

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 2nd June 2025 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr E Farrer, vice-Chairman
Cllr K Guest
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr N Simpson

25.61 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Curl, Cllr Robinson, Cllr C Smith & Cllr Stott.

25.62 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

25.63 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25.64 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was advised that West Auckland in Bloom have planted flowers for the Parish Council around the village and £150 will be paid to cover the cost. It was confirmed that a recent fund raising day organised by Christine Wade raised £318.80 for Village in Bloom.

25.65 To RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Cllr Guest advised that, through the MPs office, she has liaised with DCC about a local farmer's problem with trees close to his field boundary and this is being resolved with a visit to consider available options.
- It was advised that a run down allotment at the rear of Copeland Road has been reported to DCC as a fly tipping site. The owner's name has been submitted to DCC who advise they have limited power with private land but the Clean & Green team would be asked to assess the problem.
- It was advised that a small group of local youths are regularly bullying a vulnerable youth; the youth was recently taken home by a resident. It was advised that this has been reported to police and a follow up request will be made via PC Dobinson.
- It was advised that a local resident has reported that she has suffered anti-social behaviour close to her home for the last 9 months. The resident was reported to be at her wits end and it was agreed that the police need to be made aware of every incident to allow them to intervene.

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

- It was advised that 2 picnic tables have been repaired and it was reported that the other 2 picnic tables require repair/replacement. Cllr Simpson will seek a quote if Joe Robinson is unable to carry out the required repairs.
- It was advised that the wooden miner structure on the village green is beginning to rot and needs attention. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for a replacement from Tommy Craggs, Sculpture.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Eon Next		£49.71
Eon Next		£74.14
BT Wifi		£40.61
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
Picnic Tables varnish		£81.99
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
ICO Subscription		£47.00
Bank charges		£8.00
Ferryhill Band Donation		£100.00
Eon Next		£33.48
Eon Next		£51.67
Printer cartridges x 2 sets of 4		£129.80
BT Wifi		£48.17
Crea8ive Graphics - PACT newsletter		£160.00
Openreach	£168.81	
Evans & Co Solicitors - Land Registration		£400.00
Cleaning materials Costco		£37.64

A letter of thanks was received from Ferryhill Town Band for the recent donation to their expenses when competing in the National Brass Band Finals.

25.67 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To receive DCC update and review a draft plan for the green area opposite the Memorial Hall
- i. It was advised that Cllr Roberts and Cllr George Smith met Daniel Knowd, DCC to initiate discussion on the Parish Council obtaining land opposite the Memorial Hall for use as much needed additional car parking for the Memorial Hall and Football Club. Cllr Roberts circulated an aspirational plan for potential parking layout for the area; at this stage consideration by DCC to sell the land is awaited. The Clerk emphasised that this issue cannot be considered fully until DCC confirm willingness to transfer the land to the Parish Council and required funds made available.

25.68 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

- i. Cllr Farrer was asked to obtain a quote from Decor Engravers to produce crosses of a more robust material than wood to commemorate the fallen at the annual Remembrance Service.

25.69 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

25.70 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 14TH JULY 2025 MEETING

- To receive an update following a recent PACT meeting
- To receive a quote for a replacement miner sculpture.
- To receive a quote for memorial crosses
- To consider a donation to West Auckland Juniors FC

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