

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 8th January 2018 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present: Cllr C Mairs, Chairman
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman
Cllr E Farrer
Cllr R Gargett-Gillens
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

18.01 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Curl, Cllr C Smith & Cllr Turner.

18.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

18.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, with the omission of Cllr G Smith's apologies, and signed accordingly.

Matters Arising

- There were no matters arising.

18.04 TO INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident attended to thank the Parish Council for arranging to have the bus shelters cleaned.
- It was reported that curb stones near the Crusty Loaf are loose and PVC rubbish has been left outside the Pizza shop.
- A complaint was raised about a Syrian Refugee clothes collection bin sited where it was advised that DCC can move the bins if sited on DCC land otherwise they have no authority to move them. ACTION: Clerk to enquire whether and when they can be removed via DCC.

It was resolved that DCC will be approached to address the above issues.

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

- Progress on the replacement rose bed was requested and Cllr Roberts agreed to follow-up.

18.05 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was advised the Big Purple play bus was used to provide a Santa run from West Auckland to Cockton Hill. It was advised that the bus could be gifted to an individual with a suitable business Case as a business opportunity in due course.
- It was advised that the Gaunless Gateway will be issuing small grants again and it was suggested the allotments apply for the second section of fencing requiring replacing.

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

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

npower electricity		£24.92
Telephone & Broadband		£20.00
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Clerks Salary		£600.00

The quarter end finances were reviewed and approved. It was highlighted that gas payments are arriving at random intervals.

18.07 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

(i) To receive update on defibrillator training

No further information has been obtained as yet and the item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

(ii) To review village interest leaflets and Points of Interest notice board

Cllr Roberts explained his proposal to produce several leaflets. It was resolved that general history and local walks leaflets will be drafted by anyone able for Parish Council consideration at a future meeting.

(iii) To agree proposed sites for bike racks

It was resolved that a parking bay near the picnic tables be used to site the four bike racks. Permission will be sought from DCC prior to the Parish Council siting the racks.

(iv) To receive update on ownership of Copeland Road abandoned gardens

A summary of searches and investigations into land ownership of the abandoned gardens was discussed. It was resolved that the Parish Council have established as much as they can via a process of elimination. Fencing at 2 George Street is overhanging the footpath and two gardens are being used for fly tipping. It was resolved that DCC will be asked to enforce improvements where possible.

18.08 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

To review and consider improvement to DCC owned cemetery and discuss sinking areas

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

It was resolved that the cemetery is in a poor state and agreed photographs will be taken to highlight areas requiring immediate attention. A site visit was arranged for Sunday, 14th January at 11.00 am. It was highlighted that some graves are sinking and it was agreed that DCC should be invited to make improvements.

18.09 To DISCUSS CURRENT LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was advised that a planning application is due to be submitted by GUS Robinson to develop the old East Green nursing home site to provide affordable housing in partnership with Northern Star Housing Association. It was highlighted that the plans are in very early stages for 25 homes and the Parish Council will welcome consultation to ensure the quality adheres to the Conservation Area Regulations.

18.10 Agenda items for meeting to be held on Monday 12th February 2018

- To receive update on options for defibrillator training.
- To receive information on cemetery improvement requirements.
- To consider Data Protection Officer role and responsibility.
- To receive update on Pant.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....