

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held
at 19:00 On Thursday 5 August 2021

At St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors M Boettcher, I Haddick & A Wallage (Chairperson)

In attendance:

M Ramshaw, Parish Clerk

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

No apologies had been received.

2) Declarations of interest

Parish Council resolved to change item 2 and item 3 around on the Agenda. Therefore item 3 Declarations of Interest was moved to Item 2. It was agreed that declarations of interest would be dealt with as and when the need arose.

3) Co-option of Parish Councillors

The Parish Clerk advised that 5 eligible candidates had applied via the co-option process. Four applicants were present and one was unable to attend due to medical grounds. Each of the 4 applicants present spoke regarding their application and invited questions from Parish Councillors. Parish Council considered the four candidates and **resolved to co-opt** the four applicants who were: Elaine Bulmer, Ian Diggory, Pamela Lowrie and Peter Morson. Parish Council considered the application of Bill Kellett in his absence and again **resolved to co-opt** Bill Kellett to the Parish Council.

The four applicants present signed declaration of acceptance of office forms and these were witnessed by the Parish Clerk. The four newly appointed Parish Councillors took their seats at the meeting.

4) Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

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5) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th June 2021 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19th July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

6) FINANCE REPORT

PART FOR
A: INFORMATION

1. INCOME

Funeral Services Ltd - Re-Open JW (Cheque)	£318
Murray Memorials - Headstone JMch (BACS)	£80

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 - July (£398.50) & August (£398.70) 2021	797.20	303171
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - July (£99.80) & August (£99.60) 2021	199.40	303172
3	Special Branch Tree Services	Cemetery Maintenance Contract - June (£339.24) & July (£339.24) 2021	678.48	303173
TOTAL			1675.08	

B) Expenditure requiring approval

ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	CHEQUE NO.
4	M Ramshaw	Re-imbusement for purchase of 1st class stamps x 24	20.40	Y	303174
5	County Durham Association of Local Councils	CDALC Subscription 2021/22	468.18	Y	303175
6	Leamside Nurseries	Provision of bedding plants/compost for Village Summer Planting	551.72	Y	303176
7	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll	90.00	Y	303177
8	Durham County Council	Waste Disposal Contract (Cemetery)	852.28	Y	303178

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9	St Mary's Church	Hire of Meeting Room 13/5, 17/6, 19/7 & 5/8/21	70.00	Y	303179
10	G Coates	HG maintenance, weeding of planters and around village signs.	180.00	Y	303180
11	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Councillor Chairmanship Training	10.00	Y	303181
TOTAL			2242.58		

Total Expenditure A + B 3917.66

Parish Council resolved to:

1. Note income and expenditure reported for information and also item 5 CDALC Subscription replaces the payment from June as the invoicing from CDALC was incorrect and therefore June's cheque (no. 303168 £322.10) was not issued for payment.
2. Approve expenditure listed in Part B

7) Planning Applications

Cllr Wallage advised new members that the Parish had objected to 2 major planning applications recently, both close together off Pit House Lane. One relating to the Russell Foster Football Centre and one relating to a waste disposal land raise proposal. The Parish Council's response to the Football Centre was also discussed at a Zoom public meeting arranged by our local MP, Mary Foy. She too is to submit a letter of objection. This application is likely to be determined at Planning Committee in September.

Planning Application on the circulated list (DM/21/00995/WAS Address: Land South West of Lumley Moor Farm Pithouse Lane Little Lumley DH4 6QD) related to the waste disposal land raise proposal (mentioned above) previously discussed by Parish Council at its extraordinary meeting held 19 July 2021. Cllr Wallage advised members that subsequent to the Parish Council's submission there had been further objections posted on the DCC Planning Portal by statutory consultees. it is thought unlikely that the application would be approved in its current format.

There were no comments on the other two planning applications that had been circulated by the Parish Clerk.

8) Potential Project Plan

Cllr Wallage introduced this item and advised members that progress with Project developments had been delayed through the COVID Pandemic and then the elections earlier in the year where only 3 members stood for election. It was now an opportune time to take stock and firm up priorities for the current year and over the longer term. The Parish Council is in a good financial position

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and has recently found out that £25K of S106 monies for open spaces/recreational purposes have now been received by DCC from the Station Road Housing development. The receipt of this funding in advance of work commencing was unexpected and is now open to applications from the Sherburn Electoral Division.

Further S106 funding opportunities are expected from the Benridge Bank development in the New Year.

Cllr Wallage referred members to the previously circulated report and supporting papers, including a list of potential improvement projects. As new members had only just been co-opted and had not had an opportunity to review papers in advance of the meeting, an informal session was proposed to initially discuss potential projects listed, and any others that may be identified, to determine what other information was considered necessary to progress projects previously considered by Parish Council and to help determine priorities for new projects before the council could make informed decisions on which projects to progress as part of council plans going forward.

The notification of the immediate availability of the S106 monies and some suggested projects, via an email from the Chair of the Village Partnership (VP) to Cllr Wallage, as the Parish Council’s representative on the VP contact circulation list, was discussed. Cllr Hall had advised Emily regarding the availability of the monies and had asked that the Village Partnership be made aware of this funding opportunity. As a result of that communication, a number of potential projects to take advantage of the funding opportunity were suggested to the VP for comment. It was then planned to set up a VP sub –committee to develop potential project (s) and work with Cllr Hall on a funding application. However, full details of the type of projects that could be funded from this S106 source had not been made clear to the Chair of the VP. Potential projects suggested would be added to the list of potential projects (where not already included) to be initially considered by the PC at its informal session. The Parish Council had not been informed of the funding opportunity by Cllr Hall. Parish Council acknowledged the importance of working in partnership with the VP, and our 2 county councilors, and noted the intention of the Chair and Vice Chair to meet with Cllr Hall to discuss how communication with the Parish Council in such matters could be improved.

Parish Council resolved to hold an informal session with members and the Parish Clerk, but due to member availability this would be on 10th August at 18:30 instead of the proposed 19 August. It was acknowledged that firm project (s) proposals would need to be reported to future Parish Council meetings for consideration and approval in parish council plans prior to projects being fully developed and /or funding applications submitted.

9) Christmas Event 2021

Cllr Wallage advised members that consideration was required regarding the switch on event this year especially as due to the Covid restrictions an event

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didn't occur in 2020. Initial thoughts were for lights switch on event on or around 29th November 2021 with Carols around the Christmas tree at some point during the week of Christmas – ideally Monday 20 or Tuesday 21, subject to availability of Jubilee Hall and Band. Parish Councillors were asked to give some thought to Switch on event.

10) Venue for future Meetings

The Parish Clerk advised that at the current time Arden House remains unavailable. The next meeting will be held once again in the Church Meeting room. The Clerk was asked to also check the availability of Jubilee Hall.

11) Benridge Bank– Maintenance

Cllr Haddick advised that DCC cut the area twice a year however it remains overgrown. More regular strimming is needed and DCC are unable to offer this service. **Parish Council resolved** that the Parish Clerk approach the Cemetery Grounds Maintenance contractor to establish if they could tidy up the area and trim on a more regular basis going forward.

12) Report on use of Social Media and proposed draft Facebook Policy

The Parish Clerk referred members to the circulated report and proposed Policy. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the proposal use of social media and the accompanying Policy acknowledging that a Facebook page would be a good way of sharing information.

13) Smaller Councils Forum

Cllr Boettcher advised that she was unable to attend the previous meeting.

14) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised members that a request had been received from a member of the public for the Parish Council to finance the printing of some posters to be displayed in residents windows saying no to the Russell Foster Football Centre. After consideration, Parish Council, although opposed to the planning application, did not feel it would be appropriate to commit public funds to this proposal.

15) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council noted the date and time of next meeting: Thursday 16th September 2021 at 19.00.

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