

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12th April 2021 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, Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith

21.31 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs.

21.32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

21.33 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed accordingly.

21.34 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A local resident attended to request Parish Council support with a local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Cllr Roberts agreed to support this group and it was confirmed they are also being supported by the Gaunless Gateway with secretariat assistance until the group is established.
- The poor state of the Village Green at the rear of the Fleece was raised by a resident who has requested DCC support with clearing a substantial amount of litter.
- Further to a query on CCTV it was confirmed that the camera will be sited by the end of next week.
- It was advised by a resident supported with a litter pick that the river bank near the New Street play area still has silt remaining from when the river was cleared. It was requested that DCC be asked to remove any litter from the bank and the Environment Agency to clear the river as a strong offensive smell was also reported to be in the same area.

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

- Barbara from Gaunless Gateway attended to request Parish Council preference for receiving progress reports on the Street Games project. It was confirmed that all updates should be sent to the Clerk for circulation to the Parish Council.

21.35 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Concerns were raised about a gathering of horse owners on the Village Green on Sunday, 11th April 2021. It was advised that there are available Commons Acts 12 & 29 to support enforcing prevention of future gatherings. It was reported that another gathering may be scheduled for another Sunday in the near future. The plans for a further gathering was reported at the Gypsy Romany Travellers (GRT) meeting and the police. It was agreed that every effort should be made to prevent future gatherings to avoid potential accidents and damage to the currently well maintained green.
- It was confirmed that the defibrillator will be sited once the building owner decides on the most suitable position with access to electricity.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt Payment

Clerk's Salary		£805.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
DCC - Precept	£26,161.04	
B McGregor - bus shelters cleaned		£150.00
Village in Bloom Donation		£1,200.00
Additional LCTRS Grant		£89.45
Allotment Rents	£1,300.00	
Eon Next Gas		£52.16
Eon Next Electric		£40.25

- 2020- 2021 Annual Accounts were reviewed with bank reconciliation approved.

21.37 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To make litter pick arrangements

It was advised that Samantha Tucker is organising litter picking events and suggested that the Boxing Club, SMURFIT, WI may all be interested in supporting with a litter pick. Cllr Roberts will obtain a date from Clean Up St Helens and West Auckland Group (CUSHWAG) for the Clerk to circulate to the Parish Council and local groups.

ii. To consider items to follow-up on the Environment Policy

Cllr Roberts has updated the draft Environment Policy and requested input from Parish Councillors prior to wide circulation for consideration.

iii. To receive final version of Leaflet 1

Cllr Farrer and Cllr Roberts have been working on Leaflet 1. Clarification was sought on contacts for local groups and an explanation received on the scope of the newly formed Neighbourhood Watch group.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

iv. To discuss improvements to the Cemetery

There is no progress to report. It was resolved that Parish Councillors will meet at the cemetery on Monday, 17th May 2021 at 6.30 pm to consider ideas for potential improvements prior to linking with DCC with a view to take proposals forward.

v. To discuss Village In Bloom

It was proposed that the Parish Council make a further donation to support Village in Bloom during the current pandemic. It was suggested that a motorised water bouser would be beneficial and this was agreed in principle for consideration of formal approval at the June meeting.

21.38 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider ongoing problem with rats at the allotments

It was resolved that the pest control should be introduced for the coming year at the allotments and the quote for £500 per annum was approved.

21.39 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- It was confirmed that the Clickham Gables application was refused.
- Concerns were expressed about the 13-15 Staindrop Road property's request for buildings with access to the property from the rear of Staindrop Road and objections will be submitted.
- The West Auckland Manor House hotel have submitted plans to extend a decking area, This was discussed and it was generally agreed that improvements to the Manor House would be welcomed.

21.40 To prepare for Public Meeting & AGM Monday, 10th May 2021 – no agenda

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