

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th December 2017 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr Jean Curl
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr R Gargett-Gillens
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson

17.92 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith, Cllr Palfreyman, Cllr Simpson, Cllr L Rielly & Cllr Turner. Cllr Mairs welcomed Cllr Jean Curl and Cllr Rachel Gargett-Gillens as newly co-opted members.

17.93 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

17.94 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters Arising

- Cllr W Robinson highlighted his concerns about the lack of response to DCC correspondence on village issues.

17.95 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

17.96 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Cllr Roberts provided a brief update on the Gaunless Valley Project, Wear Rivers' Trust approach to provide education sessions for schools about the Gaunless river.
 - Cllr Roberts provided an update on the Stockton & Darlington Railway Group schedule to develop the old railway track from Stockton to Pheonix Row by 2025; it was confirmed that English Heritage Action Zone have allocated funding to support the initiative.
 - Cllr Robinson advised that the allotments fencing section is now complete and the allotment holders' conveyed their appreciation for the Parish Council's contribution.
 - It was reported that Keith Jameson met with representatives from the Parish Council to discuss options on siting speed matrixes, a one-way system on Front Street and traffic
- Chairman's Signature..... Date.....

congestion on the McCalls shop corner of Front Street. It was reported that double yellow lines will be introduced and parking restrictions enforced by DCC in due course. It was suggested that McCalls shop be invited to support the initiative by advertising that restrictions are now in place and highlighting how many people have received parking fines per month.

- It was reported that DCC are against the speed matrix on Copeland Road as it is considered ineffective. It was suggested that a community speed gun initiative be introduced and operated by volunteers to enforce restrictions on speeding traffic. The cost of a speed restricting chicane was discussed and it was suggested that funding be sought to install a chicane on Copeland Road. It was resolved that the Parish Council are willing to undergo the speed gun training programme, emphasising that ultimately they prefer the speed matrix and in the longer term will seek funding for a chicane.
- Cllr Mairs confirmed that the defibrillator in Devonshire House is still in the box and he requested that it be sited on the wall. It was confirmed that some staff would be willing to undergo the training. Cllr Robinson advised that he has sourced some training at a cost of £45. Cllr Mairs is seeking details of possible free training available and this item will be considered at the next meeting.
- Cllr Mairs confirmed he sent a card to commemorate the Queen’s 70th Wedding Anniversary and read out the reply received. Cllr Farrer highlighted he is aware of a local couple due to celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary; it was resolved that the Parish Council would send a card and flowers to the local couple.
- Cllr Mairs highlighted that there has been an incident of fly tipping on the by-pass.

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

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

Allotment fencing - Trevor Burns		£3,792.00
Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Westlife Delivery		£100.00
Christmas tree lights -supply and fit 2 trees		£3,300.00
npower electricity		£24.92
NWG Business - water rates		£48.08
Hamper2 & Flowers		£103.30
Salt bins supply replenished BDM Mundell		£50.00

- The Clerk confirmed that the Christmas hampers would be ready for delivery by 12 noon on Monday, 18th December.
- The Clerk requested that the Parish Council consider appropriate sites for the bike racks and confirm agreed locations at the next meeting.
- It is confirmed that LCTRS grant of £3,781 is allocated for 2018-2019

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

17.98 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To review village interest leaflets

Cllr Roberts requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting due to time restraints.

(ii) To receive update on Copeland Road abandoned gardens

Research on ownership of abandoned gardens at the rear of Copeland Road has been carried out to identify ownership and ultimately request that the area be cleared. This project is ongoing.

(iii) To consider ‘Old Washery’ as a potential play area

A map was marked to identify that the ‘Old Washery’ area and it was resolved it would be sent to DCC Assets Department to seek an update on their plans for the area and a request made for their consideration of selling/gifting the land to the Parish Council for communal use.

17.99 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To review and consider improving the cemetery entrance

It was highlighted that rubbish cardboard is being blown from UK Corrugated into the cemetery. It was resolved that UK Corrugated by sent a polite request to collect the litter. ACTION: Clerk to request.

A draft plan was circulated to re-introduce a planting programme, commenced 10 years ago, to provide an avenue of trees. The Parish Council commenced the programme but ceased planting due to a dispute with DCC’s lack of management of individual graves where fences, etc were being installed by relatives of the deceased.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will arrange a site meeting at the cemetery to consider reinstating the planting programme.

(ii) To consider cleaning the bus shelters

Further to complaints on the poor state of bus shelters, it was confirmed that a window cleaner has been appointed to clean all bus shelters within the Parish twice annually.

17.100 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- It was mentioned that plans to build 300 houses at the top of Copeland Road/rear of the Leech estate; it is believed the plans have been refused due to access.

17.101 Agenda items for meeting to be held on 8th January 2018

- To receive an update on defibrillator training options.
- To receive an update on bike racks.
- To review village interest leaflets and ‘Points of Interest’ notice board.
- To receive update on Copeland Road abandoned gardens ownership.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....