

West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10th February 2025 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 T Horsman
Cllr J Pattison
Cllr M Roberts
Cllr W Robinson
Cllr N Simpson
Cllr H Stott

25.11 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Adamson, Cllr Curl and Cllr C Smith.

25.12 DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no expressions of interest received.

25.13 To CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

25.14 To INVITE ANY COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A resident attended the meeting to raise a concern about the damage quads bikes have made on the village green. It was advised that DCC are aware of the damage and expect the green areas to recover naturally without intervention. It was advised that the police are aware if this wilful damage and confiscating motor bikes at every opportunity.

25.15 To RECEIVE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Following the recent death of resident, George Beecham, a request was made by his family to place a plaque on his much-loved village green seat where he has spent many hours of many days of his life chatting to everyone passing. It was resolved that the Parish Council will arrange the plaque to acknowledge the services George has provided as a longstanding resident with a friendly character for many years who was always willing to support with watering the Christmas tree and generally looking out for the good of the area.

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

It was resolved that the June meeting will be changed to Monday 2nd and held at Monteith (WI agreed to meet 9/6) to accommodate the Clerk's request.

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

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

Income Expenses

Eon Next		£73.69
Eon Next		£48.92
BT wifi		£36.86
Hire of Vehicle to remove pole Christmas lights		£336.00
Simply Stripes - Memorial Hall Notice Board		£978.00
WAMCA contribution to notice board	£815.00	
Wolseley WAMCA taps		£219.14
WAMCA Plumbing fittings	£182.62	
HMRC PAYE		£300.00
WAMCA Turntables		£954.00
WAMCA contribution to turn tables	£794.84	
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Annual Protech Pest Control		£660.00
Monteith Cleaning		£90.00
Bus shelter cleaning - P Turner		£150.00
Bank charges		£8.00

Following receipt of documentation from DCC, Cllr Roberts provided an verbal update on a footpath change towards Broom Mill to align the path with the old railway line. The hard copy document will be filed for future reference.

25.17 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- To receive update on grassed area opposite the Memorial Hall.

Cllr G Smith advised that DCC are looking to confirm who the green area belongs to and the Allotments Society will consider the possibility of using the land for car parking to relieve Memorial Hall and football ground parking congestion.

- To consider initiatives for the coming year

Various initiatives were considered and it was agreed that:

- An article will be included in Westlife to encourage two-way communication and obtain suggestions from residents for making improvements to the village.
- The much-needed by-pass is a priority for the village; it is understood that Toft Hill residents are being given 5 options during ongoing meetings. It is considered unlikely that West Auckland will get a by-pass in the foreseeable future.
- There are various areas in the village for consideration of tree planting which will be considered over the coming months.
- Historical documents will be added to the West Auckland Parish Council website and hard copies stored at the Parish Room to futureproof information on village history as much as possible.
- It was resolved that Cllr Roberts will draft a plan for an avenue of trees to coincide with a proposed car park opposite the Memorial Hall.
- It was resolved that Cllr Roberts will draft a 5th village leaflet to cover the Stockton & Darlington Railway history in readiness for the upcoming 200 years anniversary.

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

25.18 To RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

- To consider supporting annual children’s Memorial Hall pantomime

It was resolved that the Parish Council will allocate £1,000 per annum towards the annual pantomime for local children at the Memorial Hall each December

- To confirm quote for Perspex crosses

It was advised that Cre8ive Graphics are awaiting a new machine to test for a more robust template and a quote is expected in the coming weeks.

- To consider options for the damaged football monument lights

Following consideration it was resolved that a quote should be obtained with a view to the Parish Council replacing the damaged lights.

- To consider replacement lights for Christmas tree and purchase of additional illuminations

It was resolved that 2 sets of 80m static white lights will be purchased for the Christmas tree.

25.19 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

25.20 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 10TH MARCH 2025 MEETING.

- To consider quotes to replace the damaged football monument lights
- To review a draft plan of the green area opposite the Memorial Hall
- To receive an update on progress with the next Westlife

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....