

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr K Bolton  
Cllr J Curl  
Cllr E Farrer, Vice Chairman  
Cllr K Guest  
Cllr T Horsman  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith  
Cllr H Stott

## **25.71 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The meeting commenced with a minute silence with respect for Cllr George Smith who died suddenly recently. Cllr Smith has been a Parish Council member for many years and has been Chairman since 2020.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Roberts.

## **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**

- Concerns were raised about houses at 33 Copeland Road and Simpson Road being converted to Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO). Residents advised they have been liaising with current County Councillors about the introduction of these properties. The residents have advised there has been no consultation and County Councillors advised that they are uncertain of current legislation and would be making enquires. The Parish Council advised that the County Councillors have the access to DCC departments and should be liaising direct with the residents as the Parish Council, who are keen to support residents, does not have any authority with housing.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of bus services locally. It was advised that this issue was addressed at previous meetings and the bus companies advised that they needed to reduce buses on routes which were not regularly being used.
- Concerns were raised about the bad smell of agricultural fertilisers spreading. It was advised that spreading is carried out 10 days per year throughout the country.

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

- Concerns were raised about the amount of litter left around surrounding village pathways. It was agreed that, despite the dedication of several litter picking volunteers, this remains a problem. It was highlighted that more volunteers are required but education of those creating the litter is the root cause.
- Brian Curtis attended the meeting at George's request to thank the Parish Council for their support in the past and to update on how the team has progressed in the past 6 years. Brian advised that training venues are few and far between with high hire costs and requested support from the Parish Council. It was resolved that this issue would go onto next months agenda for consideration of donating £1,000 and also considering other ways the Parish Council can support the West Auckland Juniors football team.

## 25.75 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- It was advised that the bridge at St Helens, which is part of the Stockton Darlington Railway 200 year celebration will not be ready until April 2026. The railway line will be opened as a multi-user route between Pheonix Row, Witton Park and Stockton in September 2025.
- It was reported two road signs have fallen over and the Clerk will report to DCC.
- It was advised that the new mining sculpture is expected to be installed in November 2025.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Bank charges		£10.00
Eon Next		£46.78
Eon Next		£17.76
Rapid Response - WAMCA Drain replaced		£3,900.00
WAMCA Drain replacement donation	£3,250.00	
Donation to WAFC		£400.00
BT Wifi		£48.17
WAMCA car park - J & JG Gill & Son		£16,279.20
Car park - J & JG Gill & Son WAMCA contribution	£13,566.00	
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
Cllr Simpson - garden		£7.00
PT Powerwash - cleaning faeces from picnic tables		£120.00
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Bank charges		£8.00
MRC Road markings		£810.00
WAMCE car park lines	£675.00	
DECO - remembrance printed crosses x 111		£1,065.60
BT Wifi		£48.17
Eon Next		£46.95
Eon Next		£22.34
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Anglian Water		£84.81

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

## **25.77 To RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- i. To receive an update on a replica of West Auckland miners' banner.

It was advised the there are options available to create a replica miners' banner and the Clerk will seek contact details and follow up.

- ii. To receive an update on additional car parking land

It was advised that the solicitor is making regular contact and awaiting a cost for the purchase of a piece of land to use as additional village parking, in particular for the Memorial Hall and football club.

## **25.78 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- i To receive an update on Perspex memorial crosses.

This project is now complete and the crosses will be given to the two schools.

## **25.79 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

## **25.80 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025 MEETING**

### **THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT WEST AUCKLAND MEMORIAL HALL AT 7 PM**

- To accept nominations for a replacement Chair/vice-Chair.
- To consider a suitable way to commemorate Cllr George Smith.
- To receive an update on a replica of West Auckland miners' banner.
- To receive an update on additional car parking land.
- To consider financial support for West Auckland Junior football team.
- To consider 2 new seats at West Auckland cemetery.

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