

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th March 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 A Palfreyman
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman (deputy Chairman)

19.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gargett-Gillens, Cllr Smith and Cllr Robinson.

It was reported that a previous parish councillor, Jack Bell, passed away recently. A 2-minute silence was held in respect and it was resolved to seek his wife's permission to site a plaque as acknowledgement of Jack's efforts both during his time as a parish councillor and for his support for the Memorial Hall.

19.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.23 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

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

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

19.24 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident attended to thank the Parish Council for their support with the village planting initiative and confirmed that a coffee morning raised £800 towards planters. It was advised that the general state of a village, including bus shelters and notice boards, would also be judged during a village in bloom inspection. It was advised that funding for plants may be available from Civic Pride and the Clerk agreed to submit an application.
- It was reported that the path across the village green towards the old post office is in a poor state of repair and Cllr Wilson agreed to report it and arrange repair.
- It was confirmed that 2 of the information leaflets have been finalised and printing was agreed.

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

- It was confirmed that Civic Pride can be arranged to clean footpaths throughout the village. ACTION: Clerk to request.
- It was agreed that the litter pick will be arranged for Saturday, 6th April 10 am – 12 noon. It was advised that McDonalds will support the event if invited. ACTION: Clerk to arrange, contact McDonalds and request refreshments via The Well cafe and request equipment and bags via Jonathan, DCC.

19.25 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Roberts provided an update on the workshop held by the Friends of Stockton and Darlington Railway in support of improving the old railway line between Stockton and Pheonix Row, Witton Park. It was resolved that a letter of support will be submitted to support the previously shelved proposals to improve the old railway line from West Auckland to Barnard Castle. It is intended that the old track would be developed as public footpaths and cycle tracks. The Clerk requested consideration of approval to subscribe £50 per annum to the Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway; it was resolved that the Parish Council will support with annual an subscription.

It was reported that the GRT target hardening on the by-pass is now complete and it was suggested by a Parish Councillor that some mounds need to be slightly higher and more tightly curved to prevent vehicular access. It was confirmed that shrubs will also be strategically planted to support the prevention of unwanted access.

It was confirmed that Tindale Park temporary traveller stop-over site will open on Friday, 17th May 2019 in readiness for travellers moving toward Appleby Fair in early June.

It was advised that the Gaunless Gateway is doing well and it was suggested that applications be submitted for identified projects in due course.

It was advised that the Old Hall is being considered as a children’s home.

It was confirmed that 3 defibrillators are now sited and registered with NEAS. It was confirmed the defibrillators require weekly maintenance checks. Cllr Curl offered to support Cllr Smith with the process. It was confirmed that the Parish Council have already held a training session that was open to the public and would be willing to arrange a further tutorial session if sufficient interest is registered with the Parish Council.

It was confirmed that the dog waste bags being provided in the designated stations have been abused and various options of dispensing them are being trialled. It was resolved that if the abuse of this facility persists the Parish Council will cease to provide a supply of bags.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

19.26 CLERK'S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

SDR Room hire for workshop Memorial Hall		£40.00
Laptop Firewall & Tech support- 2 years		£114.98
npower electric		£37.17
npower gas		£93.10
Domestic Salary		£69.33
Telephones & Broadband		£30.00
DCC Target hardening		£650.00
Stockton & Darlington Railway Subscription		£50.00
wave Water rates		£42.67
npower electric		£36.38

Further to a suggestion that there may be some neglected land available for donation to the Parish Council and it was resolved that the Parish Council would be willing to pay the one-off legal fees required to secure ownership such land as it is the only available means to improve the current poor state.

19.27 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider options for expanding on Christmas lights for 2019

It was confirmed that a quote will be obtained to light 4 trees for Christmas near the football monument; there is already a supply of electricity to tap into which will reduce initial outlay. It was resolved that feeding the planted Christmas tree will commence in the next few weeks. It was reported that a bollard has been removed whilst works were being carried out on the village green. ACTION: Clerk to write to Clancy Docwra.

ii. To receive update on cemetery improvements

The Clerk advised she had sought a progress update from DCC and was advised that funding the planting at the cemetery entrance needs to be approved prior to work commencing. It was confirmed by a Parish Councillor that the planting is now complete.

iii. To consider maintenance of picnic tables

It was agreed that the picnic tables require ground level maintenance to prevent further wood rotting and this will be dealt with in the summer.

19.28 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To obtain costs and clarification on legislation for CCTV in village

It was confirmed that this option would not be feasible and will not be pursued further.

ii. To consider options to support volunteers fundraising for planters

It was confirmed that an application will be submitted to the Gaunless Gateway.

It was proposed that a cheese and wine night be held to raise funds to support the village planting initiative and a date will be set in due course.

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

The Clerk requested permission for a local group to hold an afternoon tea fundraising event at Monteith Parish Rooms on Friday, 29th March between 12 noon and 3 pm. It was resolved that the Parish Council will support the event and there will be no room hire fee.

19.29 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no plans reviewed on this occasion.

19.30 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 8TH APRIL 2019. (An interim meeting will be held 25th March 2019)

- To consider options to re-open a youth club.