

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th July 2025 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr J Curl
Cllr K Guest
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

25.71 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr E Farrer, Cllr T Horsman, Cllr C Smith & Cllr H Stott.

25.72 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

25.73 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25.74 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was advised by a volunteer litter picker resident that village litter bins were overflowing at the weekend. It was reported that the regular litter picker has been on holiday with no replacement to cover his absence.

25.75 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- It was advised that the pizza shop has been painted bright yellow. It was resolved that DCC should be notified as the colour is an eye-sore and not in keeping with conservation area conditions.
- It was advised that off cuts from the recently laid footpath on Copeland Road have been left on the adjacent green; it was suggested that another department may have planned to collect it in due course. This will be monitored and reported if necessary.
- It was advised that trees at the cemetery are in need of water and dying. An email has been sent to the team at DCC requesting the appropriate action to revive and regularly feed and water the trees.
- It was advised that following an allotments' inspection, there is one allotment not being cultivated. The secretary will be asked to address this on his return from holiday.

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

- A resident complained about a car parking problem at Raby Terrace; this has been referred to the police for any appropriate action as the Parish Council have no authority to deal with it.
- A resident's concern about the Openreach upgrade was raised; it was advised that the Parish Council have been made aware of the village wide essential works for the necessary upgrade.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Anglian Water		£69.02
Bank charges		£8.00
Eon Next		£46.07
Eon Next		£36.21
BT Wifi		£48.17
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Wage		£1,200.00
WAMCA Roller shutter	£1,295.00	
Kitchen roller shutter		£1,554.00
Rapid Response - WAMCA Drain Unblocked		£174.00
WAMCA Drain Unblocked	£145.00	

- The June quarter end bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved by those present.
- The Clerk advised that DCC have closed the system reference for the Parish Council to obtain green area opposite the Memorial Hall as a community asset to create additional parking for the Memorial Hall and the football ground. The Clerk requested that a couple of Parish Councillors meet with the solicitor to allow an informed decision once they are fully aware of the options available. ACTION: Clerk to arrange meeting between Debra, Solicitor, Cllr Roberts and Chairman Smith.
- The clerk requested that the October meeting be held at the Memorial Hall on Monday, 6th October 2025 to accommodate her holiday booking; the change of venue is necessary as the WI use Monteith on the first Monday. Those present kindly agreed to the one-off change of meeting date from the 2nd Monday to the 1st Monday in October. The clerk apologised for the need to request the change and thanked those present for their support.

25.77 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- To receive an update following the 18th June PACT meeting

It was advised that 4 residents attended the last meeting. It was emphasised that this is a police meeting and the Parish Council attend

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

25.78 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i To consider quote for Perspex memorial crosses

As Cllr Farrer is unavailable at present, the Clerk agreed to ask DECO for a quote for Perspex printed crosses.

- ii To receive a quote for a replacement mining sculpture.

A quote for £4,500 has been received and following consideration it was resolved that the project should proceed with Cllr Robinson as project lead.

- iii To consider a donation to West Auckland FC.

A request for funding from West Auckland Football Club towards the football club training kit was discussed and it was resolved that the Parish Council will contribute £400 towards the £1,200 requested. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

25.79 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

25.80 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING

- To receive an update on a replica of West Auckland miners' banner.
- To receive an update on additional car parking land.

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