

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 3 April 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 J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr H Stott

23.31 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr K Bolton and Cllr M Roberts.

23.32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Horsman, Cllr Pattison, Cllr Stott expressed an interest in the Memorial Hall funding request as they are attending the Coronation event.

23.33 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

23.34 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- It was advised that there is now CCTV throughout the Parish Room and at the front and rear of the building.
- A resident attended to request that a litter bin be added where the three seats are at the rear of the Pant. Clerk to request.
- It was reported that there is a pool of water on Millbank corner and pedestrians are being soaked by passing cars. Cllr G Smith agreed to raise the request with DCC.
- It was advised that a resident in a flat at the bottom of Ennerdale is causing anti-social behaviour by using catapults with ball bearings to target windows and animals. It was advised that this is a police matter as DCC or the Parish Council have no authority on anti-social behaviour.
- It was advised that the speed limit sign is still dirty and the Barnard Castle bridge sign post is rusting. Clerk to report.

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

23.35 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was advised that a resident is seeking to purchase some local land to create a community market garden.
- It was advised that the cemetery reflective area project is almost complete and awaiting the stone from Dunhouse quarry. Thanks were given to John Stott for his support with materials through charity donations from Travis Perkins for the project.
- The MUGA groundworks will commence during the Easter holiday but Landlord’s permission is awaited for the fencing.
- It was advised that the under 14s football team, which received funding from the Parish Council recently, had their first game at the West Auckland football club last weekend; the team has struggled to find a suitable long-term changing facility over recent months.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt Payment

Anglian Water		£53.50
Eon Next		£21.52
Eon Next		£38.88
St Helens Church - Monday session	£55.00	
Monteith Internet BT		£38.89
Reimbursed VAT	£7,964.14	
Clerk’s Wage		£1,200.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Cllr Simpson - Parish Room planted area		£253.08
Simply Social Coronation Event		£300.00
Boxing Club Defibrillator		£839.99
CCTV signs		£4.99

The year-end bank reconciliation was reviewed and the 2022-2023 accounts were approved in readiness for internal and external audit.

It was advised by the Clerk that the current access to wifi is via a dongle which costs approximately £500 and is only available via the Clerk’s laptop. It was resolved that costs should be obtained for broadband for the building.

23.37 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To consider village green maintenance.

In Cllr Roberts’ absence this item was not discussed.

- ii. To consider renovation and relocation of old/vandalised bench seats.

It was advised that 16 seats have been renovated and 2 are being stored for installation at the New street play area once permission is received to locate them.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

23.38 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To consider further funding for the Coronation event at the Memorial Hall.

It was resolved that a further £300 will be provided for Simply Social Coronation event.

- ii. To consider provision of a defibrillator for the Boxing Club.

Cllr Smith advised that at present there is no funding available for defibrillators. It was therefore resolved that the Parish Council will provide the Boxing Club with a defibrillator. It was suggested that the existing defibrillator at Windermere Drive, subject to suitable model life, be used and a replacement purchased. Following investigation this was not an option, as the Windermere device expires in 2024, and therefore a new device is to be purchased for the Boxing Club; consideration of replacement expired devices around the village is to be considered during future budget setting.

23.39 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There are no planning issues of note at present.

23.40 NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, 2ND MAY AGM & PUBLIC MEETING – no agenda items

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....