

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13 March 2023 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 J Curl
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr H Stott

23.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr K Bolton and Cllr J Pattison.

23.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

23.23 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

23.24 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident attended to thank the Parish Council for the new seats and replacement notice board.
- A resident attended to request that the 30 mph speed limit sign at the A68 Toadpool is cleaned. Cllr Smith agreed to raise a request with DCC to have the speed signs cleaned.
- A resident suggested that West Auckland be a host for the Today programme, Radio 4 to promote the area. Cllr Roberts agreed to pursue this.

23.25 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Simpson advised that works have commenced with the cemetery reflection area and it was advised that it will be complete once the stone on order from Dunhouse quarry is installed.
- It was confirmed that the planning application for the proposed abattoir has been withdrawn and will not continue; this is welcome news for all.
- It was reported that 15 new seats have been installed around the village and there are 16 old ones to be refurbished and relocated. The boxing club management team have offered to refurbish the seats if the Parish Council can provide the Boxing Club with a defibrillator. Cllr Smith offered to make enquiries about available funding for defibrillators.

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

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

It was resolved that a formal Spring Clean would not be arranged this year as there are numerous volunteer litter pickers in the village at present. It was highlighted the level of litter is significant throughout the village and education would be beneficial.

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt Payment

Simply Social - Coronation Donation		£200.00
Simply Stripes - information & notice board		£3,780.00
Eon Next		£24.17
Eon Next		£41.94
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
David Ogilvie - seats delivery driver sandwiches		£10.60
David Ogilvie - village seats x 17		£20,523.60
Newsletter delivery - Scouts		£100.00
Monteith Cleaning		£97.50
Crea8ive Graphics - Flags x 3		£228.00
Crea8ive Graphics - newsletters		£237.60
Bank charges		£8.00
BDM Services - to install 15 seats and relocate 6		£1,800.00

23.27 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider future management of the Memorial Hall.

It was reported that following a well attended public meeting held at the Memorial Hall on Friday, 10th March 2023 numerous people submitted their names to be part of the Memorial Hall management committee. However, in the absence of volunteers for the legally required key roles for Chairman and Treasurer, Cllr Smith put his name forward as Chairman of the committee and the Parish Council Clerk, Sharon agreed to become Treasurer to support the continued good management of this valuable community asset. It was agreed that the Memorial Hall, which is a long standing community asset, should be supported and protected by the Parish Council for as long as possible. Those volunteering were thanked for their commitment.

23.28 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Clerk highlighted that all projects from reserved funds are now complete and advised that any future projects should be considered for inclusion at the October Budget setting meeting for implementation no earlier than April 2024 when the next budget comes into effect.

23.29 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES - There are no planning issues of note at present.

23.30 To Receive Monday, 3rd April 2023 Meeting Items

- To consider further funding for the Coronation event at the Memorial Hall.
- To consider village green maintenance.
- To consider renovation and relocation of old/vandalised bench seats.
- To consider provision of a defibrillator for the Boxing Club.

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