

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10th April 2017 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr H Charlton, Chair
Cllr C Mairs, Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr V Raine
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr C Smith
Cllr G Smith
DCC Cllr Wilson

17.31 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Farrer & Cllr Elliott

17.32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Palfreyman expressed an interest in item 17.38(i).

17.33 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were agreed as a true account and signed accordingly.

Update on Speed Matrix

- DCC Cllr Wilson advised that Keith Jameson and Ron Hogg are disappointed that they have not received replies from the PC. ACTION: Clerk to forward recent correspondence to Cllr Wilson.
- Following a recent suggestion, local history is of interest to tourists, a small group was formed to produce a history leaflet.

Matters Arising

17.34 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A local volunteer requested a further supply of blue bin bags to continue with her litter picking throughout the village. ACTION: Clerk to purchase.

17.35 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Rielly provided an update on a recent Travellers Liaison Meeting. It was advised that options are being considered for travellers' stop-off points enroute to Appleby. Concerns were expressed about the hazard of horses currently being tethered on the bypass and caravans being parked on the footpath for overnight stays.

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

- It was confirmed that the plaque to commemorate ex-Parish Councillor, Keith Tweddle, has been purchased and sited.
- It was confirmed that the Gaunless Gateway are in the process of producing a Constitution; the play bus, recently purchased by them, will be made available in due course for local children.
- It was confirmed that rubbish is only accepted at the Recycle Centre when transported by a vehicle; pedestrian rubbish drops are not permitted.

17.36 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and payments were checked on invoices as below:

Northumbrian Water		£44.12
Domestic Salary		£52.14
Telephones & Braodband		£20.00
Clerk's Wage		£600.00
Allotment rents	£1,300.00	
Groups' Rent	£155.00	
Bollards x 2		£56.59
DCC Precept	£25,474.00	
Bollards x 2		£56.27
Blue refuge bags x 200		£44.78

Cllr Hazel Charlton, who is due to retire after 10 years as Chairperson, was commended for her commitment and Cllr Mairs thanked her, on behalf of the Parish Council, for all her effort over the past 13 years. Cllr Charlton said it has been her pleasure but feels now is the right time for her to step down.

(i) To receive monthly activity update on Citizens’ Advice Bureau (CAB) sessions

There is no monthly report from the CAB. It was requested that the sessions be advertised in Westlife.

17.37 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To receive update on replacement of rose beds

Cllr Roberts circulated information on the Croxdale roundabout landscaping and advised that he has made contact with two of the landscapers involved with the scheme. Cllr Roberts and Cllr C Smith will produce a planting plan.

Cllr Charlton asked if there were any objections to her providing daffodil bulbs for planting on the village green. It was proposed that Copeland Road school children would be asked to plant the bulbs.

Concerns were raised about the amount of weed killing around all planted areas. Cllr Wilson advised that she has reported the state of the widespread dead patches/borders to DCC.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

(ii) To consider management of permanently parked, un-roadworthy vehicles

It was advised that this agenda item is no longer required as the vehicles in question have now been moved.

(iii) To consider any feedback on use of Oakley Cross sports hall and consider options

Cllr Charlton provided an update on a recent meeting with the Oakley Cross school Headteacher and Governors’ Chair to consider options for using the external ‘MUGA’ play area. It was highlighted that if access is permitted to the play area, the school would be open to potential damage. It was confirmed that the Parish Council can provide Public Liability insurance and the school are in the process of obtaining costs pertaining to the use of the area outside school hours. Various access options were considered and it was confirmed that the Parish Council will bear any associated costs should the initiative proceed. The proposed initiative will be raised at the school’s May meeting and feedback in due course.

17.38 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To consider West Auckland Football Club’s request for funding

Mr Palfreyman attended the meeting to provide details for the Football Club’s funding request. He advised that all funds are raised by the committee and they contribute personally to ensure players are transported to play in other areas.

Following discussion it was resolved that the Parish Council will purchase a tractor that is required to maintain the pitch.

(ii) To receive quote for replacement Christmas tree lights

It was resolved that Cllr G Smith will order the Christmas tree lights. Cllr Robinson agreed to request that local residents water and feed the permanent Christmas tree to ensure it remains in good condition.

17.39 TO DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues.

17.40 Next Meeting no items- Public & Annual, post election meeting Monday, 8th May 2017

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....