

West Rainton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on

Thursday 18 January 2018

at Arden House, West Rainton

Present: Councillors I Clifford (Chairman), M Boettcher, A Fisher (from item 6) Haddick, P Lowrie, P Morson, G Storey, A Wallage.

5 x Members of the Public

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 M Gilbank (previous commitment). **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

There were no items for discussion.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st December 2017 be approved as a correct record.

5) Parish Councillor Co-option

a) Clerks Note: Parish Council had initially been presented with 2 applications for the parish councillor vacancy. Prior to the meeting commencing the Chairman and Parish Clerk met with both candidates to explain the process of co-option. At this stage one candidate voluntarily offered to stand down her application with a view to re-submitting her application if any future vacancies were to arise.

Parish Council considered the written submission from local resident Anne Fisher, who also went on to speak around her written submission. Since Mrs. Fisher met the essential role and eligibility criteria **Parish Council resolved** to co-opt Mrs Fisher. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and dated by Anne Fisher and the Parish Clerk. Councillor Fisher joined the

meeting at this stage and was welcomed by the Chairman to the Parish Council.

- b) Cllr Clifford informed the meeting that 270 signatures had now been obtained for the petition in respect of the Community Governance Review. **Parish Council resolved** to approve that the Project Officer instigate the next steps in the process as the required number of signatures had been obtained.

6) Crime Information

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

7) 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	£350.03
2	G Keedy	Project Officer net salary – December 2017	£372.36
3	HMRC	Combined HMRC liabilities - December 2017	£180.60
4	D Lewins	Cemetery Gatekeeper Gratuity Payment – December 2017	£80.00
TOTAL			£982.99

Part B: Expenditure requiring approval

	Payee	Purpose	Amount	Budget Provision Y/N
5	John D Waugh	War Memorial – Site survey and detailed drawings for listed building consent application	£204.00	Y
6	WR&L Community Association	Hire of Jubilee Hall 19/12/16	£45.00	Y

7	Durham City Homes	Hire of Arden House 16/11/17 2 hours	£10.00	Y
8	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Payroll maintenance 1/1/18 – 31/3/18	£90.00	Y
TOTAL			£349.00	

Part C: Bank Balances – For Information

Total Expenditure included above	£1331.99
Anticipated current a/c bank balance if all paid	£5841.45
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

8) Budget Position Q3 2017/18

Parish Council considered the previously circulated quarter 3 budget position statement. The budget remains on target and **Parish Council resolved** to note the position statement.

9) Precept 2018-19

Cllr Clifford referred to the previously circulated Report and draft Budget for 2018/19.

Cllr Clifford explained that for the Parish Council to support youth services within the Village to the value of £6000 and due to other financial pressures, options had been included in the report linked to proposed precept increases. Parish Council acknowledged that the Parish Plan had identified youth engagement as a key area to be improved and that the precept had not been increased in recent history.

Following discussion, two proposals were considered:

- 1) Cllr Clifford proposed (seconded by Cllr Haddick) that the precept for 18-19 be increased by 30%. A vote by show of hands produced the outcome: five in favour, two against, one abstention*.
- 2) Cllr Wallage proposed (seconded by Cllr Lowrie) that the precept for 18-19 be increased by 25%. A vote by show of hands produced the outcome: two in favour, five against, one abstention*.

*Cllr Boettcher abstained due to her previously declared interest as Trustee of Durham Action Youth.

Option 1 was carried.

Parish Council resolved to:

Approve the 2018-19 budget;

Set the precept for 2018-2019 at £33665.00 and a Band D council tax charge of £49.30 (representing a 30% increase);

Submit the precept request to Durham County Council.

10) Planning Applications

Parish Council noted that planning permission has been sought regarding works on the War Memorial.

11) Meeting with Avant Homes

Cllr Clifford referred member to the previously circulated information regarding a meeting with Avant Homes regarding the Benridge Bank development. Some concerns around traffic and access were raised. There were no further comments on the information.

12) Grant Applications 2018/19

Parish Council considered the following 5 grant applications. In light of the pressures on the budget for 2018/19 Parish Council considered each application:

- West Rainton & Leamside Green Group
Flower tub planting £200, Insurance £150, Venue Hire £180 and Equipment Maintenance £50

Due to some of the costings being submitted being deemed as running costs, which cannot be funded through the grant process, **Parish Council resolved** to approve a grant of £200 towards the flower tub planting only.

- West Rainton & Leamside Partnership
Wildflower Planting £250

Parish Council Council resolved to approve a grant of £250

- St Mary's Church PCC
The Big Lunch Picnic (Portaloos & St John's Ambulance) £314

Parish Council resolved to approve a grant of £314

- 1st Rainton Gate Brownies
Brownie family trip to the pantomime £261

Parish Council resolved to approve a grant of £261

- West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership
Replanting and replacing (some) planters throughout the Village £250

Parish Council resolved to approve a grant of £250

13) Jubilee Hall – Information Update

Project Officer informed Parish Council that a letter had been sent to DCC (as requested at December meeting), seeking more detailed information. A response had been on the afternoon of the meeting, but had arrived too late to be tabled.

However, he reported that upon first reading the letter did not appear to fully address the queries raised.

Parish Council resolved that the Parish Clerk should liaise further with the representative from DCC to obtain a detailed response.

Cllr Clifford suspended standing orders and a member of the public queried the deadline of the end of March 2018 for the Parish Council to apply for any form of funding in respect of Jubilee Hall. Cllr Wallage confirmed an awareness of the deadline and that more time would be made available if required.

Cllr Clifford re-instated standing orders.

14) General Correspondence

No correspondence to be discussed or any feedback from previously circulated general emails.

15) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council resolved that the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 7.00pm at Arden House, West Rainton.