

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14 November 2022 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr G Smith, Chairman (arrived late due to DCC commitments)  
Cllr E Farrer, Deputy Chairman led the meeting  
Cllr L Adamson  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr H Stott

## **22.91 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr K Bolton, Cllr T Horsman & Cllr C Smith.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

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

- Residents attended the meeting to express concerns about the proposals for an abattoir on the Darlington Road Enterprise Estate.
- The impressive turnout for the Remembrance Service was acknowledged and thanks were given to everyone involved with supporting the event.
- Thanks were given to Cllr Robinson and Cllr Simpson for their efforts with the Oakley Cross unadopted footpath between the school and A68 which they have re-surfaced with donated materials and voluntary work; the only costs to the Parish were for transportation of materials and use of a volunteer's machinery.

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

- Cllr Smith arrived late and provided an update on the Planning process for the proposed abattoir as referred to at agenda item 22.99.
- It was advised that the village information board is progressing and a mock-up has been received. It was advised that once the minor amendments are made, the information board will be sited at the earliest convenience.
- Cllr Smith provided those present with an update on the Christmas lights and advised that 14 lamp posts will have illuminations and the Christmas tree will be decorated. The two large trees at the top of the village will no longer be lit due to changes on legislation for lower wattage and deterioration of the old existing lights.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Eon Next		£22.24
Neoterik Lamp Post tests		£1,920.00
Blachere Lamp post illuminations x 16		£4,626.00
Trevor Burn - postcrete x 20 - Billy & Neil		£132.00
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Remembrance Service - Ferryhill Band		£150.00
HMRC - PAYE filing		£100.00
Oakley Cross path		£150.00
Monteith - paper plates		£7.90
Monteith - Plastic cups		£11.79
Monteith - Tin opener		£15.99
Monteith - Kitchen tongs		£6.96
Monteith - Christmas tree		£99.95

## 22.97 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To receive update on planting Queen's Jubilee/Commemoration Tree

It was confirmed that the tree has been planted and there appears to be a misunderstanding about planting approval; Clerk to confirm with DCC. Cllr Roberts suggested a protective metal fencing and will obtain costs for any available options.

- ii. To receive any update on progress with the MUGA funding

It was advised that the Oakley Cross School MUGA funding application is progressing and the headteacher has been made aware of, and approves, the proposed access, lighting and suggested use of what will be a dual facility for the school and local community.

It was advised that the equipment for the New Street recreation area is delayed due to DCC awaiting parts of equipment. It was confirmed that the equipment already paid for is being procured at the quoted cost.

- iii. To consider plan and agree seating area at the Pant & Windermere Drive A68 entrance

This item will be combined with item 22.98 iv.

## 22.98 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To consider Budget & Precept Setting

- The attached proposed budget was agreed.
- It was resolved that the Precept will have 0% increase for the coming year.

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

- ii. To consider funding support for new West Auckland junior football team

It was resolved that the Parish Council will donate a maximum of £1,000 to the under 14s football team; the organiser will be asked to advise what the funds will be used for with receipts obtained wherever possible.

- iii. To receive update on cemetery tree planting

It was advised that an avenue of 16 Austrian pine will be planted at the cemetery when delivered with the support of Joe Robinson and Smurfitt Kappa.

- iv. To consider replacing existing village seats with anti-vandal type

Following discussion it was resolved that:

- the road at the rear of the Pant will have 3 additional seats sited.
- the existing village green seating will be replaced and old seats re-utilised around the village. The Clerk will seek quotes for refurbishment of damaged/rusty seats for information.

It was resolved that 15 seats, 1800 mm at a cost of £950 each plus VAT. Option D seats as per attached with end arm rests and no middle arm rests will be ordered. A 16 week delivery will carry this project into the 2023-2024 budget and planning. It was suggested that the local county councillors be approached to support with funding; the Clerk will request local councillors support with the cost of the seats.

#### **22.99 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

It was resolved that the DCC< George Spurgeon will be notified that, following the recent holding objection letter, the Parish Council resolved at this meeting to formally object to the proposed abattoir.

#### **22.100 To Receive Items For Next Meeting To Be Held Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

- To receive update on the village information board.
- To consider memorial seating area at cemetery for relatives of people cremated.

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