

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th October 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 J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr H Stott
Cllr T Horsman

23.81 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts and Cllr C Smith.

23.82 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

23.83 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

23.84 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- There were no members of the public.

23.85 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that a resident is complaining about shadows from trees during recent winds; it was advised that the trees belong to DCC and the Parish Council are unable to prevent trees causing shadows.
- Village in Bloom requested use of Monteith Parish Room for fund raising on Friday, 10th November at 7.00 pm and Friday 1st December at 1.00 pm; both dates were agreed.
- It was advised that gas cannisters at the Well car park have been reported to DCC; this ongoing problem is being addressed by the relevant authorities.
- It was reported that Morrisons are taking over McColls with effect from 20th October 2023.
- It was advised that a suitable stone is not yet ready for the cemetery; the stone sourced is being dried ready for engraving.

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

- It was advised that the funding for the MUGA has been received and Trevor Burns fencing have been notified that work can commence.
- It was reported that children are using the metal fence around the old Queens Head pub building site to kick a ball from; this was raised as a concern due to the close proximity to the main road.
- It was advised that the request for double yellow lines near Copeland Road school is moving up the queue – Clerk to report to Highways, DCC

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Christmas bags x 96		£31.96
Christmas Believe Bells x 96		£132.52
BT Monteith wifi		£33.54
Eon Next		£47.88
Eon Next		£19.15
Friends of SDR Annual Subscription		£50.00
Monteith cleaning		£90.00
Bollards x 4 Cllr Robinson		£140.00
Telephones & broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Wage		£1,200.00
Monteith cleaning		£112.50
DCC MUGA Contribution	£14,000.00	
Zurich Insurance		£445.40

23.87 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To confirm arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2023

The Clerk advised that arrangements are in place for this year’s Remembrance Service.

- ii. To consider formal support from the Parish Council for Memorial Hall management

The management of the Memorial Hall was considered and the Parish Council agreed that they are fully committed to supporting the facility and pledged £5,000 from 2024 budget in case financial assistance is required to keep it running.

23.88 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To review and approve September 2023 Quarter End Financial Accounts

It was confirmed that the September 2023 quarter end finance was approved and it is noted that there were 4 bollards purchased for £140 at the end of September.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

- ii. To consider 2024-2025 Precept & Budget Setting

Following consideration, it was resolved that again there will be no increase to residents' precept for the coming year.

- iii. To consider Christmas hampers and illuminations

It was resolved that the Clerk will continue to do the hampers and funds for Christmas illuminations have been factored into financial planning.

23.89 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no current planning issues for consideration.

23.90 AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2023

- To consider future Parish Council projects.

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