

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 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  
Cllr A Palfreyman  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith

**21.11 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mairs.

**21.12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no expressions of interest received.

**21.13 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**21.14 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A local resident advised that the Neighbourhood Watch is well underway.

It was proposed by a resident that the Parish Council maintain a Facebook page. The Clerk advised that a councillor who left the Parish Council set-up and managed the West Auckland Parish Council fb page but there was no-one to replace that function when she left. The Clerk suggested that residents be directed to the website for information on meetings, etc; emails are checked regularly for any queries with prompt responses where possible.

**21.15 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- It was advised that there is no news on whether Appleby Fayre will go ahead this year and the travellers temporary stopover point near the Bishop Auckland football club will remain closed if other gatherings are also cancelled for this year.

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

## 21.16 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt      Payment

McAfee antivirus		£129.98
Flowers - AB Volunteer		£28.80
HMRC PAYE		£212.50
npower electric		£18.98
BT - Monteith 4G internet		£36.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
npower Gas		£58.54
Defibrillator cabinet		£466.80

## 21.17 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

### i. To consider location for the 4<sup>th</sup> defibrillator

Cllr Robinson proposed the old Eden Bus Garage building be used to site the 4<sup>th</sup> defibrillator. It was highlighted that as the building is privately owned there is a risk that it could be sold with the new owner refusing the cabinet. It was confirmed the owner has given approval and has no plans to sell the building. It was therefore resolved that the cabinet can be sited at the Eden Garage and the Clerk will purchase the required defibrillator cabinet.

### ii. To receive update on Leaflet 1

Cllr Roberts agreed to finalise the draft Leaflet 1 and circulate to other councillors for their input.

### iii. To consider a Green Village Policy

Cllr Roberts proposed that as the Parish Council have ideas for various green initiatives an ecologist from DCC be invited to support where appropriate. As members were supportive of this Cllr Roberts agreed to draft a detailed report for submission and consideration at the next meeting.

### iv. To consider kissing gates/barriers at strategic locations to prevent quad bike access

A map has been circulated and Cllr Roberts requested that members mark where the proposed kissing gates would be effective. It was suggested that the police need to manage the problem of quad bikes as it needs to be managed rather than mitigated with barriers. It was resolved that the cost of kissing gates needs to be obtained and DCC asked to support by replacing removed bollards. ACTION: Clerk to obtain cost and options to replace removed bollards and kissing gates via John Day, DCC.

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

**v. To investigate possibilities for recruiting a litter picker/handyman**

It was resolved that the Parish Council do not support employing a litter picker/handyman. ACTION: Clerk to raise concerns with DCC about the amount of litter in and around the village.

**vi. To receive update on options for cemetery remembrance wall/cremation garden**

It was reported that Tony Johnston, DCC advised that there is a suitable site within the cemetery to accommodate a cremation garden. This would need to be managed by the Parish Council and any revenue would be recouped by DCC.

Cllr Robinson advised that his vision was for a remembrance plaque or garden to be used as a reflective remembrance site; his idea was not the undertaking of a cremation garden. It was suggested that DCC be approached to seek their ideas on a previous scheme for two formal flower beds. It was suggested that screening to enhance the appearance of the cemetery cottage wall could be provided with minimal cost and resolved that a meeting with Tony Johnston be arranged when COVID restrictions are lifted. It was advised that the entrance to the cemetery is unkempt and the street cleaner should be invited to clean the entrance. ACTION: Clerk to raise concern with DCC.

**21.18 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**i. To receive update on CCTV installation and consider funding any outstanding cost**

It was confirmed that an s106 funding application will be considered at a meeting on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 for CCTV to be sited within the village.

**ii. To consider supporting Gaunless Gateway initiative with £4,000 Street Games funding application**

Following discussion it was resolved that one-off funding of £4,000 will be contributed towards the Street Games initiative; the payment will be made via Gaunless Gateway to ensure due diligence and robust audit of the project.

**iii. To consider approval of additional £5,000 towards New Street play area**

It was confirmed that the play area tender had not arrived and the Clerk would circulate on receipt from Barrie Alderson, DCC.

**21.19 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

There are no plans in West Auckland for consideration.

**21.20 To receive any items for Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 meeting**

- To receive Green Village Policy draft report
- To receive update on kissing gates costs and DCC feedback
- To receive update on volunteer led Facebook page
- To receive final version of Leaflet 1
- To consider earmarked Phase 2 funding for New Street play area
- To consider Litter Pick

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