



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

Present:

Cllr K Guest, Chair
Cllr J Curl
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr N Foster
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr D Swainston

26.71 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bolton, Cllr Horseman.

It was advised that Cllr Helen Stott has reluctantly resigned due to ongoing health issues; Helen will be a miss to the Parish Council and they thank her for her dedication to West Auckland.

26.72 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

26.73 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

26.74 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident attended to raise concerns about the missing bridge over the Gaunless river behind the Manor House. It was agreed that the delays in repairing the bridge are unacceptable and the Parish Council will continue to lobby for the repair to be completed as soon as possible; the current extended time scale for the works is February 2027.

26.75 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- A resident has requested road plainings for the Nursery. It was advised that this is a County Council issue and suggested that she liaise with local County Councillors.
- A resident has complained about overhanging trees along the pathway between Oakley Cross school and Chapel Street. Cllr Simpson agreed to check and prune as required.

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

- It was advised that DCC have tried unsuccessfully to remove the posters stuck on bus shelters by Barnard Castle Truck Show . Cllr Simpson advised that the Truck Show organisers have been asked to remove them by DCC who will follow up as necessary.
- It was advised that the old Queen's Head is now up for sale and being auctioned in the near future.
- It was advised that cemetery trees need trimming. Cllr Simpson will follow-up as required. It was reported that a tree, planted by the Parish Council, was damaged by DCC and it was reported that it will not be replaced by the Parish Council.
- It was reported that 14 benches from around the village have been powder coated to remove rust and extend their life for a number of years.
- It was highlighted that Teescraft have donated a large amount of compost for the Village in Bloom volunteers for use in planter tubs around the village. Teescraft Engineering company was commended for its continued support for West Auckland.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Benches x 4 removed, transported and reinstalled		£160.00
Eon Next		£18.75
Eon Next		£41.06
BT GROUP PLC		£40.74
Newsletter delivery Scouts		£100.00
Subscription annual to SDR		£50.00
Cleaner - L Lord		£88.00
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Clerk's Wage		£1,200.00
Zurich Insurance		£573.13

- The quarter end bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved by those present. It was resolved that precept and budget setting will be carried out at the November meeting.
- The Clerk confirmed that all arrangements have been made for the Remembrance Service to be held on Sunday, 8th November 2026 at 3.00 pm at the Pant.

26.77 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- To consider a plaque to commemorate West Auckland's fallen miners

A list of names has been obtained from Durham Miners' museum which will be used as a basis for a plaque to be placed on the mining sculpture's coal tub.

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

- ii. To receive an update on the shed adjacent to Parish Council land

It was resolved that, following confirmation that the land adjacent to the shed belongs to the Parish Council but the land on which the shed is sited does not belong to the Parish Council, the Parish Council will take no further action.

- iii. To consider a West Auckland boundaries review

A draft boundary review was discussed and it was resolved that, as this was Cllr Stephen Gray's suggestion, he would be invited to a specific meeting to take the Parish Council's proposal to DCC.

- iv. To receive update on Copeland Road garden clear up.

Cllr Guest advised that the garden, planted in memory of George Smith, will be completed over the next few weeks and school children will be helping with planting once the area is cleared. The Clerk requested any support from councillors to support the project.

- v. To explore options for improvements to Edith Terrace & George Street unadopted roads.

Cllr Swainston raised concerns about the poor state of Edith Terrace and George Street footpaths and roads. Following discussion it was suggested that all residents from those streets write collectively to DCC and seek support from local County Councillors. The Clerk agreed to draft a petition which Cllr Swainston will take to residents.

Pot holes around the village were highlighted and it was resolved that the Parish Council will report some of those causing concern. Roundabout at Manor House, outside the Old Hall on Front Street, pathway outside the Eden Arms were all highlighted as having large potholes which can cause significant damage to vehicles and pedestrians.

26.78 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

There were no financial items for consideration.

26.79 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no plans for consideration.

26.80 TO RECEIVE AGENDA ITEM FOR MONDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2026 MEETING

- Budget setting
- Outdoor gym options

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