

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr G Smith, Chairman  
Cllr E Farrer, Deputy Chairman  
Cllr L Adamson  
Cllr K Bolton  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr T Horsman  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson

## **22.61 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith and Cllr Stott.

## **22.62 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **22.63 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

## **22.64 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- A Village in Bloom member thanked the Parish Council for the volunteers' body warmers. It was reported that the rose bed on the village green has had some replacement plants and requires compost as the soil is poor quality. It was resolved that the Parish Council should fund plants and compost and thanks were given to the Bloom volunteers for their support with maintaining this large central flower bed.

## **22.65 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- It was reported that trees at the bottom of Windermere Drive at Toadpool have been chopped down. It was advised that Toadpool is outside the conservation area and if the trees are not under a preservation order they can be chopped down.
- It was reported that there have been numerous complaints about the animals and living wagons being sited on the village green over the weekend. It was advised this is due to a planning issue at Windmill and the police are taking action to remove the illegally sited set up.
- It was reported that a shed for the Parish Room back garden has been ordered and will be delivered in approximately 8 weeks.

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

- It was reported that a public seating bench has been removed from near the bridge towards St Helens, at the police's request, due to ongoing anti-social behaviour by youths congregating in the area.
- It was reported that Smurfit are organising a litter pick on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and it was resolved that this can be added to Westlife and the Parish Council will support the event in any way required.
- It was advised there is little progress with development at the old Queen's Head public house and agreed this should be monitored and escalated to DCC if necessary.
- It was reported that there is slow progress with resolving issues at the old Station public house, St Helens.
- It was reported that the old books from the Parish Room book swap have raised £100 for the Heart Foundation. Thanks were given to Cllr Simpson for transporting the books.
- It was advised that DCC have reported that there are negotiations ongoing relating to the old bridge abutments. The Parish Council are keen to see the area available for community use and the Stockton & Darlington railway path scheme.
- It was confirmed that the 4<sup>th</sup> defibrillator is now sited on Copeland Road and thanks were given to Cllr Simpson and Cllr Robinson for the installation.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Cllr Simpson - petrol, metal post and cement		£70.00
Anglian Water		£49.59
Monteith Radiators - County Services		£2,210.00
Eon Next gas		£25.47
Eon Next electric		£26.36
Protech Direct Pest Control		£600.00
Wall clock		£21.99
Decorating Monteith		£980.00
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Salary		£1,200.00
Defib Quik Pak x 2		£84.12
Blachere Lamp post illuminations x 16		£6,693.60
Rose bed plants		£196.00
Cllr Simpson - receipts req		£11.00
Large clock		£49.99
Monteith Kitchen equipment		£172.02
Monteith cleaning		£157.50

It was advised that a letter has been received complaining that the Football Monument lights are not lit in the evening; it was confirmed that the lights are working and pointed out that they were intended to shine on the monument and not there for any footpaths. The

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

lights are also on step-back, lit less, during the summer and any more lighting would create saturation for residents living near the monument.

## **22.67 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

### **i To consider out-of-hours insurance quote for Oakley Cross MUGA**

It was reported that Zurich have advised that the MUGA out of hours activity can potentially be covered by the Parish Council Public Liability providing the specifications are met. The Clerk has requested confirmation from Zurich on whether this will increase insurance cover.

### **ii To consider options for future cleaning of bus shelters, statue & stone seat**

It was advised this item should be removed as it would not be feasible. It was highlighted that the statue and the stone seat require specialist cleaning. ACTION: Clerk to contact DCC for advice on specialist cleaning.

### **iii To consider seating area for Monteith Close bungalows**

It was reported that residents at Monteith Close have been consulted and would like a seat on the green area. It was resolved that the seat recently removed can be relocated to this area and Find & Fix will be asked to repair the damaged covering/paintwork.

### **iv To consider access for all seating area at the Pant**

It was resolved that a plan will be provided at the September meeting for approval and Glasdon's and other suppliers will be approached for costs of various seating in the meantime.

### **v To consider removal of dog waste bag stands**

This item is removed as dog waste bags stand have been removed with thanks to Cllr Simpson.

### **vi To consider approval of the draft Green Policy**

The draft Green Policy was discussed and resolved as approved; Cllr Roberts was thanked for his contribution.

### **vii To consider siting a seat at the A68 entrance to Windermere Drive**

It was resolved that a seat will be purchased for this area and a selection of options will be circulated for approval at the September meeting. The Clerk invited Parish Councillors to bring details of any seating they feel will coincide with the existing village seating.

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

**22.68 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**i To receive cost of Christmas lights**

It was confirmed that 16 lamp post illuminations have been purchased for around the village green and funding will be requested from DCC Councillors to reimburse the £6,693.60 for the purchase of the lights and the £6,000 required for their installation.

**ii To consider species and location of Queen’s Jubilee commemoration tree**

It was resolved that a maximum of £2,000 will be allowed to purchase and install an English oak tree to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee. Trevor Atkinson, Barnard Castle will be approached for a quote for it to be sited in the centre of the small triangular green. ACTION: Cllr Roberts to seek confirmation of underground services and approval of the location and clerk to obtain quote and arrange installation in the autumn.

**22.69 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no issues formally raised with existing plans.

**22.70 To Receive Items For The Next Meeting To Be Held Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

- To consider access for all seating area at the Pant
- To agree seat to be sited at the A68 entrance to Windermere Drive
- To consider replacement of two bus shelters adjacent to village green
- The confirm progress with the Queen’s Jubilee commemoration tree

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....