

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 12th January 2026 at 7.00 pm,
Community Parish Room, 1 Monteith Close, West Auckland DL14 9UB

Present: Cllr E Farrer, Vice Chairperson
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr N Foster
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr D Swainston
DCC Cllr Nick Brown

26.01 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & WELCOME CO-OPTED MEMBER

Nathan Foster & Dale Swainston were welcomed to the Parish Council as co-opted members. Both Dale and Nathan introduced themselves as keen make improvements to West Auckland.

Apologies were received from Cllr Curl, Cllr Guest, Cllr Roberts & Cllr Stott

26.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

26.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

26.04 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Concerns were raised about the poor state of the pathway between Edith Terrace and George Street and a disused garden directly adjacent to the pathway. As there is no longer any fencing between the path and a plot of 'old garden' land, it is considered to be hazardous as it is covered with flytipping and litter. Weeds along the pathway will be reported to DCC for weed killing in due course and the concerns about the neglected plot of land will be raised again with DCC. Cllr Nick Brown agreed to liaise with DCC to take action against the landowner. FS-Case-785266104.

26.05 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Cllr Pattison raised a resident's concerns about an Ash tree leaning towards her home at 8 Grasmere Avenue. This has been reported to DCC: FS-Case-785292065.
- It was reported that the Vineyard church held a well attended carol service in the Manor House this year.
- It was reported that 2 picnic tables which were taken away for repair will be re-sited back on the village green by springtime. One table is to be relocated away from the edge of

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the village green to discourage noise from people congregating and causing disturbance to nearby residents' houses.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Copeland Road School Pantomime		£425.00
Eon Next		£47.29
Eon Next		£58.70
BT Wifi		£48.17
Deco - Honours board		£21.60
Donation WAJFC for speaker Cllr Simpson audio		£100.00
External audit - Forvis Mazars		£378.00
WAMCA internal doors		£2,799.60
WAMCA - chimney repair, seal & fireplace removal		£2,760.00
WAMCA internal doors	£2,333.00	
WAMCA chimney and fire	£2,300.00	
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Water rates		£101.92
Eon Next		£47.72
Eon Next		£52.65
BT Wifi		£48.17
Stationery		£15.94
Christmas lights on lamposts and tree dressing		£2,191.02
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Wage		£1,200.00
L Farrington Go Sew Group Contribution	£375.00	
West Auckland WI Contribution	£120.00	

- i To receive, review and approve December Quarter End Bank Reconciliation

The Qtr 3 accounts were reviewed and approved by those present.

- ii The Clerk highlighted that G Smith Electricals had purchased more Christmas tree lights at their own cost to ensure the tree was adequately dressed during December. The company have been asked to schedule 2026 Christmas lights for the last week of November to ensure that they are lit as of 1st December.
- iii Further to the recent death of local Lee Curtis, his family have requested that the Parish Council site a plaque in memory of Lee on a village green seat. This was agreed and the plaque will be sited at the earliest convenience. The Parish Council also discussed a dedication to Lee's memory for all the voluntary youth football training he has provided for many years. This will be on the next agenda for consideration.

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26.07 To RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

The Clerk advised that she has submitted a DCC Expression of Interest as requested by DCC; a progress report will be given at the next meeting.

26.08 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To receive an update on commemoration of recently deceased Cllr George Smith.

Cllr Robinson advised that a stone plaque dedicated to Cllr George Smith is being arranged and will be sited within the Christmas tree wall on the village green.

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

Cllr Brown advised that he has been informed that the cost of CCTV is far higher than initially anticipated and the equipment quoted by the supplier identified by the Parish Council is considered unsuitable by DCC. Cllr Brown agreed to obtain the actual quote for the Parish Council to make an informed decision at the next meeting.

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

The Clerk advised that Cllr Guest is leading on this project and will update in due course.

26.09 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Planning application DM 25/03463/AD, 34 Front Street, West Auckland, for a proposed box illuminated sign was discussed and a letter of objection is to be submitted.

26.10 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING

- To consider replacing the plaque at the rear of the Pant
- To consider a sponsored board for West Auckland Football Club
- To consider honouring recently deceased youth football training volunteer Lee Curtis
- To receive an update on options for CCTV around the village green

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