

# West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on

At 19:00 on Thursday 21 May 2020

(Remote Meeting Via Zoom Technology –

Permissible under Sec 78 of the Corona Virus Act 2020)

**Present:** Councillors M Boettcher, I Diggory, I Haddick, M Gilbank, P Lowrie, G Storey & A Wallage

**In attendance:**

M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

**1) Election of Chairman for 2020/21**

The Parish Clerk welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and asked those present for nominations for Chairman for the coming Year. Cllr Wallage nominated Cllr Haddick and seconded by Cllr Lowrie. There were no other nominations. **Parish Council resolved to approve** Cllr Haddick as Chairman for the upcoming Year.

**2) Declaration of Office**

Due to the current situation, the Parish Clerk advised that the declaration of Office would be signed on the following day when both the Parish Clerk and Chairman would meet to sign cheques.

**3) Election of Vice-Chairman for 2020/21**

Cllr Haddick advised Parish Council that as in previous years Parish Council can elect a Vice-Chairman. Cllr Wallage advised that she would be happy to stand for the role of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Haddick nominated Cllr Wallage, and this was seconded by Cllr Boettcher. There were no other nominations. **Parish Council resolved to approve** Cllr Wallage as Vice-Chairman for the coming Year.

**4) Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kellett (unable to access via technology) and Cllr Morson (work commitment and technical difficulties).

**Parish Council resolved** to approve these absences.

Signature.....

Date.....

## **5) Declarations of interest**

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

## **6) Appointments to Outside Bodies**

Parish Council considered nominations for the three Groups. It was acknowledged that some continuity would be beneficial. Cllr Diggory reiterated the need for strong links with the Village Partnership. **Parish Council resolved to approve** the following:

- West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership – Cllr Wallage
- Smaller Council Forum – Cllr Boettcher
- Opencast Liaison Committee / Community Funding Committee – Cllr Morson

## **7) Public Participation**

Despite the meeting being published on the website and the noticeboards no members of the public had enquired for the detail to participate in the meeting online.

## **8) Minutes**

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

## 9) Finance Report

WEST RAINTON & LEAMSIDE PARISH COUNCIL					
ITEM:	9	FINANCE REPORT			
DATE:	21/05/2020				
PART A: FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME		Burial (RC) S W Funeral Services (BACS)	£305.00		
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 - May 2020	387.86	303074	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liabilities - May 2020	97.00	303075	
3	Special Branch Tree Services	Cemetery Grounds Maintenance - April 2020	308.40	303076	
4	West Rainton and Leamside Partnership	Grant - West Rainton & Leamside Banner Group	1000.00	303077	
<b>TOTAL</b>			1793.26		
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	CHEQUE NO.
5	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	Cemetery Water Bill - 2/2/20-15/3/20	7.12	Y	303078
<b>TOTAL</b>			7.12		
C) Bank Balances - For Information					
			£		
Total Expenditure A + B			1800.38		
Current A/C bank balance if all paid			60580.03		
Reserve Account Balance			15140.02		

### Parish Council resolved to:

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

Signature.....

Date.....

## **10) Planning Applications**

Parish Council considered 1 application that had been made with regards to a revised application for access to an agricultural field. No feedback from Parish Council although there was some discussion regarding the access it already appears there is access to the field in situ.

## **11) Parish Councillor Vacancies**

The Parish Clerk advised that once again there had been no interest. It was acknowledged that the current situation does not help in trying to co-opt new Councillors. **Parish Council resolved to approve** a further advert with a deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020.

## **12) Update on Village Planters**

**a) Planting of Existing Planters** - Cllr Haddick advised that he had spoken with Anthony Baker of AB Smart Gardens who is happy to replant the planters at last years' prices (Approx. £600). Stock has been difficult to obtain due to the current pandemic. Anthony advised that he should be able to get the stock required for the beginning of June. Cllr Haddick advised that Anthony had suggested a change in the planters. The conifers are taking a lot of the moisture from the planters and this is to the detriment of the other plants. He has suggested that these be replaced with cordylines as they require much less moisture. These could be replaced at a cost of around £130-£160 and supplied locally by Leamside Nurseries. **Parish Council resolved** to approve 1) Replanting the existing Planters at a cost in the region of £600 and 2) Replace the Conifers with Cordylines for the reasons mentioned previously.

**b) Quote for Flagstones under existing and new planters** – Cllr Haddick discussed the current planters being lob-sided and the area around them being dead from continued spraying. Cllr Haddick advised that he had some discussion with Durham County Council who advised if Parish Council were to have flag stones laid, they would move the planters onto the flags and seed the area where they had previously been. After some discussion Cllr Haddick agreed to obtain a quotation for laying the flags and bring back to Parish Council for consideration at the end of the Summer.

## **13) Request to plant green space – Finchale View**

Cllr Wallage advised that a resident from Finchale View had approached County Councillor David Hall with regards to planting of some green space at Finchale View. Cllr Hall had then approached Cllr Wallage as he was aware that the Parish Council was developing a Planting Plan. Cllr Diggory advised that he resides nearby, and any planting of the green space would be detrimental to the families who currently use the area for picnics and recreational activities. He went on to advise that a more pressing issue is the poor quality fence which is often blown down in strong winds and has been repaired several times.

Cllr Wallage advised that County Councillor Hall was dealing with the fencing problem.

Cllr Haddick agreed to contact County Councillor Hall with regards to the situation.

**14) Field House Open Cast Liaison Committee**

Whilst Cllr Morson was not present, he had provided a brief update via email. He advised that the site was once again operating. The next meeting of the Committee to be held in September.

**15) General Correspondence**

The Parish Clerk shared an email received regarding the grave adornment policy infringement. This was in response to previous correspondence regarding the removal of a kerb set.

Cllr Wallage advised that the Parish Council should be supportive under the current circumstances. Parish Council asked the Parish Clerk to correspond again, asking for a proposed date from the family to remove the kerb set. Parish Clerk to bring this to the next Parish Council Meeting.

**16) Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Parish Council noted the next Parish Meeting to be held 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 19:00. The Meeting will be held with due regard to Government guidance regarding the Covid 19 pandemic.

Signature.....

Date.....