

# West Auckland Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 T Horsman  
Cllr M Roberts  
Cllr W Robinson  
Cllr H Stott  
County Cllr Rob Yorke

## **25.21 To ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Adamson, Cllr Pattison and Cllr Simpson.

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

There were no expressions of interest received.

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

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

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

A number of residents attended the meeting to raise concerns about the proposed closure of St Helens surgery. Cllr Rob Yorke attended the meeting to advise about a significant issue for the area: GPs are seeking to close the St Helens branch of the Auckland Medical Group. Cllr Yorke advised on action taken so far and plans to proceed with an action plan to raise public awareness and object to the proposed closure of the surgery by all possible means. It was advised that Believe Housing own the premises, charging peppercorn rent, and the surgery manager advised that the building is not fit for purpose. It was reported that in 2024 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) reported that the premises were graded rating 'Good'.

It was agreed that the GPs' consultation questionnaire is worthless, with loaded questions that do not facilitate fair and balanced responses. It was advised that a meeting has been arranged with Michael Laing, Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services to address public concerns. It was resolved that a letter of objection will be sent from the Parish Council and public meetings will be requested and circulated to residents.

A request was made to maintain public support and support your county councillors who will be fighting tooth and nail to ensure that the GP services are returned to the St Helens surgery; it was reported that St Helens surgery is run by nurses only and GP appointments have been only offered in Toft Hill and Watling Road only for the past 2 years. It was advised that more residential and retail developments are planned for the area. Watling

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

Road Surgery is considered modern and purpose built, Toft Hill is reported to be in no better state than St Helens with poor accessibility. It was reported that various services have been run down at St Helens over the past 2 years; there is no well-woman, well-man, health visitors, etc. It was agreed that the proposed closure has highlighted services not being offered at the St Helens branch.

**25.25 TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**

There were no further Concillor’s Reports for consideration.

**25.26 CLERK’S TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE/ENDORISING OF INVOICE CHEQUES**

Correspondence received was tabled and payments endorsed as follows:

	Income	Expenses
Blachere Christmas Tree Lights		£661.92
Cllr Roberts tree stakes B&Q		£73.35
Field maple trees x 4		£278.80
Regent Chairs - Banquet x 100		£2,974.79
Eon Next		£107.61
Eon Next		£47.74
BT wifi		£36.86
WAMCA chairs	£2,478.99	
GOPAK Tables WAMCA		£3,878.03
WAMCA tables	£3,231.69	
Cleaning materials and brushes		£60.03
Telephone & broadband		£30.00
Anglian Water		£80.13
Peterlee Fire - extinguishers check		£48.00
Currys – laptop and OS software		£1,118.99
Donation to WAMCA car park resurfacing		£5,000.00

**25.27 TO RECEIVE ENVIRONMENT/PLANNING WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- i. To review a draft plan of the green area opposite the Memorial Hall

Cllr Roberts advised that he will circulate a proposed idea at the end of this week.

- ii. To receive an update on progress with the next Westlife

It was confirmed that the latest edition of Westlife has gone to print.

**25.28 TO RECEIVE FINANCE WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

- i. To consider quotes to replace the damaged football monument lights

Following discussion, Cllr Rob Yorke offered to liaise with Guy Rawlings for suggestions on replacing the existing damaged football monument lights.

- ii. To receive quote for Perspex crosses

The Clerk advised that Cre8tive Graphics have not yet provided the template or quote and she will chase up and update at the next meeting.

Chairman’s Signature..... Date.....

**25.29 To CONSIDER LOCAL PLANNING ISSUES**

- There were no planning applications for consideration.

**25.30 To RECEIVE AGENDA ITEMS FOR MONDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025 MEETING.**

- To receive update on GP proposal to close St Helens surgery
- To consider a volunteer for Oakley Cross school governor's vacancy
- To receive update on quote for Perspex crosses

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