

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th November 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 N Simpson
Cllr G Smith, Vice-Chairman

19.92 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Palfreyman, Cllr Robinson & Cllr Smith

19.93 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

19.94 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.

19.95 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman passed on his thanks to everyone involved in the Remembrance Service. It was resolved that issues raised to improve the event for next year will be discussed at the next meeting.

19.96 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was reported that the Gaunless Gateway small grants are now open until 31st December 2019.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

npower - electricity		£58.52
npower Gas - duplicate payment		£80.65
S&D Railway Subscription		£50.00
HMRC PAYE		£150.00
npower - electricity		£19.60
Cre8ive Graphics - newsletters		£175.50
Zurich Insurance – 2016, 3 year plan		£424.61
Domestic Salary		£73.00
Clerk's Salary		£896.00
Telephone & Broadband		£30.00
Scouts - newsletter delivery		£100.00
Ferryhill Band - Remembrance Sunday		£150.00

It was resolved that Barrie Alderson requires the permission of the Parish Council to apply for a Pocket Park grant to support play area improvement; it was resolved that the Parish Council welcome any offer of additional funding and fully support the project.

19.98 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To consider a Community Woodland

It was suggested that the 'Old Washery' is an ideal location for a community woodland. It was resolved that it is worth investigating this parcel of land, albeit not actually within the West Auckland parish. Cllr Roberts agreed to investigate options further.

ii To receive an update on the purchase of waste land

The Clerk advised that she had sought an update from the solicitor who had agreed to follow-up with Avante Homes solicitor; no further update has yet been received and the Clerk will continue to follow-up.

19.99 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i To complete 2020-2021 Budget and Precept Setting

It was resolved that the proposed budget will be re-sent to all Parish Councillors as some were unsure whether they had received it. It was resolved that the precept will not be increased for 2020-2021.

ii To consider request for 2020 funding for Village in Bloom

It was resolved that the Parish Council will contribute £2,000 towards the 2020 development of the West Auckland in Bloom project.

iii To receive update on options for 2019 Christmas lights

It was advised that there is insufficient time to extend the Christmas lights for this year.

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

iv To receive update on proposals for a youth club

Concerns were expressed that a decision to exclude the upstairs function room of the Workingmen’s Club was taken at the last meeting without seeing the venue. It was suggested that a visit would be provide the opportunity to obtain a full understanding of the risk assessments already carried out to ensure the venue would be suitable for children’s use, with the support and supervision of employed youth workers.

It was resolved that the Parish Council are keen to see a youth facility in the village and it was proposed that an interim meeting be arranged Monday, 25th November 2019 at 7.00 pm at the Workingmen’s Club to consider the details of the proposal for 2 nights per week. It was also highlighted that the Parish Council are not in a position to sustain any long term plans for a youth without a significant increase to the precept.

The Parish Council resolved that further details and documented financial implications would be required prior to any decision being made.

It was resolved that rental costs also be sought for use of the old youth club facility which was sold and is again available for hire.

v To consider quote for replacement picnic tables

It was resolved that a quote be obtained for hardwood feet for the picnic tables as plastic picnic tables would not be acceptable on the village green.

19.100 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There are currently no planning issues for review.

19.101 To RECEIVE ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, 9TH DECEMBER 2019

- Remembrance Service
- Christmas hamper delivery Tuesday, 17th December at 1.00 pm
- To finalise leaflets
- To consider the Workingmen’s Club as youth facility venue
- To receive an update on the installation of the 4th defibrillator

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....