



Minutes of Annual General/Public Meeting held Monday, 11th May 2026 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr K Guest, Chair
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr J Curl
Cllr E Farrer, Deputy Chairman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr D Swainston

7.00 pm **Annual Public Meeting** – **Chairman's Report**

Cllr Kelly Guest read out her annual Chair report which is included in the Annual Report and displayed on the notice board and website.

- Brian Curtis attended the meeting to thank the Parish Council for their support and advised that the West Auckland Football Club under 17s have just won the 2nd Division Russell Foster League cup. Brian, the team and other volunteers supporting were congratulated on the achievement.
- The owner of the old Station public house attended the meeting and reported that she wishes to renovate the property. The lady requested any support the Parish Council can offer in dealing with empty dwellings to the left of the old Station by lobbying DCC to implement an Empty Dwelling Management Order. The Parish Council empathised with the situation but advised that they have no authority over St Helens which is outside their parish boundary.
- Cllr Swainston suggested that the clothes collection bin at the allotments entrance be moved back as it is creating a blind spot for passing traffic. It was advised that DCC have been asked to arrange for the bin to be removed.
- Cllr Swainston advised that the pigeon owners have raised concerns about the poor state of the area where their pigeon baskets are stored; they would require storage and access to electricity if their storage is relocated. Cllr Robinson agreed to pursue options available.

26.41 Election Of Chair and signed Acceptance Of Office & Code Of Conduct for the coming year.

Cllr Kelly Guest was nominated and agreed to remain as Chair.

26.42 Parish Councillors to sign Acceptance Of Office & Code Of Conduct.

All Parish Councillors present signed their Acceptance as required.

26.43 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Ed Farrer was nominated and accepted the position of vice-Chairman for the coming year.

26.44 To agree Annual Subscriptions

It was resolved that the following subscriptions will continue to be paid.

- Stockton & Darlington Railway
- County Durham Association of Local Clerks (CDALC & NALC)
- Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

26.45 To accept apologies for absence

As no apologies were received the Clerk reiterated that Parish Councillors are required to give apologies directly to the Clerk at least one day before the meeting date.

26.46 To confirm minutes of meeting held Monday, 13th April 2026

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

26.47 Clerks' Correspondence

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Defib PAD 360 Battery & Pads		£180.00
WAMCA Flat Roof Brownson & Sons	£8,600.00	
Brass plaque		£54.00
Eon Next		£87.78
Eon Next		£50.74
BT wifi		£40.74
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Domestic - Lynne Lord		£88.00
Cllr Simpson postcrete		£30.00
Memorial Hall - toilet rolls & hand towels		£56.09
Newsletter Cre8ive Graphics		£160.00
internal Audit - Tom Henniker		£100.00
Subscription - Information Commission Office		£47.00
Bank charges		£21.00

To review 2025-2026 Accounts & Approve Submission to External Audit.

Following internal audit by Henniker Accountants, the Parish Council's accounts were reviewed by those present and will now be submitted to Mazar, External Auditors.

26.48 To review/amend Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments, Asset Register & GDPR

It was resolved that the Parish Council will not meet in August and December each year; the Standing Orders will be amended according.

26.49 To consider adoption of Power of Competence for the coming year, agree/update the Statement of Intent and consider councillor training.

The Power of Competence and Statement of Intent were adopted.

26.50 To receive any items for Monday, 15th June 2026 meeting

- To consider liaising with Toft Hill regarding the lack of a bypass.
- To receive an update on relocation of pigeon baskets and access to electricity.
- To receive quotes for Christmas lights.