

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12th September 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 J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr H Stott

22.71 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

A minute silence was held in respect for the late Queen Elizabeth II's passing.

Apologies were received from Cllr T Horsman, Cllr M Roberts & Cllr C Smith.

22.72 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

22.73 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

22.74 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- It was reported that there is evidence of drug use activity at the car park outside the Old Hall with cannisters, balloons and litter being left. It was suggested that the CCTV be transferred to there from the Well car park. Cllr Smith advised that the CCTV requires re-set as the power had been turned off at some point recently whilst it's been sited at The Well. It was reported that there is no evidence of drug use at The Well car park at present.
- It was reported that the football statue and stone seat were in a poor dirty state and have been cleaned by Village in Bloom ladies with plain water and a brush. Cllr Smith agreed to ask DCC for the football monument to be included in a periodic cleaning programme for the Clean and Green team.
- A request for an update on the progress with the planned replacement notice/information board was requested. It was resolved that the draft layout is approved and Cllr Roberts

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

will be asked to insert photographs in two blank areas in order to proceed with the order, as per the agreed quote, at the earliest convenience.

- It was confirmed that John Stott, local resident has donated the water butts being used to water the plants around the village; thanks were given for his generosity.

22.75 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that the grant application submitted for funding of the Oakley Cross school multi-use games area (MUGA) is on hold as the quotes submitted exceeded what was considered feasible. Cllr Smith advised that approximately £15,000 will be allocated from the Town’s & Villages funds for the project and it was resolved that the Parish Council would consider match funding once exact funding is confirmed.
- It was confirmed that the Parish Council and local DCC councillors have made their separate payments towards the New Street play area improvements scheme. Confirmation of DCC procurement outcome and installation date is awaited.
- It was reported that bollards preventing access to the New Street play area have been removed and need to be reinstalled at the earliest convenience. Cllr Smith agreed to report this to DCC.
- It was reported that a garden at the rear of Copeland Road is being used as a dumping ground for rubbish. Cllr Smith advised that this has been reported to DCC and is being addressed.
- A request was made for the consideration of a flag pole which could be dropped to half-mast. It was advised that a traditional flag pole would not be suitable due to potential hazards of using ropes; the existing telescopic poles can be dropped but cannot be adjusted to display a half-mast flag.

22.76 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

- It was advised that the Clerk has arranged for a £35 floral bouquet to be sited at the Pant in respect for the late Queen on behalf of the residents of West Auckland. A large portrait photograph is being sourced via Cre8ive graphics.
- The Clerk advised that the Local Council’s Grant for the coming year will be £3,413 which is a reduction from last year of approximately £600.
- It was advised that HMRC have issued 2 x £100 penalties for late entry of PAYE submissions; the Clerk advised that she is unaware of why this has occurred and has appealed.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

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
Bank charges		£8.00
Rose bed plants		£196.00
Cllr Simpson - receipts req		£11.00
Large clock		£49.99
Monteith Kitchen equipment		£172.01
Monteith cleaning		£157.50
CCTV City Electrics		£768.00
Eon Next		£29.65
Eon Next		£25.65
HMRC - PAYE		£300.00
New Street Play Area - 2 payments due to limit		£15,000.00
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Yoga group	£15.00	
Risk Assess Products Defib Pad Refund	£84.12	
Monteith Cleaning		£127.50
Bank charges		£8.00
BTL Timber - Monteith shed Rachel Halladay		£1,020.00
Eon Next		£24.57
Eon Next		£21.85
Bus shelter windows cleaned-B McGregor		£150.00
Mazars - External Audit		£240.00
SASH - Monteith shed locks		£41.18
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Monteith Cleaning		£120.00
Bank charges		£8.00
Anglian Water		£45.80
Defibrillator pads and batteries		£225.60
Queen Tribute Flowers		£35.00

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22.77 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider plan for access for all seating area at the Pant

It was resolved that a simple plan will be submitted to DCC for approval and Parish Councillors will view the Gladston's online brochure prior to the next meeting when seat types will be agreed by those present.

ii To select seat for siting at the A68 entrance to Windermere Drive

It was resolved that the same type of seat, as will be agreed for the Pant, will be purchased for Windermere Drive.

iii To confirm attendance and support for Smurfit Litter pick Saturday, 17th September

It was advised that the Smurfit litter pick is on Saturday, 17th September 2022 and tickets are available on request for the Hog Roast after the litter pick; Parish Councillors are encouraged to participate either prior to or on the day.

iv To arrange Remembrance Service Sunday, 13th November 2022

The Clerk was advised to make the usual arrangements for this year's Remembrance Service.

22.78 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider options to replace two bus shelters adjacent to village green

It was resolved that the Clerk will make a formal request to Cllr Smith to ask DCC to consider two new bus shelters.

ii To confirm progress with planting Queen's Jubilee commemoration tree

It was resolved that New Row Farm Nursery, Tow Law, will be approached for the purchase and installation of a mature Oak tree to commemorate the late Queen's reign.

22.79 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no issues formally raised with existing plans.

22.80 To Receive Items For The Next Meeting To Be Held Monday, 10th October 2022

- To consider planting area outside Monteith Parish Room
- To consider a donation to the Memorial Hall Simply Social group
- To consider plan and agree seating area at the Pant
- To confirm plans for Queen's Jubilee/Commemoration Tree
- To consider tree planting at the cemetery

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