

West Rainton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 21 December 2017 at Arden House, West Rainton

Present: Councillors I Clifford (Chairman), M Boettcher, M Gilbank, I Haddick, P Lowrie, G Storey, A Wallage.

9 x Members of the Public and County Councillor D Hall.

In attendance: M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk and G Keedy, Project Officer.

NOTE: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor P Morson (work commitments). **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 raised an issue with regards to parking congestion opposite the Village Hall. Parish Clerk to write to Durham County Council with the issues.

A member of the public also raised the speed limit on the 'top road' in the Village. Cllr Clifford informed the member of the public that some speeding tests had been done but that Community Speedwatch is an initiative on a later Agenda item.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th November 2017 be approved as a correct record.

5) Crime Information/Community Speedwatch

Parish Council noted the information provided by Cllr Clifford. It was noted that there were no major spikes in crime activity.

Cllr Clifford informed those present that the local Neighbourhood Team would like to set up a team of volunteers. The volunteers would need to be vetted and would then be able to take part in community Speedwatch exercises. Anyone interested is advised to email the Parish Clerk who will pass the information on.

6) Finance Report

Part A: For information:

1. **Income:**

2. **Expenditure**

Expenditure previously approved by Parish Council due this month

	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk net salary – December 2017	£350.23
2	G Keedy	Project Officer net salary – December 2017	£372.16
3	HMRC	Combined HMRC liabilities - December 2017	£180.60
4	D Lewins	Cemetery Gatekeeper Gratuity Payment – December 2017	£80.00
5	A Baker	Pruning and Winter tidy up – Heritage Garden	£105.00
6	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Election Training 1/3/17 – M Ramshaw & G Keedy Re-Issue due to incorrect payee on previous cheque (302779)	£54.00
7	Gilpin Press	25 laminated A3 Poster for Carols around the Xmas tree	£30.00
8	Gilpin Press	40 A3 laminated posters & 300 A5 colour leaflets	£83.42
9	Durham City Homes	Hire of Arden House 15/6/17 2 hours	£10.00
TOTAL			£1265.41

Part B: Expenditure requiring approval

	Payee	Purpose	Amount	Budget Provision Y/N
10	A Baker	Erection of Xmas Tree and improvements to Heritage Garden	£240.00	Y
11	Pittington Brass Band	Xmas Carol Service appearance Donation	£100.00	Y
12	Leamside Nurseries	Xmas Tree	£104.00	Y
13	M Ramshaw	Re-imburement Batteries for Xmas tree lights	£16.00	Y
14	M Ramshaw	Re-imburement for Xmas Lights.	£33.98	Y
15	Information Commissioner	Data Controller Registration renewal	£35.00	Y
TOTAL			£528.98	Y

Part C: Bank Balances – For Information

Total Expenditure included above	£1794.39
Anticipated current a/c bank balance if all paid	£7119.44
Reserve Account Balance	£15033.52

Parish Council resolved to:

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

Signed..... Date.....

7) Planning Applications

There were no comments with regards to the planning applications which are circulated on a weekly basis.

Cllr Clifford informed that there had been an approach from Avant Homes to meet with representatives of the Parish Council to allay any fears around future developments and discuss monies that may be available through the developments. **Parish Council resolved to approve** that Cllrs Clifford and Wallage attend the meeting with Avant Homes.

Parish Council then considered information received from Durham County Council regarding the purchase of land adjacent to 34 the Crescent. The purchase appears to be for use as a garden area. Parish Council had no objections to the proposal as stated.

8) Youth Service Provision

Cllr Boettcher declared an interest in this item and left the Meeting (19:15).

Cllr Clifford referred to the previously circulated report regarding the request from Durham Area Youth for £6000.00 for 18/19 to maintain the current services and hopefully prove a catalyst for further partnership working to deliver a variety of youth programmes in West Rainton in future years.

County Councillor Hall advised that Durham Area Youth was a charitable organisation and any youth workers will be newly recruited.

After questions and discussion **Parish Council resolved** to approve the request from Durham Area Youth for £6000.00 funding for 2018/19 only.

Cllr Boettcher returned to the Meeting after conclusion of this agenda item.

9) Governance Review

Cllr Clifford informed those present that the petition would need 250 signatories and to date there are around 200 signatures. Parish Councillors to continue to obtain signatures in support of the proposals.

10) Grant Applications 2018/19

Four grant applications had been received with a total value of £1405. **Parish Council resolved to** defer any decisions to the January meeting to allow time to consider the budget build for 2018/19.

11) Complaint from a Parishioner

The Project Officer referred to his previously circulated report and provided a verbal summary of the issues, his investigations and recommendations.

Cllr Gilbank questioned the identity of the complainant and felt that any decision could not be made without knowing the name of the complainant. He added that it was his understanding that previous investigations by other bodies into this (or a similar) complaint had not been substantiated.

Project Officer advised that he had previously agreed with the complainant that they would not be identified and advised Parish Council that to do so would not materially affect the content or validity of the report. Furthermore, that his report had been compiled based upon information following research and the content was independent of any historic perceptions.

Cllr Boettcher considered that the report was sufficient to make a decision and Parish Council should proceed as recommended.

A member of the public in attendance indicated their wish to speak.

Parish Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders.

Cllr Clifford reiterated the recommendation of the Project Officer to provide the complainant with a formal written apology and asked Parish Council to vote on the recommendation by show of hands. Councillors Boettcher, Clifford, Haddick, Lowrie, Storey and Wallage voted for the recommendation. Cllr Gilbank voted against the recommendation and asked for his objection to be formally minuted.

Parish Council resolved to approve the recommendation that a formal written apology be given to the complainant.

Councillors Haddick and Boettcher expressed to the Chairman their objections to Cllr Gilbank's behaviour following the vote on this item.

These were acknowledged by the Chairman.

12) Buckingham Palace Garden Party 2018

Parish Council considered nominations to go into a draw for an invitation to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party. Both Annabel Burns and Violet Gibson's names were put forward. Parish Clerk to inform Annabel and Violet.

Clerk's Note: *Since the meeting it has come to the attention of the Clerk that the invitation is specifically to recognise for past service as a Chairman of a Parish Council. Unfortunately neither nominee would meet this criterion.*

13) Battles Over: A Nations Tribute

Parish Council discussed a possible commemoration event for the end of WW1 being held 1st November 2018. Parish Council decided that as any event would involve expenditure it could not commit to holding an event due to other financial priorities.

Signed..... Date.....

14) The future of Jubilee Hall – Proposals from DCC for WRLCA and West Rainton Parish Council consideration

Janet Tayler, Secretary of WRLCA circulated a report authored by her which outlined proposals from the CA and Durham County Council to potentially secure the future of Jubilee Hall. Janet provided a verbal summary.

Parish Council resolved to:

Acknowledge the importance of Jubilee Hall as a community facility.

Contact Durham County Council directly to obtain more details of their formal position.

Consider suitable arrangements for the setting up of a cross-interest group to inform the Parish Council's possible role in any potential options to secure the future of Jubilee Hall.

15) Cemetery Update

Project Officer advised that another three headstones that were laid flat have now been repaired.

16) General Correspondence

No correspondence to be discussed.

17) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council resolved that the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7.00pm at Arden House, West Rainton.