

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 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 A Palfreyman  
Cllr J Pattison  
Cllr L Rielly  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr N Simpson  
Cllr C Smith

## **22.11 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no members absent from this meeting.

## **22.12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **22.13 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

## **22.14 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A resident attended to clarify the details of their problem with overgrown tree roots from a local farm causing damage to the paths and car park at the Memorial Hall. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact the farmer to make him aware and seek his support with a solution, It was resolved that DCC will be invited to advise on the cause of the problem and offer their guidance on its management.

A request was made by Village in Bloom volunteers for use of Monteith on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March for a fundraiser. A request was also made for funds to support with bunting for the Queen's Jubilee; it was resolved that the Parish Council would donate the material for the craft group to make the bunting once the cost has been confirmed.

## **22.15 To RECEIVE CHAIRPERSON/COUNCILLORS REPORT**

- Cllr Roberts advised he has recently met with Guy Rowlinson, DCC to consider tree planting at the cemetery and to consider raising a curb near Janie's Pantry. It was proposed that trees along the river side at Station Road are becoming dense and will need thinning out in due course. It was resolved that Cllr Roberts will draft a plan to propose removal of trees as required.

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

- Cllr Rielly advised she attended a Memorial Hall meeting to consider an event to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee. It was confirmed that the Memorial Hall Committee will be funding a Simply Social event and do require financial support from the Parish Council with this.
- It was advised that Parish Council representatives will be attending the Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and they will report back at the next meeting.
- It was confirmed that a meeting has been held with DCC to confirm where the new play equipment will be sited. It was advised that DCC have received a quote for £9,875 from TURFCARE to level the ground between the goal posts at the New Street play area. It was agreed that the quote was inappropriately high but, as the ground is not fit for purpose, the County Council should take responsibility from a safety view. Cllr Yorke will be included in correspondence.
- It was advised that the Chairman, Cllr G Smith and Cllr Farrer were invited to provide support at a meeting with the Northern Echo at the old Station public house where concerns about the poor state of the area were being discussed. It was advised that the original plan for Compulsory Purchase of the property has been withdrawn by DCC and other options are currently being considered. It was suggested that the building, which was built in the 1960s, could be transformed with various options to provide a useful facility.

## 22.16 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Receipt	Payment
Insignia - Queen's Jubilee Cups x 600		£2,577.60
Eon Next Electric		£34.79
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
BT - Monteith Internet		£37.08
Telephones and Broadband		£30.00
Monteith Cleaning - January		£142.50
Bank Charges		£8.00

### i. To receive final version of Leaflet 1

It was resolved that a quantity of 500 Leaflet 1 will be printed as it is expected that the details within this leaflet will change from time to time.

## 22.17 RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

### i. To receive update following Bypass meeting with MP and DCC

It was confirmed that the new date for the re-arranged meeting with Dehenna Davison, MP is Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 3.30 pm at Monteith Community Parish Room.

### ii. To receive progress report on the Oakley Cross MUGA

It was confirmed that a meeting seeking progress with the possibility of community use of the MUGA will be held Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March with Oakley Cross School Headmistress.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

**iii. To consider tree planting on Fleece & Nursery village green**

Further to the successful funding application to obtain £250 towards a tree planting scheme the Parish Council resolved to contribute a maximum of £1,000. Cllr Roberts and Cllr C Smith agreed to obtain quotes from various companies for various types of trees and produce a plan for the scheme between them.

**iv. To consider damage to village green**

Further to a meeting with Jeff Talbot, DCC it was resolved that, to protect the village green, a raised curb is required to prevent vehicular access. A request will be made to DCC to consider this and planting wild flowers around the edge of the Fleece & Nursery village green area as previously agreed.

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

To be considered at the next meeting following feedback from those attending the 15<sup>th</sup> February Bishop Auckland meeting.

**vi. To consider Heritage Board and purchase of a replacement Notice Board**

Following discussion, it was resolved that Cllr Farrer, Cllr Roberts and Cllr Robinson will proceed with the plans to develop an information and notice board and bring a progress update to the next meeting.

**vii. To plan 2022 Christmas lights**

Following discussion on the options for Christmas lights it resolved that DCC be asked for a quote to dress the two oak trees, dress the Christmas tree and install decorations for 10 posts. Cllr G Smith agreed to obtain quotes in readiness for the April meeting.

**22.18 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

**i. To confirm funding for Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

It was confirmed that the Parish Council have purchased china mugs for school children at Copeland Road, Oakley Cross and St Helens schools at a cost of £2,577.60 to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

**ii. To receive update on cost of battery-operated defibrillator**

It was confirmed that a purpose made battery-operated defibrillator is not available. It was resolved that Cllr Robinson and Cllr G Smith will consider the options of fitting a lock and connecting power to the available cabinet.

It was reported that the light within the defibrillator at the Memorial Hall isn't working and there are signs of condensation in the unit. Cllr G Smith suggested there may have been disruption to the electricity supply causing the problem and agreed to check the device.

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

**22.19 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no planning issues formally raised.

**22.20 To receive items for Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 meeting**

- To consider the Climate Change Policy
- To consider the Economic Strategy
- To consider Parish Council involvement with Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)
- To consider a development on Simpson Road
- To receive an update on the New Street football area ground
- To receive quotes for the tree planting scheme

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