

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14th March 2022 at 7.00 pm,
Parish Community Room, Monteith Close, West Auckland

Present : Cllr G Smith, Chairman
Cllr E Farrer, Vice-Chairman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson

22.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bolton, Cllr Curl, Cllr Roberts & Cllr C Smith.

22.22 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

22.23 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

22.24 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A West Auckland in Bloom representative advised that Northumbria in Bloom judging of West Auckland is arranged for 19th April and 19th July 2022.
- It was reported that 5 large cannisters and a significant number of scattered used balloons were collected whilst a volunteer was litter picking at the weekend; this indication of drug misuse has been reported to the police.
- It was highlighted that a certain vehicle is causing damage by regularly accessing the village green and has been reported to the police.
- Repeated vandalism at a bus shelter was raised by a resident; it was advised that this is reported to DCC on each occasion.

22.25 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It is recorded, with sadness, that two Parish Councillors have recently resigned; Cllr Rielly gave her time as a parish councillor for 18 years and was involved in numerous successful initiatives. The contribution of Cllr Rielly and Cllr Palfreyman will be missed. Both were wished well and acknowledged for their commitment to the village.
- The Towns and Villages funding was discussed and it was advised that Cllr Patterson will be attending meetings to represent the Parish Council.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Eon Next Electric		£30.82
Ashridge Nurseries - Trees		£701.26
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Abyte Annual Website hosting & Security part pay		£8.00
Creative Graphics - Leaflet 1 printing		£88.00
Monteith Cleaning		£112.50
County Services - Water heater disconnected		£60.00
Bank Charges		£8.00
DCC - Tree Grant	£250.00	
Anglian Water Rates		£37.13
Ukraine - British Red Cross DEC donation		£500.00
Tubular trap - Cllr Simpson		£7.97
Cement - combined payment £12.97		£5.00
Tree posts - Trevor Burn		£67.20
Ukraine flag 4 x 6		£15.99
Post hole boarer		£20.00
Eon next		£27.40

- It was reported a further letter has been received from Browne-Jacobson's claims' firm manager regarding an incident at the Memorial Hall which took place several years ago. The Parish Council has responded again advising that it is the Memorial Hall Committee and their insurer that they need to liaise with.
- The Parish Council resolved to donate £500 to the current Ukraine crisis DEC appeal.
- It was resolved that in view of recent issues, and the high annual and additional charges that Abyte charge for support, a new provider will be sought for the website.

22.27 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider the Climate Change Policy

To be considered at a future meeting due to the absence of several members.

ii. To consider the Economic Strategy

To be considered at a future meeting due to the absence of several members.

iii. To receive progress report on the Oakley Cross MUGA

It was reported by those attending a recent meeting with the Oakley Cross Headteacher that this initiative is progressing well. The Headteacher shares the Parish Council's view of working towards developing the MUGA for open community use. Barbara Slaser, Gaunless Gateway support officer, is currently investigating the benefits and potential draw backs or lessons learnt for similar facilities throughout the country. It was advised that the next stage is obtaining the quotes to apply for the funding. It was highlighted that

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

insurance cover will need to be confirmed once the definite project is progressed. It was resolved that the Parish Council will continue to support the development of the initiative and Cllr Smith agreed to provide a report of requirements for the project.

Cllr Smith advised that he has made enquiries about s106 funds for both local schools; Oakley Cross have identified the need for a cycling proficiency scheme to include a bike shed and a stock of suitable bicycles. Copeland Road school will be approached for their suggestions of any scheme beneficial to that school.

iv. To consider Parish Council involvement with Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)

It was advised that three parish councillors attended the recent Bishop Auckland CAP group. It was advised that the organisation is doing a good job but it was felt that the Parish Councillors don't currently have the capacity to support the initiative.

v. To consider Heritage Board and replacement Notice Board

It was advised that recent meetings have highlighted the significant amount of work required to implement this initiative. It will be brought back to the agenda for further consideration in June 2022.

vi. To consider a development on Simpson Road

To be considered at a future meeting in the absence of several members.

22.28 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To receive an update on the New Street football area ground

It was reported that James Young, DCC has advised that the New Street play area 5-a-side pitch is not considered to be a formal football ground and therefore DCC do not need to maintain it as such. The Parish Council consider the uneven ground to be dangerous to youths running. It was proposed that if DCC will not level the ground the goal posts should be removed to prevent children injury whilst playing at the area. A further meeting will be held with DCC to consider this further.

ii. To receive quotes for the tree planting scheme

Quotes were received and the trees purchased to meet DCC £250 funding deadline. It was reported that Mr Joe Robinson, local volunteer, kindly machine bored holes for the trees recently planted on the Nursery Fleece village green. As Mr Robinson has refused an offer of payment for this, a thank you card will be sent to him.

22.29 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no issues formally raised with existing plans.

22.30 To receive items for Monday, 11th April 2022 meeting

- To consider installation of a water butt in the Parish Room rear garden
- To consider cost of additional radiators for the Parish Room
- To consider installation of a kitchen water heater for the Parish Room

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