

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th June 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 Mark-Idwal Roberts, DCC
Cllr R Yorke, DCC

Cllr Mark-Idwal Roberts & Cllr Rob Yorke attended the meeting to provide an urgent update on a proposal for a 'Toft Hill' only bypass which excludes West Auckland. It was emphasised there is no opposition to a Toft Hill bypass but West Auckland also require a safe highway infrastructure; both areas suffer the burden of an A- road with heavy traffic through the heart of the village. Cllr Yorke explained the history and various bypass options considered over the years. Cllr Yorke advised that he cannot support a proposal which is to the detriment of his West Auckland residents. Cllr Mark-Idwal Roberts also advised that he would work to support his residents wishes and best interest of his elected constituency.

A Public Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 15th June 2021 at 7.00 pm where the West Auckland MP and council leaders have been invited to provide information on the proposal. Lobbying and support from all available avenues was proposed.

21.51 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Smith.

21.52 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

- Cllr Palfreyman expressed an interest in Agenda I item 8 for West Auckland Football Club support funding.
- Cllr Pattison expressed an interest in the Village in Bloom also with Agenda Item 8.

21.53 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

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

21.54 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A huge thank you was received from Village in Bloom for the consideration of the purchase of a tractor and to Cllr Robinson for providing the external water access tap and vehicle ramp to assist with transportation of the water bouser to village planters.

It was advised that Find and Fix, a DCC initiative, have been recruited and have been working in the village over the past week; they have painted bins, fixed picnic tables, pruned trees, etc. Their support is gratefully received ahead of the Village in Bloom judging to take place in July.

A request was made by a resident for the DCC councillors present to consider funding two replacement bus shelters in the centre of the village.

21.55 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was advised that a number of Parish Councillors met recently at the cemetery to consider possible plans for improvements; these will be shared in due course.

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with the owner of the Manor House to consider plans for refurbishing and developing the grounds of the hotel; it was a positive meeting and Cllr Martin Roberts kindly advised on architectural and historical aspects of the plans and signposted owner, Chris Sanderson to Bowes Museum should he wish to request the return of panel screens being stored at the museum.

It was highlighted that as Trustees of the Memorial Hall the Parish Council need to provide support as required. It was agreed that the current committee do an amazing job of running the Memorial Hall but as committee members age and reduction in numbers the Parish Council may need to become more involved in support with running the venue.

It was confirmed that Street Games initiative is commencing within the village this coming Thursday evening.

It was advised that the plans to hold a youth club in the Workingmen's Club are still being processed and it was highlighted that the first 6 months funding is secured; additional funding needs to be considered in due course.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Protech Pest Control - allotments		£600.00
CCTV - Smith Electricals to be reimbursed by DCC		£7,680.00
HMRC - PAYE		£212.50
Monteith Outside tap for Village in Bloom		£60.00
HMRC - Reimbursed VAT	£1,449.22	
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Screwfix Strimmer Wire - Cllr Simpson		£8.28
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
DCC - s106 funds for CCTV	£6,400.00	
Information Commission Office		£35.00
E-On Next - Gas		£43.27

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

E-On Next - Electric		£18.73
CDALC Subscriptions		£322.10
Ordnance Survey		£65.70
TI Mowers water tank - Village in Bloom		£450.00
Water bouser	£375.00	
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Internal Audit - Mike Batey		£200.00
Defibrillator pads Heartsine AHPADPKC (D8B		£112.80
Anglian Water Rates		£36.01
Eon Next Gas		£37.48
Eon Next Electric		£18.28
Defibrillator cabinet		£466.80
TI Mowers - water barrow for Village in Bloom		£2,700.00

21.57 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To consider having local groups under the umbrella of the Parish Council to allow them to benefit from the support with Public Liability Insurance for any community events.**

Following an enquiry and confirmation from Zurich Insurance it was advised that the request to assist groups by offering Public Liability Insurance cannot be supported. The Parish Council’s insurance can only cover any event that they have directly arranged.

21.58 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. Consider improvements to the New Street Play area**

It was reported that James Young, the new DCC recreation area manager has approved the zip wire being repaired, with the financial support of Cllr Yorke, and re-installed within Phase 1. This news was welcomed and it was suggested that residents be notified that it will be removed should it be exposed to future vandalism. Phase 1 will remove old equipment and tidy up the area. It was proposed and agreed that a phase 2 should be considered with more funding, in addition to the £20,000 already pledged.

- ii. To consider purchase of a water bowser and warm coats for the Village in Bloom volunteers**

It was resolved that a maximum of £3,000 will be approved to purchase the water bowser and weatherproof jackets.

- iii. To consider contribution to West Auckland Football Club premises shutters**

It was confirmed that the shutters have now been purchased with the support of Gaunless Gateway. The Football Club have since submitted a request any available funding support towards the provision of a replacement for a condemned building. It was advised that volunteers have done much of the building, painting, electricity and plumbing work and Scottow Trust has been approached for their consideration of grant. Cllr Yorke proposed that a joint venture between County Councillor, Mark Roberts, the Parish Council and himself be considered to support with funding to complete the interior of the new building. This was agreed and it was proposed that the Football Club be asked to provide a breakdown of funds required. Following consideration, it was resolved that the Parish Council will support and contribute an amount to be agreed at a later date, once the

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

breakdown is received.

It was also proposed that the Football Club be approached with a request for provision of youth activities during the week.

iv. To consider upgrading the Christmas decorations

This item is to be carried forward as Cllr Smith advised he has a meeting to discuss options for the update later in the week.

v. To consider a notice board and an information board on the history of West Auckland

A photograph of an information board was produced and it was resolved that a draft and quote can be obtained to provide an information board to include West Auckland photographs and information. It was agreed that the information board will serve a dual purpose and allow for the display of leaflets, agenda, councillors contacts on the reverse; the notice board near the old Post Office would then become redundant and be removed.

vi. To consider purchase of a replacement defibrillator cabinet

It was resolved that an additional defibrillator is to be purchased.

21.59 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- It was reported that a property owner rendering their house was discussed briefly with no objection.
- It was reported that a retrospective application has been submitted for a property on Copeland Road to build a 7 feet fence. It was resolved that the Parish Council will submit appropriate comments within the deadline.

21.60 To receive items for Monday, 12th July meeting

- To consider additional funding for the New Street play area
- To consider the Football Club Funding Support Breakdown
- To consider upgrading the Christmas decorations
- To consider speed restrictions in Robson Road and consideration of congestion
- To receive update on the provision of a bollard on the Staindrop Road narrow path
- To consideration cemetery improvements
- To receive an update on Leaflet 1
- To consider protection and enhancement of the Village Green, inc Fleece & Nursery area
- To consider resurfacing of path between Oakley Cross School and A68

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....