

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th November 2021 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present : 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

21.91 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Parish Councillors were present. Apologies were received from DCC Cllr Yorke.

21.92 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

21.93 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

21.94 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- There were no items raised by the public but thanks were given to the 'Village in Bloom' volunteers for their efforts around the village.

21.95 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It has recently been reported that vehicles are driving over the footpath and behind the bus stop to reach the Pizza shop. This has been reported to the police and DCC. It was highlighted that the CCTV has been pointed towards that area over the weekend and only one car was seen accessing via the footpath. ACTION: Clerk to write to Pizza shop owners and to inform West Auckland Club Committee that this issue has been addressed.
- Further to an invitation from the Memorial Hall Committee for support with the Queen's Jubilee next year Cllr Bolton, Cllr Pattison, Cllr Rielly and Cllr Chris Smith agreed to support the event.
- Kitchen equipment for the youth club pilot was requested and it was agreed to contribute a maximum of £500. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

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

- It was reported that land has been identified for purchase by a church group for community projects.
- The Stockton & Darlington railway open day was recently held and it was advised that woodland areas will be identified by autumn 2022 in readiness for a tree planting programme.
- As there has been no feedback on two developments outside the parish boundaries reported last month, the Clerk was asked to follow-up on a response.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
S Lavery Yoga Group	£20.00	
HMRC PAYE		£212.50
Beech Tree Nursery - Spring Bulbs		£430.00
Eon Next Gas		£32.04
Eon Next Electric		£27.64
Laptop check and security		£95.00
Zoom Annual Fee		£143.88
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Cre8ive Graphics - Westlife		£190.00
S Lavery Yoga Group	£20.00	
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Poppies & Wreaths		£220.00
Scouts - overpayment in error reimbursed	£120.00	
Scout - Newsletter Delivery		£220.00
Costco - Memorial plates, serviettes, etc		£18.79

i. To receive final version of Leaflet 1

A draft of Leaflet 1 was made available and it was advised that the final version should be ready for print by next month.

21.97 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider installation of 4th defibrillator

It was reported to supply power for the defibrillator is required at the top of Copeland Road and there is a possibility of a cost of approximately £500 and options for this are being considered; an update will be obtained by January 2022.

ii. To receive update on Bypass Proposals

It was advised that the petition including over 800 signatures was submitted to DCC and the local MP. It was advised that despite the lack of volunteers some Parish Councillors wish to continue knocking on doors to obtain more signatures for the petition. It was resolved that as there has been no response from DCC or the MP, advice should be sought on how best to raise awareness of the lack of interest in the views of the West Auckland electorate at a higher level. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up.

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

iii. To receive update on the Heritage/Notice Board

It was advised that this project is ongoing.

iv. To receive update on community use plans for the Oakley Cross school Multi-User Games and Activities (MUGA)

It was advised that preliminary discussions are ongoing between the Oakley Cross school Headteacher, Cllr Yorke and the Parish Council on the potential use of the MUGA. The Headteacher will be sending details of ideas for improving some elements of the school for circulation to the Parish Council. ACTION: Clerk to request information from Headteacher and include Barbara Slaser, Gaunless Gateway in correspondence.

v. To receive update on upgrading the village Christmas lights

It was advised that the village green lamp post commando units will not be installed until 2022. It was reported that the existing trees will be redressed for Christmas 2021 with new replacement low voltage lights.

21.98 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To approve 2022 Precept

It was resolved that the precept should not be increased for 2022. The 2022 Budget was approved. The Clerk’s salary was reviewed and it was resolved that future payment will be brought into line with National Association of Local Councils (nalc) pay scale on rate LC2/26 to reflect the responsibility, qualifications and experience of the current Clerk.

ii. To consider funding an additional phase for the New Street play area

To request approval and cost from DCC to light the play area with 4 power poles to allow children to play early evening in darker nights. It was reported that the rotating handle is missing and suggested that this be replaced with seats rather than hanging apparatus. ACTION: Clerk to write to DCC.

It was resolved that the swings and Net Pyramid from the Hags quote should be purchased and Cllr Yorke and Cllr Idwal-Roberts be asked for contribution to the total cost of approximately £30,000.

iii. To consider cemetery improvements

As no progress can be made with this item at present this item will be considered in future.

21.99 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues for consideration.

21.100 To receive items for Monday, 13th December 2021 meeting

- To receive update on the Heritage board and purchase a replacement Notice Board
- To receive update on community use plans for the Oakley Cross school Multi-User Games and Activities (MUGA)

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....