

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th October 2024 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr J Curl
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr H Stott

24.81 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Adamson, Cllr Farrer, Cllr Roberts & Cllr C Smith.

24.82 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

24.83 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

24.84 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- There were no items raised by the member of public present.

24.85 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was advised that 6,000 daffodil bulbs have been planted by Cllr Simpson, Smurfit Community Action Team (Andrew & Anth) and 2 Village-in-Bloom volunteers.
- It was advised that DCC will no longer be planting two flower beds at the Pant or the top corner of Front Street. A request was made for the Parish Council to fund planting the two flower beds twice a year; this will be considered and confirmed at the next meeting.
- It was reported that the monkey puzzle tree at the Darlington Road, DCC cemetery is dead and being felled. It was advised that a replacement will be planted in due course and it was suggested that a contribution from the Parish Council may be requested.
- It was advised that any birds being kept on allotments need to be registered with effect from 1st October 2024. Cllr Robinson will ensure the allotment holders are aware of this new legislation.

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

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

September quarter end accounts were received and agreed by those present.

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Eon Next		£42.60
BT wifi		£36.86
Donation to WAMCA Pantomime		£1,000.00
Eon Next		£24.63
Friends of SDR Annual Subscription		£50.00
Clerk's Wage		£1,200.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Zurich Insurance		£479.63
Cllr Simpson - Turf lifter, bulbs, etc		£75.00
Bank charges		£8.00
Play area bollards x 24		£785.00
Eon Next		£48.64
BT wifi		£36.86
Monteith cleaning		£90.00

24.87 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To confirm arrangements for the Remembrance Service on Sunday, 10th November 2024.

It was confirmed that everything is in place for this year's Remembrance Service.

24.88 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To review and agree the 2025-2026 Budget.

The budget was agreed and it was resolved that, in view of current cost of living, there will be no increase to the 2025 Precept.

- ii. To consider supporting the Memorial Hall solar panels funding application.

Following consideration, it was resolved that the Parish Council will contribute £5,000 to solar panels if the funding application to Northern Power Grid is successful.

- iii. To consider a 3-year project to support funding Memorial Hall replacement windows and external dwarf walls. It was resolved that the Parish Council will allocate the £5,000 towards other long-term projects if the solar panel application is unsuccessful and consider future contributions as required over the next couple of years.

24.89 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were no plans for consideration at this time.

24.90 TO RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING.

- To consider planting two village green flower beds near the Pant twice a year.

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