

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10th November 2025 at 7.00 pm,
Community Parish Room, 1 Monteith Close, West Auckland DL14 9UB

Present: Cllr K Guest, Chairperson
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr J Curl
Cllr E Farrer, Vice Chairperson
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
DCC Cllr Nick Brown
DCC Cllr Stephen Gray

25.91 TO RECEIVE CO-OPTED MEMBER NOMINATIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive Co-opted Member Nominations.

It was confirmed that Nathan Foster is to be co-opted to the current vacancy and will attend the 12th January 2025 meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts, Cllr Stott and Cllr Smith.

25.92 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

25.93 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25.94 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident attended the meeting to request support to create a weekly drop-in session for local youths. Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour and the various previous interventions for local youths were highlighted. Following discussion, it was suggested that the football club and the boxing club both have the various rooms available which may meet the requirements. The Parish Council welcome any positive approach to engaging with youths and reducing the current anti-social behaviour from a minority group. Cllr Guest suggested arranging a meeting with youths to ascertain what they actually want and take it from there. Cllr Guest and the resident agreed to arrange a meeting at their mutual convenience.

25.95 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- It was advised that boulders were found on the green near the Manor House. It was suggested that the police need to be made aware of any suspicious activity.

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

- It was reported that yesterday's Remembrance Service was again very well attended this year.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Donation to WA Youth AFC		£1,000.00
Donation to WAMCA pantomime		£1,000.00
Zurich Annual Insurance		£527.76
Newsletters Cre8ive		£160.00
Eon Next		£46.91
Eon Next		£17.00
BT Wifi		£48.17
HMRC - PAYE		£300.00
County Service - boiler service		£78.00
Remembrance wreath		£25.00
Remembrance food & Monteith windows cleaned		£250.00
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Stationery - ink cartridges		£107.82
Remembrance - Ferryhill Town Band		£150.00
Copeland Road School Pantomime		£425.00

- i. To receive an update and consider commemorating Cllr George Smith.

It was resolved that a embellished plaque or carved stone in the Christmas tree wall would be a suitable location for something to commemorate Cllr George Smith as his company annually provides electricians to dress and light the tree and village Christmas lights. Cllr Robinson offered to pursue options for a suitable stone/plaque and will feedback with an update at the January meeting.

- ii Further to a request from Copeland Road school for financial support towards a pantomime for the whole school at a cost of £425, it was resolved that the Parish Council will provide the school with the full amount.

25.97 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

DCC County Councillors advised that they have been making internal enquiries about the Parish Council's request to obtain a piece of green land opposite the Memorial Hall to create additional parking. Cllr Gray advised that DCC are considering a Community Asset Transfer of the land and will provide further updates when he receives more information. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's solicitor has been asked to pause any further action with this for the time being and the solicitor will be instructed further once the enquiry has progressed to a position of requiring legal intervention.

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

25.98 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

Cllr Guest provided an update following a meeting with a supplier about purchasing a replica mining banner. The Clerk advised that various options have been considered and that cheap print options are available. However, all things considered, a hand-made silk banner costing approximately £12,000 is the preferred option following viewing of examples of similar replica banners recently produced for various other mining areas across the county. Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council would be guarantor for the project and approve Cllr Guest and the Clerk initiating the project by liaising with schools and community groups and seeking funding from various sources.

- ii. To receive an update on options for CCTV around the village green.

Following discussion it was resolved that a quote from DeviceTech to install CCTV on the village green is approved. Action: Clerk to obtain DCC approval for installation on lamp posts and ensure ICO requirements are met.

25.99 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

25.100 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2026 MEETING – NO MEETING DECEMBER 2025

- To receive an update on commemoration of recently deceased Cllr George Smith
- To receive an update on the replica West Auckland mining banner
- To receive an update on progress with CCTV
- To review and consider approval of December Qtr End Bank Reconciliation

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