

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June 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 K Bolton  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr T Horsman  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr H Stott

## **23.51 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr C Smith.

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

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

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

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

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

Thanks were received from the Boxing Club for the defibrillator provided by the Parish Council as a thank you for their members painting village seats.

Brian and Lee Curtis attended to thank the Parish Council for their support funding to establish the under 14s football team, which they said could not have survived without the funding. They provided an update on how the team and the football club have progressed and won a Tournament at Middlesbrough. They are keen to provide training at the two Primary schools to encourage children with football and exercise. It was advised that funding is being sought to provide free training days during the school holidays, where lunch will be provided and training provided by a qualified coach. Their efforts were commended by the Parish Council.

It was reported that the flower bed at the Spar has been damaged by youths riding bikes over it. Village in Bloom volunteers would like to re-plant some of the bed and requested the Parish Council's opinion on siting boulders to prevent access; it was suggested that low birds' mouth fencing may be a better option. Cllr Roberts suggested that Village in Bloom volunteers attend a meeting with Cllr G Smith, Cllr Roberts and Joe Malone to consider this along with other groundworks including Mowing Edges 2023.

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

It was reported that the village is looking dirty and grass is being left too long. It was advised by Cllr G Smith that DCC resources are fully utilised at present and struggling to maintain all areas throughout the county.

### 23.55 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was advised that the village CCTV is to be relocated from The Well to a position near the Pizza shop.
- It was advised that the cemetery reflection area project is at a standstill until around October 2023 as the stone ordered from Dunhouse Quarry split during preparation and a replacement is being sought.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt      Payment

DCC Precept & Grant	£27,224.87	
Bank charges		£8.00
CDALC Annual Subscription		£326.75
Internal Auditor Bev S		£100.00
Eon Next		£44.44
EonNext		£22.96
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
B McGregor - bus shelter windows cleaned x 6		£150.00
LJ digital - annual website hosting		£116.00
Monteith cleaning		£112.50
LJ digital - site update		£30.00
Allotment rents	£1,300.00	
Monteith cleaning		£90.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Monteith garden plants		£102.35
MUGA Groundworks J Robinson		£8,160.00
Memorial Hall Retirement Flowers, etc		£55.00
Information Commission Office (ICO)		£35.00
Sonia Robinson - Music Playgroup	£10.00	
Bank charges		£8.00
Eon Next		£21.18
Eon Next		£40.64
Amberol - Village in Bloom		£538.80
Monteith cleaning		£90.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Village in Bloom planter Amberol	£449.00	
Group hire cash	£270.00	
Playgroup hire	£10.00	
Bank charges		£29.00
Go Sew hire fees June - Dec	£300.00	
Anglian Water		£47.12
West Auckland in Bloom - cemetery watering		£600.00

The Clerk agreed to request an update from James Young on a date for the installation of the new play equipment.

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

**23.57 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- i. To consider village green maintenance.

Cllr Roberts provided a village green survey which is to be considered during the meeting with Joe Malone.

- ii. To consider purchase of hedgehog highway.

It was resolved that an article will be included in Westlife to encourage those interested in obtaining hedgehog templates for their gardens.

**23.58 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- It was confirmed that the £600 will be released to Village in Bloom for the cemetery tree watering programme.

There were no other financial items for discussion.

**23.59 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- It was advised that Etherley Parish Council and DCC support the planning application for the caravan site; West Auckland County Councillors have emphasised that any future issues with the development need to be referred directly to Etherley Parish Council.
- It was reported that the Pizza shop, the old Queens and a residential property are all being investigated by DCC.

**23.60 AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

- To consider purchase of two planters to be positioned at the three seats near the Pant slip-road.
- To receive an update on the Stockton & Darlington Railway washeries woodland planting.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....