

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 9th February 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 J Curl
Cllr N Foster
Cllr T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
DCC Cllr Nick Brown
DCC Cllr Stephen Gray

26.11 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Guest & Cllr Stott. No other apologies were received.

26.12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

26.13 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

26.14 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public in attendance.

26.15 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- County Councillor Nick Brown advised that a 2nd notice has been issued to a company in Birmingham for a rented property, 82 Copeland Road regarding the neglected garden. It was advised that DCC will clear the area in due course if no response is received; it is anticipated that the landlord would be charged for any works DCC need to carry out.
- It was advised that a defibrillator on Windermere Drive is missing following deployment a week ago. An investigation with NEAS is ongoing to establish the whereabouts and in the event of the defibrillator not being returned, the police will become involved.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
BT GROUP PLC		£48.17
Seat Plaque		£20.00
Eon Next		£49.73
Eon Next		£89.09
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
Thomas Craggs West Auckland PC		£2,500.00
Stuart Yorke Window cleaning		£15.00
Christmas lights removal from lamp posts		£1,254.00
Domestic - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
PT Powerwash - 6 bus shelters		£150.00
Protech Direct Pest Control		£660.00

26.17 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- i. To receive an update on the Pant rear plaque replacement

It was advised that the plaque at the rear of the Pant has been removed and will be replaced by one with a larger font to make it easier to read.

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

Following various replies from DCC, including notification that the land opposite the Memorial Hall cannot be Asset Transferred or sold, the Parish Council have now been asked to submit a pre-application with a reviewed plan. It was resolved that Cllr Foster will provide a risk assessment and photographs of regularly congested parking days will be included. It was suggested that DCC be asked for confirmation of whether the land will actually be available for sale if any concerns about a scheme can be resolved. ACTION: Clerk to request an onsite meeting with DCC Officers and Parish Council representatives.

26.18 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

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

It was confirmed that a stone is with the mason to be carved in memory of Cllr George Smith.

- ii. To consider honouring recently deceased youth football training volunteer Lee Curtis

It was resolved that the Parish Council placing a plaque on a bench on the village green in memory of local man, Lee Curtis, is a suitable acknowledgement of the years Lee volunteered as a local youth team football coach.

- iii. To consider a sponsored board for West Auckland Football Club

Following consideration it was resolved that the Parish Council would sponsor an advertising board at West Auckland Football Club to support the club and an annual donation of £1,000 will be included for consideration in October 2026 budget setting.

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

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

Further to receipt of a quote for the CCTV, clarification of exact cost was requested. It was resolved that on receipt of total costs, this item will be considered further at the next meeting.

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

As Cllr Guest was not present, there was no update on this agenda item.

26.19 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no plans for consideration.

26.20 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 9TH MARCH 2026 MEETING

- To receive an update on options for CCTV around the village green
- To receive any update on planning pre-application for land opposite the Memorial Hall
- To receive a progress update on development of Toft Hill bypass
- To receive an update on progress with the mining sculpture
- To consider a replacement oven for Monteith Parish Room
- To consider management of vermin infestation following SDR landscaping
- To consider installation of SDR bridge