

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13th November 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 M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr H Stott
Cllr T Horsman

23.91 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Smith.

23.92 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

23.93 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

23.94 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Following a suggestion from the Parish Council Clerk, the local veterans' group have proposed to hold a community event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day on Saturday, 8th June 2024 between 2 pm and 5 pm at the Memorial Hall. The group already has flags and memorabilia for decorating the hall. They have considered entertainment and inclusion of local school children. The Parish Council would be responsible for considering a way to ensure the event is made available to residents of West Auckland and St Helens only. It was resolved that the Parish Council will consider contributing a minimum of £500 and maximum of £1,000 for the event at the December meeting.

23.95 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr G Smith thanked those involved for their contribution to the well-attended Remembrance Service.
- It was advised that the cemetery project is now complete and has been well received by those who have seen it.
- It was advised that the MUGA project is ongoing and fencing is expected to be complete in two weeks; following which the new lighting installation will be arranged.

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

- It was advised that there is a consultation on the by-pass at Toft Hill in the next couple of weeks and it was recommended that those present write individual letters with their views and concerns to DCC.
- It was reported that a group of horses have recently strayed through the village and cemetery; some graves were trampled.
- It was reported that the metal cemetery gates have been removed for repair by DCC.
- It was highlighted that 3 sets of defibrillator pads have been stolen and a Stockton charity has offered to replenish the loss.
- It was advised that the double yellow lines for Chapel Street are scheduled for April 2024.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Bank charges		£8.00
BT Monteith wifi		£33.54
Eon Next		£46.43
Pantomime chocolates		£40.11
Hamper boxes		£8.44
Crea8ive Graphics - newsletters		£305.24
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
Eon Next		£19.09
Pantomime food boxes		£39.99
Pantomime stickers - Best wishes from WAPC		£12.96
Defibrillator pads x 3 PCLPCCP1 (returned 1/11)		£539.96
120 crosses and 3 wreaths		£180.00
Lest we forget flag		£6.55
Postage to return defib pads - wrong item rec.		£12.15
Telephones & broadband		£30.00
Monteith cleaning		£90.00
Replacement defib pads		£338.36
Reimbursed defib pads	£539.96	
Dunhouse Quarry Cemetery Stone		£840.00
Bank charges		£8.00
Remembrance Food		£36.74
Residential home x 2 hampers supplies		£131.70
Ferryhill Band - Remembrance Service		£150.00
Boiler service and replaced loop		£157.75
J & S Robinson - cemetery Reflection area		£11,160.00
Scouts newsletter delivery		£100.00

It was advised that there has been a decrease of £925 in the precept grant and the Clerk therefore advised that she has submitted the form requesting the same precept as last year.

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

23.97 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To consider future Parish Council initiatives

Parish Councillors were asked for any suggestions of future projects. It was advised by the Clerk that any new projects will require consideration and allocation of funds from the budget.

23.98 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To confirm costs and arrangements for switch on of Christmas illuminations

It was advised that the Christmas lights will be lit Saturday, 25th November 2023 and the cost of the cherry picker hire could be approximately £800 to put them up and the same to take them down.

23.99 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was advised that there is a retrospective application in for Arnold Street which has objections from neighbours and local councillors will be making comments.

23.100 AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2023

- The Queens Head
- D-Day Event Funding and entry ticket management

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....