

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th March 2024 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 T Horsman
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

24.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr K Bolton, Cllr J Curl, Cllr J Pattison, Cllr M Roberts, Cllr H Stott and Cllr C Smith.

24.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

24.23 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

24.24 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Jamie Grant, Flood Resilience and Engagement Officer, Environment Agency attended to provide a presentation on flood risk and request the Parish Council's assistance with recruiting flood wardens to create a flood group.
- Diane Wood attended the meeting to provide an update on progress with the D-Day Commemoration. ACTION: Clerk to write to local schools requesting a meeting with Diane to arrange some children's attendance at the event.
- A resident requested a supply of blue waste bags for the increase in volunteers litter picking within the village. ACTION: Clerk to contact Lucy Iceton, DCC.
- It was advised that there are plans to replace shrubs for those lost during the winter in a village planter. A request for funding support was made and it was resolved that £200 would be allocated to Village in Bloom volunteer group. Thanks are given to this group for their efforts throughout the village with planting and litter collection.
- It was requested that the Parish Room be used for a charity night in April in memory of a popular resident, John Sewell, with his widow Evelyn naming which charity funds raised will go to. It was resolved that the venue be made available for the event.

24.25 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

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

- It was advised that Cllr Simpson has contacted Red Sky again regarding their promise of replacement defibrillator pads for the ones stolen several months ago.
- It was advised that children are riding over a mound of soil near The Well, which was left following gas works. It was advised that the Parish Council are unable get involved as the area of soil will need to be allowed to settle prior to grass seed being scattered at the relevant time.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Eon Next		£55.29
Memorial Hall Pozidry heaters x2	£773.90	
CEF Pozidry Pro Heaters x 2 WAMCA		£928.68
Telephones & broadband		£30.00
Scouts - Newsletter delivery		£100.00
Crea8ive Graphics - newsletters		£213.60
Go Sew hire fees - extra hours	£55.00	
Food boxes - panto 2024		£45.60
Monteith cleaning		£112.50
Bank charges		£8.00
Peterlee Fire - extinguisher checks		£48.00

The Clerk advised that there will be an event held on Friday, 24th May 2024 to acknowledge the laying of the Memorial Hall’s first stones and as a thank you to those who have supported the venue over the past year. The Clerk will be arranging the event with the support of anyone wishing to help.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council’s solicitor has been in contact advising Mr Wall, Chapel Street has instructed a solicitor regarding land he states he owns. The Parish Council have requested site of the Deeds for this land, which is owned by them, prior to seeking any legal advice.

The Clerk advised that the issue with HMRC’ system is now resolved and there is no outstanding balance for the Parish Council now the system duplication from 2018 has been rectified.

24.27 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

No agenda items.

24.28 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

No agenda items.

24.29 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning applications for consideration.

24.30 AGENDA ITEMS - NEXT MEETING MONDAY, 8TH APRIL 2024

- To consider removal of the garage at the corner of Oakley Grange.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....