

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on

At 19:00 on Thursday 17 September 2020

(Remote Meeting Via Zoom Technology –

Permissible under Sec 78 of the Corona Virus Act 2020)

Present: Councillors I Diggory, I Haddick (Chairman), P Lowrie & A Wallage

In attendance:

M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kellett (unable to access via technology), Cllr Boettcher (family commitments) and Cllr Gilbank (family commitments).

Parish Council resolved to approve these absences.

No apologies had been received from Cllrs Morson and Storey. Their absences are unapproved.

2) Declarations of interest

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

3) Public Participation

Despite the meeting being published on the website and the noticeboards including the Zoom link, no members of the public opted to login in.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

Signature.....

Date.....

5) Finance Report

PART

A: FOR INFORMATION

1. INCOME: Nil

2. EXPENDITURE

A) Expenditure previously agreed by Parish Council due this month

ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	CHEQUE NO.
1	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk Net Salary - September 2020	387.86	303095
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - September 2020	97.00	303096
3	Special Branch Tree Services	Cemetery Grounds Maintenance - July & August 2020	616.80	303097
4	Mr G Coates	Village Maintenance x 14hrs @ £10 per hr plus £14 materials (24 & 25/8 & 2/9)	154.00	303098
5	Mr G Coates	Heritage Garden Maintenance (Cheque raised in August to ensure cash flow for new contractor)	227.97	303094
TOTAL			1483.63	

B) Expenditure requiring approval

ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	CHEQUE NO.
6	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	Cemetery Water Bill - 16/03/20-01/08/20	20.79	Y	303099
7	M Ramshaw	Reimbursement - Zoom Subscription August & September 2020	28.78	Y	3030100
8	Communicorp	Subscription Renewal	12.00	Y	303101
TOTAL			61.57		

C) Bank Balances - For Information

Total Expenditure A + B	£1,545.20
Current A/C bank balance if all paid	£55,697.84
Reserve Account Balance	£15,140.02

Parish Council resolved to:

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

6) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20

The Parish Clerk advised that the return had not yet been received from the external auditor. Item to be deferred to the next meeting.

7) Planning Applications

Cllr Haddick referred members to the planning applications relevant to the Parish area. He advised that he had written to DCC regarding the allocation of S106 funding in light of the proposed changes to the Benridge Bank development which would see the S106 monies reduce. No other comments were made in relation to any of the planning applications.

8) Replacement Fencing / Hedge for current Boulders on land opposite the petrol station

Cllr Haddick advised members that he had met with DCC and a company that would look at the removal of the boulders. The removal of the boulders to be replaced with wooden fencing was approved in principal last year. Cllr Haddick advised that he has asked for a quotation for the installation of a metal fence with an accompanying hedge. These quotes will be brought back to Parish Council when received.

There has been some local support in relation to the boulder removal after an article in the Village News.

Cllr Diggory queried whether the proposal would cover all areas of the Village and was advised that it was just for the one particular area opposite the Garage at this stage.

9) Village Maintenance

a) Heritage Garden

A new contractor has been engaged as a result of the previous contractor being unable to carry out the required maintenance. The new contractor has carried out the maintenance around the Heritage Garden to a good standard and is planting winter bedding plants within the Heritage Garden and the 3 West Rainton signs. Parish Council resolved to continuing utilising the new contractor on an ad-hoc basis.

b) Village Planters

Cllr Wallage advised once again that no quote had been forthcoming from the original contractor for the planting of the winter bedding plants or the paving installation for the planters to stand on. Parish Council discussed whether the new contractor would be able to carry out the work required with the new and existing planters including the planting of the winter bedding plants.

Cllr Haddick suggested that all planters be planted with winter pansies.

Cllr Wallage advised that work is required to clear and dismantle some of the existing planters as well as siting and filling the new planters which are yet to be delivered. The cost last year was around £1200 but due to the increase in planters the costs could be around £2000 for the planting.

Cllr Lowrie offered an option of someone to collect and get rid of the existing planters which would be no longer required.

Signature.....

Date.....

Parish Council resolved to approve that Cllr Haddick approach the Nursery with regards to bulk buying the required plants, top soil etc. and Cllr Wallage approach the new contractor, G Coates, to see if you could carry out the planting of the planters around the village.

10) Installation for the Christmas Tree

Cllr Wallage advised members that the bid to the Hargraves fund for £7800 had been successful. The initial bid was based on the previous quotation from DCC however the final quote has been received at £8900 + VAT. Funding for the shortfall is to be met by the Parish Council. There will be ongoing annual costs estimated at around £1500 a year. This will include the tree, lighting, electricity and removal.

Parish Council resolved to approve the costs and move on with the Project. Cllr Wallage to advise Parish Clerk of contact at DCC for the placing of the order.

11) Cemetery - Overhanging Trees

The Parish Clerk advised that an email had been received from a neighbour of the cemetery regarding the large trees closest to his property. Some original quotes had been received to trim the trees back however Parish Council considered the fact of the close proximity of the trees to the property and the maintenance that would be required annually.

Parish Council resolved to approve spend of up to £1200 for the removal of the trees if a quotation could be sought under this value. Parish Clerk to approach the contractor. Cllr Wallage advised that there are other trees around the Village that will require attention and these need to be considered within budget planning for 2021/22.

12) Jubilee Hall

The Parish Clerk advised of an email received from Craig Morgan from Durham AAP with regards to the Parish Council financially supporting Jubilee Hall. Cllr Haddick commented that DCC have £112000 available which could fund a Manager or the required repairs. Cllr Wallage felt that it was difficult to comment at the current time as the bigger picture and plans are not known by the Parish Council and she did not feel that Parish Council was in a position to comment at this time.

The Parish Council does hold the balance of the survey and valuation funding which is £2250 which is to be returned to DCC (AAP) and it could be suggested that this money is redirected back to Jubilee Hall.

Parish Council acknowledged that the Jubilee Hall is a valuable asset to the Village but are unable to commit any funding at this stage. Parish Clerk to respond to Craig Morgan.

13) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Wallage advised that the proposal for the Christmas Tree installation had come second in the public vote consultation exercise. 173 votes had been received in total. This means that there is some funding available as a result of coming second. Parish Council felt that any funding available could be used to make up the shortfall in funding for the Christmas Tree. Cllr Wallage to approach the Village Partnership.

14) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised two pieces of correspondence had been received.

The first was received from a member of the public with regards to the installation of fibre optic broadband in Leamside. There is currently an initiative from DCC and Parish Council asked the Parish Clerk to seek information from DCC.

The second message was from a member of the public regarding the quality of the grass cutting at the Cemetery. We are nearing the end of the grass cutting season and in the main no negative feedback has been received this year regarding the contractor. Parish Clerk to visit the cemetery and take any action as appropriate.

15) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 15th October 2020 at 19.00 via online video platform (Zoom) in line with current Government guidance at the time.

Signature.....

Date.....