

West Rainton Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on

Thursday 20 December 2018

At Arden House, West Rainton

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

In attendance: M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk and G Keedy, Project Officer.
CountyCouncillors B Kellett and D Hall
2 representatives from the Police
4 members of the public
Durham Area Youth

NOTE: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

No apology had been received from Cllr P Morson and **Parish Council resolved** not 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 there was any update on the anti-social behaviour issues and the associated planning issues relating to the request to block off access to the railway line reported previously to the Police and DCC. 2 police officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team were in attendance at the meeting specifically for the purpose of giving an update on Anti Social behaviour issues. They stated that there had been no reports recently but there had been a number of incidents around Halloween/Bonfire night. They advised that a core of ten youths had been identified and that they had spoken with them all. The Police are working with a number of agencies including Durham County Council, Housing Associations and the County Councillors. The Police encourage anyone with any issues to report them.

Another member of the public raised the issue of drinking and debris around Chantry Place and the Police asked for these issues to be reported.Cllr Storey asked what the Police thought about the anti-social behaviour in West

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Rainton compared to other local areas. The Police advised it was no different to other areas.

The Police also gave an update on other crime/incidents reported within the parish in the last month.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair, thanked Police Officers for their attendance and welcomed the multi agency approach put in place to help address residents concerns.

Cllr Gilbank stated that he had no faith in the Police.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

5) Parish Councillor Co-option

The Parish Clerk informed Parish Council that the co-option advert had attracted one applicant who was present at the meeting, Bill Kellett. Mr. Kellett, well known to the Parish Council as a local DCC ward member, outlined his experience and rationale behind applying to become a Parish Councillor. Parish Council considered the application and **resolved to agree** to Bill Kellett being co-opted as a Parish Councillor to West Rainton Parish Council.

The declaration of acceptance form was signed by Mr Kellett and witnessed by the Parish Clerk. Cllr Kellett took a seat with other Parish Councillors to participate in the meeting.

6) Durham Area Youth – DAY Project Report and request for funding 2019/20

The Chair referred those present to the report prepared by DAY which had been previously circulated. Cllr Gilbank queried that within the report the application for £6000 had not been included. Rachel Roberts advised that the report had been written detailing the other funding outside of the £6000.

Cllr Gilbank proposed that DAY be asked to complete a grant application form and the request deferred until January when it could be considered with other grants in line with the council’s grant and donation Policy.

Cllr Wallage advised that the Policy does allow consideration of funding requests outside of the usual approach of considering grant applications. Given the nature of the funding request and the detailed information provided in support, she was of the view that consideration of this funding request, outside of the grants and donations application process, as last year, was appropriate.

Cllr Gilbank asked for his objection to considering the request for funding to be noted.

Cllr Haddick considered the report to include all the detail that was required to consider the proposal now and there was no need to defer. Cllr Wallage queried the Big Lottery Funding and was advised by Rachel Roberts that it was hoped the decision would be no later than the end of January 2019.

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Cllr Wallage advised the meeting that this funding request was a request to commit funding to youth service provision as a budget priority for next year and was therefore different to other funding requests considered under the grants and donations policy. She therefore proposed that it be approved.

Parish Council resolved to approve £6,000 DAY funding for 2019/20.

Cllr Gilbank asked that it be noted that he was not in agreement with this decision.

7) FINANCE REPORT

Part A: For information:

1. **Income:** £150.00 Co-op Funeral Services Ltd (KC 1/12/18)
£1010.00 DCC County Councillor Contribution – Cemetery Project

2. **Expenditure**

Expenditure previously approved by Parish Council due this month

	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk net salary – December 2018	£370.16
2	G Keedy	Project Officer net salary – December 2018	£378.56
3	HM Revenue and Customs Only	Combined HMRC liabilities - December 2018	£187.20
4	D Lewins	Cemetery Gatekeeper Gratuity Payment – December 2018	£80.00
5	Durham Stonemasonry & Restoration	Balance for granite with inscription for war memorial	£216.00
6	Greenbarnes Ltd.	Cemetery Project - Timber notice board, post mounted	£1556.61
TOTAL			£2788.53

Part B: Expenditure requiring approval

	Payee	Purpose	Amount	Budget Provision Y/N
7	Durham City Homes	Arden House – room hire 15/11/18 2 hrs	£10.00	Y
8	Pittington Brass Band	Donation – Xmas Carol Performance	£100.00	Y

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9	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Data Controller Registration renewal 2019	£40.00	Y
10	Max Recycle	Excess Weight – Cemetery Waste	£5.38	Y
11	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk reimbursement (2 x sets of Xmas lights and batteries for Xmas Lights)	£49.00	Y
TOTAL			£204.38	Y

Part C: Bank Balances – For Information

Total Expenditure included above	£2992.91
Anticipated current a/c bank balance if all paid	£20183.63
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
3. Note the £35.00 cheque no.302901 issued 15/11/18 has been cancelled as it was not required
4. Note that income reported at November 2018 meeting Re: GD Records Search £25.00 is not required by the applicant and as such has stopped the cheque.

8) Heritage Garden Maintenance Contract

Cllr Wallage advised that the current contract expires 31 March and that she had asked A Baker if he would be willing to extend his contract for another year and at what price but he hadn't come back prior to the meeting. Parish Council resolved to agree to the extension of the contract in principle subject to consideration of a written quotation.

9) Planning Applications

Cllr Wallage advised that she and Cllr Haddick had attended a meeting at County Hall with County Councillors, planning officers and the developers of the Station Road housing development for an update on their intentions. The developers wish to commence on site asap.

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The traffic improvements for A690 remain a key concern following the relaxation of the planning condition requiring the road traffic scheme improvements to be in place before the development commences. Concerns were raised that the design for the proposed improvements has not even been agreed yet.

County Cllr Hall advised that he has requested a further meeting with Highways Officers to try and resolve asap.

Cllr Kellett expressed his view that the improvements at the junction are a priority and the application couldn't be supported until the improved traffic arrangements are in place.

Cllr Wallage advised that the Community Hub element of the development had not attracted much interest in the Retail Units and further amendments were likely to be submitted by the developer at a later date.

10) Jubilee Hall

Cllr Wallage informed those present that the Parish Council Working Group had completed the paper work for the formation of the Community Interest Company. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for the beginning of January 2019.

11) Cemetery

a) Grave Adornment Policy

The Project Officer referred those present to his previously circulated report. He advised that there hadn't been a great deal of feedback from the first draft and other Parish Councils had given limited information around their approaches.

Cllr Gilbank asked if the word 'allowed' could be replaced with 'permitted'.

Cllr Haddick stated that as local feedback was of a similar approach then he felt the Policy should be accepted. Cllr Wallage commented that Parish Council needed to consider enforcement and how this would take place. Cllr Wallage then reiterated the rationale behind the need for a Policy being Health and Safety issues.

Parish Council resolved to approve the Policy with an implementation date of 1st March 2018 and publish an article in the February edition of the Village News. The Policy is also to be displayed on the new cemetery notice board.

b) Update on brick building demolition

The Parish Clerk advised that DCC Planning Department now require an ecology report on the building to include a bat risk assessment. The Parish Clerk advised that he was in the process of obtaining quotations which would be brought to the January meeting.

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c) General maintenance Issues

The Project Officer advised that he had confirmed with Leamside Nurseries that they would do the required tree removal work. To date this has not happened and the Project Officer agreed to follow this up.

d) Memorial Wall

Cllr Haddick has no update but agreed to progress in the New Year.

12) Community Governance Review

The Project Officer advised that Durham County Council had published its final recommendations which were to reduce the number of Parish Councillors from eleven to nine at the elections in 2021. The proposal to rename to West Rainton and Leamside Parish Council to be implemented from 1st April 2019.

This information means that the Parish Council needs to consider further co-option to the two current vacancies. To be considered at the January meeting.

13) Grant Applications for 2019/20

Parish Clerk referred to the previously circulated information regarding the grant applications that had been received for 2019/20 funding under the grants and donations policy. The Clerk advised that financial information submitted in support of a number of applications required clarification.

Cllr Wallage proposed that consideration of all grant applications be deferred until the January meeting to allow queries to be followed up and consideration of funding requests to be made in view of the proposed budget for next year.

Parish Council resolved to agree delaying consideration of the grant applications until the January meeting.

14) Parish Plan Update

Cllr Gilbank advised that he has requested a map on salt bin locations for West Rainton and Leamside. Currently all salt bins are filled and there is the potential for a further bin at the junction of Station Road and School Avenue.

Cllr Gilbank to obtain further information regarding requirements for additional salt bins. Cllr Wallage advised that new waste bins ordered by the Parish Council had been installed next to the bus stops.

Cllr Wallage provided some feedback on the outcome of police covert speeding surveys on Old Sunderland Road. Data captured confirmed the speeding the concerns of residents with the majority of motorists not adhering to the 30 mph speed limit. In response the Police have undertaken some targeted speed checks in the area. Options for longer term deterrents were discussed but DCC are unable to fund. Any road safety improvements would therefore need to be funded by the Parish Council and/or external funding. DCC have advised the preferred, and most likely only affordable option, is to have more "SLOW" signs painted on the road - £500 each. To be considered as part of next year's budget.

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Cllr Gilbank enquired whether an application for S106 monies could be made to assist with funding but there is no S106 money currently available.

15) Improving Parish Council Communication

Cllr Diggory discussed ideas for improving communication between the Parish Council and the local residents. This included consideration of a demo of another potential website development. The idea of a working group was discussed.

Parish Council resolved to approve a Working Group to be formed to include Cllrs Diggory, Storey and Haddick. The remit of the working group is to consider proposals for improving communication and report back to Parish Council.

16) British Heart Foundation's Nation of Lifesavers Community Package

Cllr Gilbank advised that he didn't have an update on queries raised previously at this stage.

Cllr Kellett advised that he felt the British Heart Foundation (BHF) are the experts and would be best placed to discuss the location of a defibrillator. Cllr Gilbank advised that the BHF had suggested Jubilee Hall as a site. Cllr Gilbank was asked to seek confirmation from BHF. However he advised that he did not want anything further to do with the project.

Cllr Kellett offered to follow up on the project. Cllr Wallage asked if Cllr Gilbank could pass over any information he had on the project to Cllr Kellett. He refused.

17) Field House Open Cast Community Liaison Committee

There were no updates. Latest minutes have been circulated.

18) West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Wallage advised that Hargreaves had attended the last meeting of the Village Partnership at the request of the Village Partnership. They outlined plans for the Community Fund but these are not finalised. There will be a Parish Council representative on the Community Fund Committee but it is not yet known if this is to be Cllr Morson, as the Parish Council's representative on the Community Liaison Committee, or whether the Parish Council will be required to nominate another member for this role.

19) Crime Statistics

The report prepared by Cllr Haddick was circulated.

Cllr Gilbank queried what input Durham County Council have into reducing crime and incidents within the Village. Cllr Wallage advised that the relevant bodies are working together as advised by the Police.

20) General Correspondence

There were no items to raise.

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21) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council resolved to approve that the next Meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday 17th January 2019 at 7.00pm at 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)

22) Village Green Encroachment

Previously Parish Council had considered the legal advice that had been received and asked the Parish Clerk should correspond with the resident regarding the alleged encroachment in light of the advice received. The Parish Clerk advised no response or subsequent evidence had been received. Parish Council asked the Parish Clerk to seek further advice from the County Solicitor with a view to issuing a legal letter.

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