

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10th January 2022 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present : Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr E Farrer, Vice-Chairman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

22.01 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Curl, Cllr A Palfreyman, Cllr C Smith.

22.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

22.03 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

22.04 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Barbara Slasor, Community Development Lead for Gaunless Gateway attended the meeting to provide brief information on how she and her colleague, Susan Graydon, can support West Auckland; they have been supporting over recent years with youth initiatives. More recently Barbara is assisting with submissions for the Towns and Village revitalisation funding and offered to support with any application the Parish Council want to submit for West Auckland. Barbara advised she has been approached by an allotment holder with a request for an allotments' community meeting area. Cllr Robinson and Cllr Farrer agreed to lead on this and liaise with the allotment holders, following up with Barbara as appropriate. Barbara's offer to support the Parish Council with initiatives was welcomed by those present.

22.05 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that a local resident has advised he has Deeds which include a piece of land currently owned by West Auckland Parish. It was resolved that the Parish Council are unable to comment until they receive advice from their solicitor and proof of ownership via the resident's solicitor.
- A letter received from the Memorial Hall Committee requesting advice on management of overgrown tree roots from local farm land was raised. It was agreed that the dispute is between the Memorial Hall Committee and the local farmer; the Parish Council have no authority to intervene and it was suggested that the Memorial Hall Committee initially

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discuss their concerns with the farmer prior to seeking advice via their solicitor if necessary.

- It was reported that the Environment Agency has cleared the Oakley Beck. ACTION: Clerk to request Darren Hunt, Clean and Green team, DCC arrange a litter pick to clear the river banks.
- The Eden Arms public house and McColl's were reported to be leaving their commercial bins at the front of the property. ACTION: Clerk to write to request they are stored at the rear of the property.
- It was reported that the Slimming World sign is left outside the Memorial Hall all week. ACTION: Prior to making a formal complaint to DCC, Clerk to contact Rochelle on 07916944687 to request it be taken in at the end of each session.
- It was reported that the Memorial Hall have decided to arrange two free 'Simply Social' events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration. To manage numbers admission will be by ticket only. The Parish Council resolved to support the event and will agree to contribute funding once the quotes are received. The event details will be advertised in Westlife in due course.
- It was resolved and china mugs will be ordered for Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and St Helens school children to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Zurich Public Liability Insurance- reimburse TBC	£427.52	
S Lavery Yoga Group	£25.00	
Eon Next gas		£33.39
B McGregor - bus shelters cleaned		£150.00
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Salary		£1,200.00
Monteith Cleaning - December		£120.00
Meetup Craft Club	£20.00	
Bank Charges		£8.00

December quarter end bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.

i. To receive final version of Leaflet 1

Cllr Roberts agreed to have the final version available for approval of printing at the next meeting.

22.07 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To receive update on Bypass Proposals

Further to a recent meeting with Dehenna Davison, MP a meeting will be arranged with Dave Wafer, DCC to consider the Parish Council's proposal for using the existing Levelling Up funding to complete part of the original bypass proposal from Toft Hill towards direct to

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West Auckland. This temporary measure would stop at a nominated point and allow the option of continuing with completion of the original route to join at West Auckland once further funding can be made available.

ii. To consider location of 4th defibrillator

A location for the 4th defibrillator was discussed and Copeland Road school was considered as one option but access would be restricted to school opening hours. It was suggested that Roslyn House residential home be approached to ask if they would be willing to have the 4th defibrillator sited at their premises. ACTION: Clerk to investigate any options for a fully battery-operated defibrillator cabinet.

iii. To consider Parish Council involvement with Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

A Bishop Auckland CAP meeting date is awaited so Parish Council representatives can attend as observers prior to making a decision on whether to proceed with this initiative.

iv. To receive update on community use plans for the Oakley Cross school Multi-user games and activities (MUGA)

Following discussion on possibilities for funding for the MUGA, it was agreed that clarification is required from Cllr Yorke on plans and funding sources he may be considering for the MUGA. This information is required prior to the next Town & Village Revitalisation funding meeting where applications will be submitted for West Auckland. ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Yorke.

22.08 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To receive update on the Heritage Board and purchase of a replacement Notice Board

Clerk to obtain quote for a replacement notice board and Cllr Farrer, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Robinson to progress planning the content for a Heritage Board.

22.09 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues for consideration.

22.10 To receive items for Monday, 14th February 2022 meeting

- To consider tree planting on Fleece & Nursery village green
- To consider damage to village green
- To receive final version of Leaflet 1
- To receive update following Bypass meeting with MP and DCC
- To consider Parish Council involvement with Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)
- To consider Heritage Board and purchase of a replacement Notice Board
- To receive update on cost of battery-operated defibrillator
- To confirm funding for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
- To plan 2022 Christmas lights

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