

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 11th April 2022 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 J Pattison
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr C Smith

22.31 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr M Roberts. The newly elected Parish Councillor, Mr L J Adamson did not attend or give apologies. Mrs Helen Stott attended and was co-opted to a Ward 1 vacancy.

22.32 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

22.33 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

22.34 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A Village in Bloom volunteer attended to thank the Parish Council for use of the room for a fundraising event where the group raised £765; the Parish Council commended their efforts with ongoing support to improve the village.
- It was reported that the path at the front of the Eden Garage is deteriorating to a dangerous state. It was resolved that DCC will be asked to repair it and liaise with the Arriva and Go Northern bus companies, via Cllr Rob Yorke, to make them aware that their bus drivers are damaging the footpath surface when mounting the kerb.

22.35 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT

- It was advised that photographs of trucks parking on the village green have been submitted to Durham County Council; the problem is ongoing and further advice on its management will be sought via DCC Cllr Yorke.

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

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

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

Receipt Payment

| | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Balance BD | | |
| Clerk's Salary | | £1,200.00 |
| Telephones and Broadband | | £30.00 |
| Monteith Cleaning | | £135.00 |
| Allotment rents | £1,300.00 | |
| DCC Precept & LCTSS Grant | £26,652.87 | |
| Bus shelter windows cleaned-B McGregor | | £150.00 |
| Abyte Website final payment | | £96.00 |
| Bank charges | | £8.00 |
| Jubilee Bunting | | £106.11 |
| Queens Jubilee Flag | | £17.99 |

- The 2021 – 2022 financial accounts were reviewed and approved.
- East Green Car Park Signage It was advised that the signage in the East Green car park is adequate and DCC have confirmed that it any more signs would be unacceptable.
- East Green Car Park Hedging The Clerk raised a resident's email comment stating that "the Parish Council had agreed to provide hedge screening". The Clerk requested Parish Council recollection of any conversations relating to this as there is no resolution recorded to that effect. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had previously discussed this with East Green residents but it was not resolved to provide screen hedging. It was advised that a suggestion had been made for Village in Bloom volunteers to plant hedging; they have confirmed they do not have the resource to take on such projects. DCC have confirmed that they would not provide or maintain hedging in an open plan landscaped area. The resident will be updated for clarification on this.

22.37 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider the Climate Change Policy

This item will be removed from the agenda for the time being.

ii. To consider the Economic Strategy

This item will be removed from the agenda for the time being.

iii. To receive progress report on the Oakley Cross MUGA

Cllr Farrer will continue to progress this project to provide a multi-user games area (MUGA) and is liaising with Barbara Slaser, Gaunless Gateway. It was confirmed that the Headteacher is fully supportive of the facility being open to all outside school time. It was advised that quotes for the required works being currently being obtained. Cllr Smith advised that the lighting would be £1,400 cost price and he would make no charge for labour. Cllr Robinson agreed to obtain a quote for the required gate.

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

The Headteacher has suggested a cycle shed and bikes would be beneficial to the pupils; this will be included in the final funding bid.

The Parish Council have been asked by the Towns & Villages Committee to consider match funding; it was agreed that this is inappropriate as the funding is already earmarked for all areas to apply for; the Parish Council confirmed however they are fully supportive of this scheme and will consider a contribution if required in due course.

22.38 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

i. To consider installation of a water butt in the Parish Room rear garden

It was resolved that two water butts will be purchased and installed for use by Village in Bloom volunteers.

ii. To consider cost of additional radiators for the Parish Room

It was resolved that a maximum of £1,000 can be spent on an additional three radiators.

iii. To consider installation of a kitchen water heater for the Parish Room

It was resolved that the kitchen boiling water heater will be installed at a maximum cost of £1,000.

22.39 TO CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

There were no issues formally raised with existing plans.

22.40 No Agenda Items to be considered at the Annual General Meeting Monday, 9th May 2022 meeting

Items for June agenda:

- **To receive progress report on the Oakley Cross MUGA**
- **To consider purchase of a bike shed, cycles and helmets for Oakley Cross school**
- **To receive update on Christmas lights**
- **To consider Monteith Parish Room kitchen equipment**
- **To arrange the installation of the 4th defibrillator**
- **To receive final version of the replacement notice board and information board**
- **To consider seating area for Monteith Close bungalows**

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....