

West Rainton Parish Council

Draft Minutes of meeting held on

Thursday 21 February 2019

At Arden House, West Rainton

Present: Councillors M Boettcher, I Diggory, M Gilbank, I Haddick, B Kellett, P Lowrie, P Morson, A Wallage (Chairman)

In attendance:

M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk
County Councillor D Hall
10 Members of the Public

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

An apology had been received from Cllr G Storey (work commitments) and **Parish Council resolved** to approve this absence.

2) Declarations of interest

It was agreed that declarations of interest would be dealt with as and when the need arose.

3) Public Participation

A member of the public asked if they could raise issues around a planning application for a children's home within the village. Cllr Wallage advised that the item could be discussed under the Planning item on the Agenda and agreed to suspend standing orders at that time so that the meeting could fully discuss the application.

Another member of the public queried the number of wagons driving through the village. Cllr Wallage advised that these were linked to the land fill site restoration off Pit House Lane. Although the work was due to finish in December the date has now been revised to March 2019.

The member of the public asked if a message could be shared with the public with regards to what is happening. Cllr Wallage advised that a message would be shared on the Parish Council website.

4) Minutes

A Parish Councillor requested the removal of his name in the draft minutes at item 20.

Parish Council resolved to agree an amendment to refer to, "A Member", rather than naming the individual Cllr. The amended minutes were approved as a correct record.

5) FINANCE REPORT

Part A: For information:

1. Income:

Section 106 Payment – Cemetery Works (Cemetery Noticeboard)
£1297.17

Co-Operative Funeral Services – Burial MK £150.00

2. Expenditure

Expenditure previously approved by Parish Council due this month

	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk net salary – February 2019	£370.16
2	G Keedy	Project Officer net salary – February 2019	£378.56
3	HM Revenue and Customs Only	Combined HMRC liabilities - February 2019	£ 187.20
4	D Lewins	Cemetery Gatekeeper Gratuity Payment – February 2019	£80.00
5	Durham County Council	Installation of bins at various sites within West Rainton	£2489.28
6	West Rainton and Leamside Community Association	Hire of Jubilee Hall – Xmas Carols	£45.00
7	Leamside Nurseries	Provision of Christmas Tree	£156.00
TOTAL			£ 3706.20

Part B: Expenditure requiring approval

	Payee	Purpose	Amount	Budget Provision Y/N
8	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd.	Water Supply Cemetery – 2/11/18 – 1/2/19	11.34	Y
9	Durham County	Ecological Survey –	£120	Y

	Council	Replacement for Cheque 302920 - £100. Actual costing revised to include VAT		
10	The Gilpin Press	Printing x 300 Jubilee Hall Questionnaires	£33.66	Y
11	Durham County Council	Hosting and Support of Website 1/4/18-31/3/19	£707.92	Y
12	Durham County Council	Advertising Consent Application – Leamside replacement notice board	£66.00	Y
13	Durham County Council	Advertising Consent Application – New cemetery noticeboard	£66.00	Y
14	Mark Ramshaw	Reimbursement Office Supplies – Envelopes £1.00 Envelopes £1.49 A4 Paper x 4 reams £11.40 1 st Class Stamps x 12 £8.04	£21.93	Y
TOTAL			£ 1026.85	Y

Part C: Bank Balances – For Information

Total Expenditure included above	£ 4733.05
Anticipated current a/c bank balance if all paid	£ 14809.31
Reserve Account Balance	£ 15038.22

Parish Council resolved to:

1. Note income, expenditure and bank balances reported for information.
2. Approve expenditure listed in Part B

6) Planning Applications

Cllr Wallage suspended Standing Orders so that members of the public could share their views.

Cllr Haddick suggested that there was one planning application of note which was the application for a change of use from a residential property in the Dene to a small children's home.

A lengthy discussion took place. This included concerns from members of the public that centred on road safety and that the facts stated in the application were incorrect. As well as staff vehicles, there would also be commercial vehicles accessing the site with no turning access which also posed a danger to those who utilise the shared access as there is no dedicated footpath. Concerns were also discussed around 24hour floodlighting around the perimeter of the property and increased noise levels.

Cllr Wallage advised that any individuals who had concerns should submit these to DCC. The closing date for comments on the application is 4th March 2019.

Cllr Gilbank declared an interest in the item and therefore didn't comment further.

Cllr Haddick also declared an interest in the item and therefore didn't comment further.

Cllr Kellett advised that he shared resident concerns and suggested that the decision should go to Committee rather than be an Officer decision. He felt a site visit was essential prior to determination. .

Cllr Hall advised that he felt the location was not an appropriate.

Cllr Wallage questioned whether there was a demonstrable need for the provision and suggested that children could be placed there from anywhere in the UK.

Cllr Boettcher expressed concerns of the impact on the social dynamics of the young people within the Village with whom there is ongoing work with the Police and other Agencies linked to a number of issues. Cllr Boettcher agreed the situation with access and the vehicles would be extremely dangerous.

Cllr Wallage queried where the proposal sits with DCC Policy as it appears DCC do not currently have a Policy regarding new children's homes.

Parish Council resolved to object to the proposal based on the grounds that had been discussed. Cllr Wallage advised that the Parish Council would take on board comments from members of the public and Parish Council members and that she would draft a response and circulate it to members.

Cllr Wallage reiterated the need for individuals to comment if they have objections. Cllr Wallage also advised the meeting she would contact the Village Partnership to increase awareness of the proposal and residents concerns.

7) Provision and maintenance of planters

Cllr Haddick advised that following the agreement of Parish Council, at the last meeting, to accept responsibility in principal for the provision and maintenance of village planters, the proposal for a co-ordinated approach had been reported to the Village Partnership (VP). This had been well received. Further discussions were then held with representatives of the VP and the Green Group who are currently involved with the planters and planting.

He advised that there was agreement in principle for the Parish Council to progress taking on the responsibility for the provision. The importance of working in partnership was however stressed as this would help reduce on going costs. For example, community support to undertake watering would help reduce maintenance costs and community groups may be able to access external funding sources for replacements tubs e.g. The Hargreaves Community Fund. It had been proposed that for 2019/20,subject to Parish Council formal approval, the Parish Council would arrange and fund the planting of all Village Partnership and Green Group tubs, twice early. This was welcomed by the group representatives.

However, before Parish Council was asked to approve this, Cllr Wallage felt that this proposal needed to go back to the Village Partnership to ensure all groups were supportive and prepared to work together under the co-ordination and direction of the Parish Council, not just next year but also thereafter.

It was noted that the proposal would be reported back to the next Village Partnership and then brought back to the next Parish Council meeting for formal approval.

8) Cemetery

a) Demolition of brick building

It was reported that demolition was in progress and expected to be completed in the next day or so.

b) General maintenance issues

Cllr Wallage thanked Cllr Morson for repairing the tap in the Cemetery following a burst pipe.

Tree removal to take place 28th February at a cost of £650.00.

The Parish Clerk advised that the final invoice had been received from Leamside Nurseries under the maintenance contract but there were a couple of outstanding issues. One related to a missed grass cut in March 2018 due to wet weather and the other related to the effectiveness of moss treatment. Final payment would not be made until these issues were resolved.

It was noted that Leamside intended to retreat the moss.

Parish Council resolved that Leamside Nurseries be asked if they could cut the grass in March in lieu of the missed cut.

c) Memorial Wall

Cllr Haddick advised that two quotes from architects had been received, and he had just had contact from a third architect who will also give a quotation. Cllr Haddick agreed to bring the three quotes to the next Parish Council meeting along with a report for consideration.

9) Jubilee Hall

Cllr Wallage referred members to the previously circulated report from the working group. . She highlighted that community consultation was still in progress and advised the development of the draft business case was dependent on volunteers coming forward to get involved in the future management of the Hall through the consultation process.

More work is to be completed around due diligence.

A valuation and condition survey is not a critical requirement at this stage in the development of the draft business case, but Durham Sparks had advised it would be beneficial if this was undertaken concurrently with the community consultation.

DCC had previously offered to develop a specification to be used for seeking quotations for the detailed structural survey and valuation. Provisional budget estimate, per DCC is between £2000-4000.

DCC have also said they would support interpreting the findings of any survey report.

Cllr Wallage asked Parish Council to consider whether the terms of reference for the Working Group required changing to consider information from a survey and valuation at this stage or whether to develop the draft business case using assumptions as originally agreed

County Councillors Hall and Kellett agreed to fund the survey/valuation 50/50 from their Neighbourhood Budgets.

Parish Council resolved to agree to progress obtaining a structural survey/valuation utilising support from DCC, and then obtain three quotes to secure grant funding offered by Cllr Hall and Kellett.

10) Parish Plan Update

Cllr Wallage advised that some progress had been made but implementation of allocated tasks is behind timescales and that there appears to be some misunderstanding of what action is required.

Cllr Wallage agreed to recirculate the Parish Plan Action Plan and speak with individual members to ensure clarity in the work required.

11) Field House Open Cast Community Liaison Committee

Cllr Morson advised that works were ongoing. Dust and noise have been at acceptable levels. Cllr Morson advised the application forms for grant funding from the Community Fund are now available.

12) Field House Community Fund Committee (CFC)

Cllr Wallage advised that a request had been received for a Parish Council representative on the funding committee who will assess applications for grant funding.

Parish Council resolved to approve Cllr Morson as the representative.

13) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Haddick advised there was nothing of note to raise from the meeting. He did advise that the Village News requires an editor.

14) Smaller Councils Forum

Cllr Wallage advised that she had attended the Smaller Councils Forum. She fed back that the DCC Risk Officer is looking to develop some risk management training with CDALC.

Consultation on the latest County Durham Plan in progress. It was noted that there is now provision for two alternative routes for the Northern Relief Road.

Cllr Hall added that there has been significant feedback regarding traffic.

Cllr Wallage advised that individuals should review the document and comment as a member of the public if they feel necessary.

Cllr Wallage also gave some feedback on proposals for raising public sector standards, including increased powers for monitoring officers re members code of conduct issues and mandatory qualifications for Parish Clerks.

There are also new proposals for HMLT compliant websites that the Parish Council may need to consider as part of the Website review.

There will be some training opportunities for councillors, via CDALC training programme, in June/July 2019.

15) Anti-Social Behaviour: Multi Agency Meeting

Cllr Storey had prepared a report for members in his absence. Cllr Gilbank suggested that the situation was improving.

The latest PACT Meeting was attended by one person who was Cllr Kellett. Cllr Wallage asked that the Parish Clerk display the dates of future meetings on the Parish Council website.

16) Crime Statistics

Report was circulated. No comments.

17) General correspondence

Correspondence had been received regarding dog fouling within the Village. This remains an outstanding action from the Parish Plan.

The Parish Clerk advised that he had received notification from DCC of their receipt of 6 individual alleged breaches of the member code of conduct by a parish councillor.

18) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council resolved to approve that the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday 21st March 2019 at 19.00, Arden House, West Rainton

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS:

Parish Council resolved to exclude the press and public from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (Section 2)

19) Village Green Encroachment

The Parish Clerk circulated a letter sent to the resident by DCC Legal Officer and advised that no response had been received at the time of the Meeting.