

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 13th September 2021 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present :
Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr K Bolton
Cllr E Farrer, Vice-Chairman
Cllr A Palfreyman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr L Rielly
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr N Simpson

Mr Alan Simpson, Community Alcohol Partnership, provided a 30-minute presentation on Community Alcohol Partnership to those present. Alan explained the initiative and how it could improve anti-social behaviour and underage drinking within West Auckland which has been recommended as suitable for the initiative by a number of youth community workers and the police. It was resolved that the Parish Council will consider participation at next month's 11th October 2021 meeting.

21.71 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Curl, Cllr W Robinson, Cllr C Smith, DCC Cllr Rob Yorke.

21.72 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

21.73 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

21.74 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A resident attended to advise on her interest in buying land from Bett/Avante homes.
- Another resident attended to express concern about the long-term management of green areas within Oakley Manor.
- Thanks were given to the Parish Council for use of the Monteith Parish Room for a Village in Bloom where £1,050 was raised during a coffee morning. An afternoon tea is planned for later this month to raise further funds.

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

- A request was made for a letter to the Environment Agency regarding overhanging brambles and bushes along the river side from New Street towards Oakley Green.

21.75 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

It was reported that a local resident expressed thanks for the current village Street Games initiative.

It was advised that the weekly youth club 1 year pilot will commence on Tuesday, 12th October 2021 between 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm for juniors, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm for seniors. Confirmation that the Parish Council will support with insurance, if necessary, for the sessions was requested and it was agreed that the Parish Council have previously resolved to support with an insurance payment.

Congratulations were given to Mrs Audrey Beck for the recent acknowledgement for her dedication and efforts within West Auckland with receipt of the monthly MP Dehenna Davison’s Unsung Heroes award.

It was reported that 5 bollards had been removed from the Nursery and it was confirmed that the posts have been re-installed with thanks to Cllr Robinson and Cllr Simpson.

Cllr Simpson advised he has contacted the Environment Agency regarding overgrown bushes and rubbish gathering in the Oakley Cross beck. It was reported that a local resident had fly tipped trees which they have since removed thanks to the intervention of DCC, Darren Hunt.

It was confirmed that bulb planting will take place on either 12th or 13th October and volunteers to assist with planting were requested. Plans and approval for agreed locations for planting are awaited from Dave Gillett, DCC.

It was advised that the Parish Council have been approached by Bett/Avante Homes with an offer of a gift of a piece of land at Oakley Manor. Following debate it was resolved that DCC should be approached to consider adoption of any open spaces not privately owned. ACTION: Clerk to advise Avante Homes and approach Cllr Yorke.

It was advised that Cllr Roberts will attend the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 15th September 2021.

It was highlighted that all Parish Councillors contribute to improving the village in their own way and any suggestion that anyone is not supporting was dismissed.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Eon Next Gas		£31.31
HMRC PAYE		£212.50
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Eon Next Electric		£20.37
Petrol, concrete & bi-comp line - Cllr Simpson		£37.26
Eon Gas		£30.06

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

Donation to West Auckland Football Club		£8,000.00
Epson colour cartridges		£75.98
Mazars - External Audit		£288.00
DCC - Covid Support	£3,000.00	
B McGregor - Bus shelter cleaning		£150.00
County Services - Boiler Service		£70.00
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Monteith Cleaning - July		£60.00
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Monteith Cleaning - August		£120.00
Wave - water rates		£37.13
CDALC - Councillors Guides		£45.99

21.77 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To receive update on Bypass Proposals

An update on the petition was discussed and it was resolved that the majority of residents approached are in favour of a DCC consultation to consider West Auckland as part of the proposed bypass. It is planned to have the petition fully complete and complied by the end of October. It was advised that a reply has finally been received from MP Dehenna Davison's office with no offer of a public meeting.

ii. To receive update on Traffic Management at Robson Road

In the absence of Cllr Curl this item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

iii. To consider protection and enhancement of the Village Green, inc Fleece & Nursery area

This item is for consideration at the next meeting.

iv. To consider requesting that Oakley Cross school consider allowing the Multi-user games and activities (MUGA) to be accessible for community activities

It was resolved that Oakley Cross school should be approached to request use of the MUGA. The request will highlight that currently the Parish Council are funding Street Games, supporting a 1 year youth club pilot and commencing work with the Community Alcohol Partnership initiative; all being encouraged by the Parish Council as a means of motivating and encouraging inclusion for local youths.

21.78 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider funding an additional phase for the New Street play area

It was confirmed that a quote has been received from DCC for play area equipment; this item will be carried forward to allow time to receive further quotes.

It was requested that, due to its poor state, County Councillors follow-up on the returfing of the New Street 5-a-side football pitch.

ii. To receive update on upgrading the village Christmas lights

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

It was advised that the new poles need to be stress tested by an independent company. The Parish Council resolved that Cllr G Smith can obtain a cost for the testing.

iii. To consideration cemetery improvements

This item is to be carried over to next agenda.

iv. To consider resurfacing of path between Oakley Cross School and A68

Further to a letter sent to DCC several years ago it was resolved to request for DCC Rob Yorke to follow-up on the possibility of adoption of the path with the Rights of Way Officer.

21.79 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Plans for Copeland Barns were discussed and Parish Council comments will be submitted to DCC Planning Department.

21.80 To receive items for Monday, 11th October 2021 meeting

- To arrange Budget and Precept setting for 2022
- To consider Community Alcohol Partnership initiative for West Auckland
- To consider funding an additional phase for the New Street play area
- To receive update on Traffic Management at Robson Road
- To consider protection and enhancement of the Village Green, inc Fleece & Nursery area
- To consider cemetery improvements
- To consider introduction of a wetland
- To prepare for Remembrance Sunday
- To consider plans for the Queen’s Jubilee on 3rd – 5th June 2022

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....