

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th January 2019 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

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

19.01 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Palfreyman, Prior to the meeting a presentation on progress with regeneration of the Stockton and Darlington railway line was well received and the Parish Council expressed their interest in supporting the venture which will eventually provide a 26 mile cycle and walking track from Phoenix Row, Witton Park to Stockton. Workshops are to be held in the coming months to consider ideas to improve the West Auckland section of the railway.

19.02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.03 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters Arising

19.04 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Residents attended to provide an update on fundraising for flowers and planters for the summer. There is a project ongoing to provide education and attract visitors to the village. Grants have been obtained from the Civic Pride and Royal Horticultural Society. The residents were commended for their efforts.

It was proposed that a woodland walk from Darlington Road to Oakley Cross school be considered and funding sought. It was advised that the path suggested should be made a Right of Way and that Audrey Christie, DCC could be asked for an update on a previous request to consider registering this path as a Right of Way.

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

The state of the stone seat near the Manor House was raised and it was resolved that Cllr Reilly and Cllr Roberts would explore suitable cleaning materials to removed the green from beneath the seat.

19.05 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was reported that two gas bottles were found on the by-pass; the Clerk confirmed they have been removed.
- It was reported that a branch is hanging from a tree at the Toadpool area: ACTION: Clerk to report.
- There is a bent bollard outside the betting shop, a street sign has been bent and the ‘No Parking’ sign in the same area has also been bent; Action Clerk to report to DCC.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows. The quarter 3 outgoings were reviewed and signed as such following approval.

Monteith Decorating - J Gamby		£380.00
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Clerk's Salary		£600.00
Telephones & Broadband		£30.00
Christmans lights lift via Cllr G Smith		£220.00
A Turner plaque and posts for dog bags		£31.60

19.07 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To receive update on cemetery improvements.

It was confirmed that Tony Johnston, DCC has not yet contacted Cllr Mairs to arrange a meeting to discuss cemetery improvements. ACTION: Clerk to request a meeting.

ii. To receive an update on the Miners’ Banner.

It was confirmed that Beamish Museum are not in a position to release the Miners’ Banner at this time. It was resolved that they will be asked again in a few months when they have had an opportunity to explore details of the donated casing for the banner. T Memorial Hall Committee are to be informed it will not be returned for the foreseeable future. ACTION: Clerk to advise.

iii. To consider planning for 2019 Christmas lights and decoration.

Various options for Christmas lights were discussed and it was agreed this item will be prioritised and considered fully at the next agenda, ACTION: Those able to research and bring suggestions, including costs, to the next meeting.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

19.08 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider progress and funding by-pass target hardening.

It was confirmed that work to provide target hardening soil mounds at the by-pass will commence in the coming week; this will prevent future vehicular access to the by-pass footpaths and grass verges.

ii. To consider suitable long-term options for planters and request for a donation.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will donate up to £1,000 towards the planting initiative previously discussed at agenda item 1904. The residents involved kindly agreed to forward a map highlighting the proposed areas for tubs and a narrative with details of the project.

iii. To consider options for leaflet display boards.

The draft leaflets were reviewed and it was resolved that two of them are ready for printing. Display boards will be considered in the near future; it was suggested that due to the spate of vandalism with bus shelter and notice board windows being broken, now is not the time to site anything that could potentially be damaged by vandals.

19.09 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

It was confirmed the foundations for the new bungalows on Ullswater Avenue have commenced.

19.10 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE MONDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2019 MEETING

- To consider options for Christmas lights
- To consider CCTV on bus shelters

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