to site a dwelling in a garden at the rear of a property on Staindrop Road. The application was previously refused due to access restrictions and it was resolved that the Parish Council will respond to support the residents' objections,

20.61 To receive any items for Monday, 14th December 2020 meeting

- To receive a quote for bird-mouth fencing and trees at Oakley Beck Bridge land
- To receive request for Boxing Club equipment
- To consider purchase and installation of CCTV for West Auckland
- To consider management of emissions and smoke from APTEC site
- To consider improving state of names of the fallen on the Pant

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