

Annual Report

May 2015

Clerk: Sharon Wootton

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List of Contact Numbers for West Auckland Parish Councillors

Name	Telephone Number
Jack Bell, 72 Oakley Green	01388 834839
Hazel Charlton, 5 Rydal Grove	01388 832464
Ed Farrer, 35 Windermere Avenue	01388 832810
Colin Mairs, Oakley Grange Farm	01388 833616
Valerie Raine, 9 Lomond Walk	01388 349697
Lynn Rielly, Thursen, Hummerbeck	01388 833032
Martin Roberts, Old Fleece House, 20b Front St	01388 833214
Billy Robinson, 3 Esthwaite Grove	01388 833663
George Smith, 8 Musgrave Street, St Helens	01388 662659
Neil Thomas, Coniscliffe House, Darlington Road	01388 832267
Andy Turner, 8 Dalton Close, St Helens	01388 606021

West Auckland Parish Council AGM 2015

It is with great sadness that I remember Councillor John Ferguson who died recently on April 28th. For the first 3 years of the Parish Council, John was the chairperson and continued to serve as councillor for the remainder of his life. It was because of John's diligence, effort and research that the Parish Council was formed in 2004. He brought a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise which will be greatly missed. Often, he completed tasks which went unseen but which enabled the council work and the premises to run smoothly. His heart was always for the improvement of the village and he was very conscious of any money being spent wisely in promoting the ethos of the village and those who live here.

I personally feel pleased and privileged to have known John and will miss his friendship and support as will, I know, all his fellow councillors.

Chairperson's Report

My thanks to all the Parish Councillors who give freely of their time and effort on behalf of the residents of West Auckland. Thank you also to Sharon the clerk for her efficiency and dedication, to the two ladies who clean the premises, to Clare who arranges the presentation of West Life and to the leaders of the groups who use the premises for the work they do in giving varying opportunities and friendship to village residents.

I would also like to thank our county councillors for their help and guidance in our communications with DCC.

Completed Business

- 200 dog waste bags have been distributed as an incentive to dog owners to keep paths etc. clean
- Skips provided for allotments as required.
- Permission denied by DCC to prevent vehicular access to land adjoining the bypass
- Betts Homes have landscaped the land bordering the north side of the beck
- West Life was circulated quarterly with an extra issue to circulate information about the proposed neighbourhood plan
- Leaders of groups using the PC premises met with the Chair and the Clerk to discuss communication issues and to suggest ideas for proposed alterations to the premises.
- Book exchange continues
- Residents objected to a proposed seat at the top of Copeland Road
- Permanent Christmas tree is to be planted on current site
- Bollard erected in the Nursery/Fleece land to prevent vehicular access
- PC provided a memorial plaque for a stone seat, made and donated as a tribute to miners who died in local coal mines. The seat is sited outside the Manor House Hotel.
- A public meeting was held with the Chief Constable to discuss anti-social behaviour followed by a site visit. A CCTV camera was installed on the gable end of a house on Station View, a boulder was placed to prevent caravans and vehicles behind the Spa and the rubbish bins were tidied up at the side of the Spa.
- CCTV was installed on The Well by Durham constabulary and PC for 6 months.
- Councillors and the clerk attended training refresher courses to keep updated with policies and procedures.

- Two public meetings were arranged with Chief Constable and Police Commissioner to discuss traffic and parking issues.
- A traffic speed recording unit was placed at Copeland Road to measure vehicle speed with a view to speed calmers.
- Financial donations were given to two toddler groups towards outings and to the Thursday group for Christmas festivities.
- A financial contribution was given towards the proposed firework display at Tindale, and also to the proposed village fair.
- The two picnic tables placed on the green have been well used by residents and visitors.
- The PC decided not to increase the precept contrary to advice from DCC to do so which in fact reduces the precept by £400
- Salt bins were all refilled
- Allotment holders tenancy agreement has been updated-all future applicants must be resident in West Auckland
- The asset transfer of the premises in Monteith Close was transferred from DCC to the PC and completed in March 2015
- Two new cleaners are now employed and registered with PAYE
- A spring Clean was organised in March and coffee was given at The Well to those who participated
- Christmas hampers were given to Devonshire House and Roslyn House
- Memorial service at the Pant was well supported and the PC provided refreshments at the Manor House Hotel
- Public meeting arranged for Neighbourhood Plan on 20th June 2015 at 2.00 pm in the Memorial Hall
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On-Going Discussions

- Neighbourhood plan following public meeting on June 20th in Memorial Hall 2pm-4pm
- Landscaping in the nursery working with DCC
- Traffic speed restrictions at Copeland Road
- Traffic congestion at Chapel Street corner and Front Street.
- River Gaunless Initiative still at planning stage and participation by PC has been discussed
- Refurbishment of kitchen and replacement windows of PC rooms. Grant funding is being researched.
- Installation of raised bed to house small crosses at the Memorial Pant.
- Bi-annual inspection of the allotments by the PC and the allotment committee to ensure good practise
- Discussions continue concerning addition of skate park to the recreation ground.
- Village signage and football monument information plaque.

- Play bus for children in summer holidays.

Thank you again, on behalf of all the Parish Councillors, to the residents of the village for their support in keeping the village attractive and a nice place to live. I would like to ask though that the youth would please not vandalise the Christmas tree this year. It cost quite a sum to correct the damage last December and the PC will not continue to spend the precept to repair such vandalism in the future. As a PC we ask parents to help their children understand the consequences of such actions.

If you have any ideas about the future of the village, then come to the open day and see what help you can offer.

Councillor Hazel Charlton

West Auckland Parish Council

Payments & Receipts for the Year End 31 March 2015

Receipts

	£	£
Bank Balance as at 1 April 2013 B/D	£6,322.01	
Allotment Rents	£ 1,300.00	
Big Lottery Grant	£ 10,000.00	
Donation from Monteith groups for utility/cleaner	£ 159.99	
HMRC VAT Reimbursed	£ 1,699.51	
Interest Received	£ 108.11	
Precept DDC	£ 17,592.00	
LCTSS Grant	£ 4,611.00	£ 22,203.00
Reimbursed npower overpayment	£ 249.97	
Reimbursed solicitor fees	£ 640.00	
Deposit Bond Closed	£ 30,000.00	
		£72,682.59

Payments

Allotments	£ -	
Broadband & telephone line rental - SO	£ 439.83	
Chain of Office case	£ 414.60	
Christmas lights, tree and hampers	£ 1,042.70	
Clerk's Salary (Apr 14- Mar 15)	£ 2,800.00	
Cre8tive Design - Printing	£ 667.00	
Domestic staff salary	£ 310.00	
Dog clean up bags	£ 44.94	
Donations to local organisations	£ 2,500.00	
HMRC- PAYE Employee tax	£ 400.00	
Insurance	£ 402.28	
Internal/ HLB External Audit	£ 720.00	
Landscaping & bollards	£ 1,006.00	
Memorial Service & wreaths	£ 330.00	
Newsletter production & delivery	£ 540.00	
npower gas	£ 488.51	
Open Spaces Society Subscription	£ 45.00	
Ordnance Survey	£ 65.70	
Parish Room	£ 521.56	
Picnic tables & Seats	£ 700.00	
Postage, laptop security, printer inks & stationery	£ 174.97	
Queens Garden Party Trip	£ 464.00	
Local Councils Explained Text Books	£ 40.91	
Resident's Security Light	£ 200.00	
Solicitor	£ 1,060.00	
Subscriptions	£ 352.21	
Training	£ 601.00	
Water rates	£ 13.52	
		£16,344.73

Balance Sheet

£56,337.86

Current Assets:

Cash at bank

Represented by:-

General Fund

£58,337.86

Unpresented cheque

£2,000.00

£56,337.86

Bank Reconciliation

(For details of bank transactions see attached)

Record of Bank Transactions For West Auckland Parish Council to date.

Date	Ref. No	Details of Transaction	Stat. Power	Receipts	Payments	Balance	VAT PAID	VAT Reg No.
01/04/2014		Bank Balance Brought Forward				£6,322.01		
01/04/2014	DD	Clerk's Salary			£600.00	£5,722.01		
01/04/2014	DD	Broadband/phones			£20.00	£5,702.01		
01/04/2014		Allotment holders annual rents		£1,300.00		£7,002.01		
04/04/2014	BACS	DCC precept		£22,203.00		£29,205.01		
10/04/2014	BACS	Vaughtons - Chain of Office case Ref 39421			£414.60	£28,790.41	£69.10	861042746
14/04/2014	BACS	Reimbursed VAT HMRC		£1,699.51		£30,489.92		
14/04/2014	100491	CDALC Cllr Thomas training			£27.00	£30,462.92		
14/04/2014	100492	CDALC Subscriptions			£307.21	£30,155.71		
16/04/2014	DD	npower Gas			£22.65	£30,133.06	£1.08	3432100
01/05/2014	DD	Broadband/phones			£20.00	£30,113.06		
12/05/2014	100493	Allen Sykes Internal Audit			£480.00	£29,633.06	£80.00	809208140
12/05/2014	100494	BDM Services- siting picnic benches			£700.00	£28,933.06		
12/05/2014	100495	Cre8ive Graphics-printing newsletter			£140.00	£28,793.06		
25/04/2014	100490	Unpresented-Working with Councils Book			£40.91	£28,752.15		
01/06/2014	SO	Broadband/phones			£20.00	£28,732.15		
16/05/2014	CR - DD	npower Gas - reimbursed		£249.97		£28,982.12		
25/05/2014	BACS	Ordnance Survey			£65.70	£28,916.42	£10.95	GD210
09/06/2014	100496	Newsletter delivery			£70.00	£28,846.42		
09/06/2014	100497	JRB Dog fouling bags			£44.94	£28,801.48	£7.49	757996451
18/06/2014	100498	DCC village green training			£135.00	£28,666.48		
18/06/2014	100499	Parish Room Policy file-Durham Comm Action			£15.00	£28,651.48		
25/06/2014	DD	npower Gas			£22.59	£28,628.89	£1.08	3432100
27/06/2014	BACS	BT Line rental annual payment			£159.84	£28,469.05		
01/07/2014	SO	Clerk's Salary			£600.00	£27,869.05		
01/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£27,864.05		
01/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£27,859.05		
08/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£27,854.05		
08/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£27,849.05		
14/07/2014	100500	Chair's Trip to Queen's Garden Party			£464.00	£27,385.05		
14/07/2014	200001	BDO External Audit			£240.00	£27,145.05	£40.00	830847032
14/07/2014	200002	CNK Landscaping- Nursery			£756.00	£26,389.05		
14/07/2014	200003	Evans Solicitor			£420.00	£25,969.05	£70.00	376321157

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15/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£25,964.05	
15/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£25,959.05	
21/07/2014	DD	HMRC NDDS			£150.00	£25,809.05	
22/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£25,804.05	
22/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£25,799.05	
29/07/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£25,794.05	
29/07/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£25,789.05	
31/07/2014	DD	npower Gas			£8.22	£25,780.83	£0.39
05/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£25,775.83	
05/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£25,770.83	
06/08/2014	200004	Cre8ive Graphics-printing newsletter			£140.00	£25,630.83	
08/08/2014	CR	Big Lottery Main Grant	£10,000.00			£35,630.83	
12/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,625.83	
12/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,620.83	
19/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,615.83	
19/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,610.83	
26/08/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,605.83	
26/08/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,600.83	
29/08/2014	DD	npower gas			£4.14	£35,596.69	£0.20
03/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,591.69	
03/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,586.69	
08/09/2014	20006	Newsletter and Cold callers delivery			£100.00	£35,486.69	
08/09/2014	20007	Donation to music group summer trip			£100.00	£35,386.69	
10/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,381.69	
10/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,376.69	
16/09/2014		Deposit Bond Maturity	£30,053.86			£65,430.55	
16/09/2014		Deposit Bond Reinvested			£30,000.00	£35,430.55	
16/09/2014		Interest Received	£54.55			£35,485.10	
17/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£35,480.10	
17/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£35,475.10	
22/09/2014	20008	Monteith Dividing Fence			£350.00	£35,125.10	
24/09/2014	BACS	Stamps and paper			£132.97	£34,992.13	£1.79
24/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£34,987.13	
24/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£34,982.13	
30/09/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£34,977.13	
30/09/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£34,972.13	
01/10/2014	20005	CNK Landscaping- prune shubs at Christmas tree site			£40.00	£34,932.13	
01/10/2014	SO	Clerk's Salary			£600.00	£34,332.13	

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03/10/2014	DD	npower			£4.07	£34,328.06	£0.19	3432100
07/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£34,323.06		
07/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£34,318.06		
09/10/2014	BACS	BT Broadband & phone Jul-Oct inc			£80.00	£34,238.06		
14/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£34,233.06		
14/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£34,228.06		
14/10/2014	20009	Evans Solicitor			£500.00	£33,728.06	£100.00	376321157
14/10/2014	200010	CDALC Budget training			£81.00	£33,647.06		
14/10/2014	DD	HMRC NDDS			£250.00	£33,397.06		
21/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£33,392.06		
21/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£33,387.06		
24/10/2014	DD	npower			£14.63	£33,372.43	£0.70	3432100
28/10/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£33,367.43		
28/10/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£33,362.43		
01/11/2014	200011	Removal of Manor House seat/base			£120.00	£33,242.43		
01/11/2014	200012	British Legion Poppies wreaths and crosses			£160.00	£33,082.43		
01/11/2014	200013	Remembrance Service Band			£100.00	£32,982.43		
01/11/2014	SO	Clerk's Salary			£400.00	£32,582.43		
03/11/2014	SO	BT Broadband & phone			£20.00	£32,562.43		
03/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£32,557.43		
03/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£32,552.43		
10/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£32,547.43		
10/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£32,542.43		
10/11/2014	200014	Zurich Annual Insurance			£402.28	£32,140.15	£22.67	107831677
10/11/2014	200015	Annual payment -Newsletter graphic production			£200.00	£31,940.15		
10/11/2014	BACS	Blue rolls, toilet rolls and dispensers			£102.47	£31,837.68	£17.08	819291314
13/11/2014	BACS	Remembrance Refreshments - Manor House			£70.00	£31,767.68	£11.67	686524401
17/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£31,762.68		
17/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£31,757.68		
24/11/2014	200016	Christmas Tree			£288.00	£31,469.68		
24/11/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£31,464.68		
24/11/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£31,459.68		
24/11/2014	200017	Thursday Bingo Group Christmas meal			£200.00	£31,259.68		
25/11/2014	200018	CDALC Policy Training			£108.00	£31,151.68		
25/11/2014	200019	Newsletter Cre8ive Graphics			£140.00	£31,011.68		
25/11/2014	DD	npower gas			£39.73	£30,971.95	£1.89	3432100
01/12/2014	SO	Telephones/Broadband			£20.00	£30,951.95		
01/12/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary			£5.00	£30,946.95		
01/12/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary			£5.00	£30,941.95		

02/12/2014		WI Donation to Monteith Room use		£65.00		£31,006.95		
08/12/2014	200020	Cheque cancelled - VOID				£0.00	£31,006.95	
08/12/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£31,001.95	
08/12/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£30,996.95	
08/12/2014	200021	Bondgate Electric- 125 replaced tree light bulbs				£427.50	£30,569.45	£71.25 Bondgate Electric Stockton
15/12/2014	DD	npower gas				£191.68	£30,377.77	£31.95 3432100
15/12/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£30,372.77	
15/12/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£30,367.77	
15/12/2014	200022	Newsletter delivery				£70.00	£30,297.77	
15/12/2014	200023	Dressing Christmas tree				£100.00	£30,197.77	
15/12/2014	200024	CDALC Parish Council Training				£250.00	£29,947.77	
15/12/2014	200025	Tree light repairs				£120.00	£29,827.77	
16/12/2014	BACS	Hampers				£107.73	£29,720.04	
22/12/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£29,715.04	
22/12/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£29,710.04	
22/12/2014	DD	npower gas				£43.35	£29,666.69	£2.06 3432100
29/12/2014	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£29,661.69	
29/12/2014	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£29,656.69	
02/01/2015	SO	Broadband/phones				£20.00	£29,636.69	
02/01/2015	SO	Clerk's Salary				£600.00	£29,036.69	
06/01/2015	200026	Cre8ive Graphics-printing 5 receipt books				£42.00	£28,994.69	
06/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£28,989.69	
06/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£28,984.69	
13/01/2015	200027	BDM Services -relocating sign and landscape				£90.00	£28,894.69	
13/01/2015	BACS	Broadband update				£39.99	£28,854.70	
13/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£28,849.70	
13/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£28,844.70	
20/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£28,839.70	
20/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£28,834.70	
26/01/2015	DD	npower gas				£43.17	£28,791.53	£2.06 3432100
26/01/2015	200028	BDM Services - removing tree & filling salt bins				£140.00	£28,651.53	
27/01/2015	SO	Domestic 1 Salary				£5.00	£28,646.53	
27/01/2015	SO	Domestic 2 Salary				£5.00	£28,641.53	
02/02/2015	SO	BT Broadband & phones				£20.00	£28,621.53	
09/02/2015	200029	Donation to Thursday toddler group farm trip				£200.00	£28,421.53	
17/02/2015	BACS	Monteith Cleaning Materials & Mops				£39.09	£28,382.44	
19/02/2015	200030	Monteith Asset Transfer- solicitor's balance				£140.00	£28,242.44	
19/02/2015	200031	Resident's Security Light				£200.00	£28,042.44	
24/02/2015	DD	npower gas				£47.37	£27,995.07	£2.26 3432100

