

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th October 2021 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

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

21.81 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from DCC Cllr Rob Yorke.

21.82 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

21.83 TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

21.84 INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Thanks were given to the Parish Council for their support with West Auckland in Bloom. Acknowledgment was also given to DCC Councillor Mark Idwal-Roberts, DCC Cllr Rob Yorke and DCC Find and Fix team for their support during the weeks leading up to judging. The group wish to repeat their efforts next year and presented ideas for initiatives they have in mind; the Parish Council were in support of the ideas.
- It was reported that litter from McColls is regularly scattered with polystyrene, in particular, from deliveries being blown around. Pallets being stacked and stored at the front were also highlighted as an eyesore.

21.85 TO RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- Congratulations were given to West Auckland in Bloom for their achievement of Northumberland in Bloom (NIB) Gold Award.

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

- It was reported that the Chairman and Clerk visited the Oakley Cross school with a request for the community to use the multi-use games area (MUGA) facility. The Headteacher is supportive of the idea and the Parish Council need to consider how to proceed with this. Gaunless Gateway have been asked for advice on this initiative.
- Town & Villages team have advised that they have £210,000 for use on local projects and invite applications; the Parish Council will receive details following this meeting and should consider any suitable projects to take forward.
- It was reported that the Workingmen’s Club Youth Club pilot scheme is due to commence with 15 youths attending per session. It was reported that a resident had donated £100 which will be used to initiate a tuck shop. It was advised there will be a kitchen facility available to the youth leaders if they wish to use it. Youth activities will also be held on the Tuesday of the school holidays.
- The proposed contents of a village heritage board will be circulated to Parish Councillors for their comments.
- A Woodland scheme is being considered in the Memorial Hall on 2nd & 3rd November 2021 and anyone interested is invited to attend and contribute their ideas.
- The Parish Council have been approached to support with a food source project in the village. The group involved is looking for 7 – 10 acres of land and have funds available to purchase a suitable site. Cllr Roberts has drafted a plan to identify where DCC land is available. Cllr Rob Yorke has previously stated that he is keen to support this project.
- It was advised that bulb planting will commence Tuesday, 12th October 2021 meeting at 9.30 am and those assisting should meet at the Monteith Community Parish Council. Cllr Rob Yorke kindly donated 8,000 crocus bulbs.

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Eon Next Gas		£29.85
Eon Next Electric		£23.50
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Bulbs and petrol - Cllr Simpson		£102.55
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Monteith Cleaning - Sept - E Jones		£135.00
Stockton & Darlington Railway Subscription		£50.00
Clerk's Salary		£850.00
Zurich Public Liability Insurance		£430.74

The September Quarter End bank reconciliation was reviewed and approved.

21.87 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider Community Alcohol Partnership initiative for West Auckland

The Parish Council have been asked to consider supporting the Community Alcohol Partnership and introducing an initiative in West Auckland. It was resolved that the Parish

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

Council would welcome more information and request a dedicated meeting to the organiser. ACTION: Clerk to follow-up.

ii. To receive update on Bypass Proposals

There have been 800 signatures to-date with responses from 400 houses so far on a petition requesting a consultation with West Auckland residents on a bypass road. It was proposed that these signatures be submitted to MP Dehenna Davison in the interim whilst a further drive continues to obtain as many signatures as possible. Monday, 25th October 2021 and Saturday, 30th October 2021 were confirmed as the next dates for those able to meet to collect more signatures.

iii. To prepare for Remembrance Sunday

It was resolved that Cllr Roberts will lay the wreath and Cllr Farrer will do the reading. It was confirmed that the band is booked and wreaths are ordered. Father McTeer has agreed to print the service sheets. Cllr Curl, Cllr Pattison, Mrs Beck and the Clerk agreed to provide catering for the event with a maximum budget of £150. ACTION: Clerk to invite DCC councillors, local church leaders and notify police.

iv. To receive update on Traffic Management at Robson Road

It was reported that the green areas of Robson Road is in a poor state due to vehicles parking on it. ACTION: Clerk to seek an update from Cllr Yorke on any progress with previous reports.

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

It was confirmed that there are plans ongoing to improve these areas.

vi. To receive update on request for Oakley Cross school to consider allowing the Multi-user games and activities (MUGA) access for community activities

Cllr G Smith offered to lead on this initiative and he, along with Cllr Rielly will arrange to revisit the Oakley Cross school in due course.

vii. To consider introduction of a Wetland

It was reported that there was a previous plan for a wetland with a planting proposal by DCC which was abandoned due to the sale of the proposed land. It was resolved that the Enforcement Officer be asked to investigate developments on that land via Cllr Rob Yorke.

viii. To consider plans for the Queen’s Jubilee on 3rd – 5th June 2022

It was resolved that the Parish Council are keen to have a combined venture with the Memorial Hall Committee to mark this occasion. ACTION: Cllr Palfreyman agreed to notify the Memorial Hall Committee.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

ix. To receive update on Oakley Manor Land

It was confirmed that DCC will adopt the land offered by Avante Homes to West Auckland Parish Council. It was therefore resolved that the Parish Council will accept the offer of being gifted any open space land offered.

21.88 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To arrange Budget and Precept setting for 2022

The 2022 budget was considered and a draft will be circulated for Parish Councillors consideration prior to Precept setting at the next meeting.

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

It was resolved that a decision cannot be made without all quotes. It was highlighted that the zip wire still has not be reinstalled. ACTION: Clerk to follow up with DCC.

iii. To receive update on upgrading the village Christmas lights

It was resolved that the Parish Council will fund £600 to stress test the lampposts around the village green in readiness to install decorations. It was advised that the existing Christmas trees lights need to be removed and replaced with low voltage lights. It was reiterated that a maximum of £11,000 is available for Christmas lighting.

iv. To consider cemetery improvements

This item will be deferred to next meeting.

21.89 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

Various local plans were discussed and the Enforcement Officer will be asked to investigate two areas with ongoing development.

21.90 To receive items for Monday, 8th November 2021 meeting

- To receive update on development of New Street play area
- To receive an update on Christmas lights
- To consider cemetery improvements
- To receive final version of leaflet 1
- To consider the 2022 Precept
- To receive update on siting the 4th defibrillator

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