

# West Auckland Parish Council

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Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.00 pm,  
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

**Present:** Cllr C Mairs, Chairman  
Cllr V Elliott  
Cllr E Farrer  
Cllr A Palfreyman  
Cllr V Raine  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith  
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr A Turner  
County Councillor Christine Wilson

## **17.62 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts. Cllr Neil Simpson was welcomed as a newly co-opted member of the Parish Council.

## **17.63 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no expressions of interest received.

## **17.64 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

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

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **17.65 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- A resident attended to complain that Sycamore trees on Ennerdale Grove are causing damage to a footpath. He advised that DCC have refused to remove the trees as the trees are healthy. Cllr Wilson was asked to raise a request with DCC to review the decision as the resident it is affecting has poor health.
- A resident complained about rubbish at the front of terraced houses at 86 Copeland Road and the state of the garden at 88 Copeland Road (near Leech estate). It was advised that if these are private rented dwellings DCC has no power to enforce improvement. It was suggested that an environment assessment may benefit. Cllr Wilson agreed to follow-up.
- It was reported that the West Auckland sign on the Staindrop Road approach road is not currently visible due to overgrown bushes. Cllr Wilson agreed to report to DCC.

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

**17.66 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- It was advised that the ‘Purple Play’ bus is being refurbished and will be available for children to use with effect from August 2017.
- Cllr L Rielly advised that she has joined the Copeland Road Board of Governors and will support Cllr G Smith who is Parish Council representative at Copeland Road and Oakley Cross schools.
- A request has been received to seek the Parish Council’s approval to reinstate the original drinking fountain on the Pant and site an information plaque. The Parish Council fully support returning the drinking fountain to its original state; there will be no cost to the Parish Council except that they agreed to provide a plaque as requested.
- It was confirmed that an application has been submitted to Gaunless Gateway for the replacement of the allotment fence. If the application is approved, the Parish Council will then vote to consider match funding.

**17.67 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES**

The Clerk tabled all correspondence received and the following payments were endorsed:.

Ordnance Survey Annual Subscription		£65.70
Telephones & Broadband		£20.00
Clerk's Salary		£600.00
BT Annual Line Rental		£208.80

The Clerk advised that the quarter end spending had been reviewed by the Chairman and representatives from the Finance Working Group; all spending was previously approved and the statement and bank reconciliation figures agreed.

The Clerk advised that there has been no provision in the proposed budget to replace the allotment fence and therefore, if a decision to support the project is agreed, funding will either need to come from reserve or wait until October when the next financial year’s budget is set.

**17.68 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**(i) To receive update on replacement of rose beds**

An update was received to confirm that one existing rose bed will be removed and returned to turf by DCC. The other will be landscaped by the Parish Council; Cllr C Smith and Cllr Roberts are progressing this initiative.

**(ii) To consider introducing a one-way traffic flow on Front Street**

It was proposed that Front Street be considered for one-way traffic due to the congestion of traffic. It was advised that this request was previously refused. It was resolved that a further request would be made to DCC for of consideration the one-way system only as the previous request was more complex and included provision of some parking bays.  
ACTION: Clerk to write to DCC,

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

**(iii) To consider relocation and maintenance of the notice board**

It was resolved that the existing notice board will remain where it is and will be re-varnished in due course.

**(iv) To consider erection of Visitors' Information Board**

Following discussion it was resolved that a visitor information board would be beneficial to promote the history and beauty of the village walks. ACTION: Clerk to obtain options on styles and prices.

**(v) To consider developing the Heritage meeting draft leaflets**

It was resolved that the Heritage meeting leaflet will continue to be edited and approved at a future meeting.

**(vi) To consider improving the wooden cross memorial site**

It was resolved that a raised bed is required at the Pant to accommodate the wooden crosses that are laid annually. Cllr Roberts is to be asked to provide the specification he produced for this 2 years ago. ACTION: Clerk to request.

**(vii) To consider volume of noise from a public house**

It was advised that there have been complaints about the noise levels from the Eden Arms on a Sunday afternoon. It was resolved that the Parish Council have no authority to raise issue with this. It was recommended that Craig Rudman, DCC could advise residents on regulations around noise levels. ACTION: Cllr Palfreyman to advise the resident where to seek guidance if the problem persists.

**(viii) To consider improved youth recreation area**

It was resolved that the Chairman and Parish Council representatives will request a meeting with the Headteacher at Oakley Cross school to consider utilising an existing outdoor football pitch. ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting between Mrs Brennan, and Parish Council representatives.

**17.69 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**(i) To receive quote and specification for replacement Christmas lights**

It was resolved that the quote received was approved to replace white Christmas lights on both village green trees. It was agreed that the lights need to be sited and ready for switch on by 1 December 2017.

**(ii) To receive quote and specification for speed matrix**

A quote to provide speed matrix has been obtained. The quote was approved and it was agreed that permission should be sought from DCC to site 3 speed matrix. ACTION: Clerk to request with copies to Cllr Rob York and Police Commissioner, Ron Hogg for information.

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

**(iii) To consider newsletter distribution payment**

It was agreed that the Scouts and Guides should be asked to deliver future newsletters and that they be offered £100 for each of the 4 annual editions delivered. It was resolved that an interim meeting will be held on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 at 7.00 pm for anyone wishing to contribute towards the next edition of Westlife.

It was resolved that the Clerk be allowed to seek software to produce better quality newsletters.

It was suggested that local businesses be asked to consider contributing and maintaining flower tubs in the next newsletter.

**17.70 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- It was confirmed that there are plans to build two dwellings in the middle of Ullswater Grove.
- It was highlighted that there is no progress with the developments at the previous Prince of Wales.
- It was advised that DCC have ordered the old East Green nursing home owners to clean up and make safe the area. The current developer is reportedly seeking to sell the land.
- It was highlighted a dwelling on the approach to St Helens is being used to dump rubbish and car repairs. It was advised that DCC and the police are handling this problem.

**17.71 Agenda items for meeting to be held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

- To receive an update on the options for an improved play area
- To obtain and update on the request for one-way traffic on Front Street
- To receive an update on the Heritage leaflet
- To arrange spring bulb planting in late October
- To arrange Remembrance service
- To consider replacing the existing speed reduction signs
- To consider feasibility of continuing Citizens' Advice support

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