

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 19:00 On Thursday 18th November 2021

At St Mary’s Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors I Diggory, I Haddick, P Lowrie, E Bulmer, P Morson, A Wallage (Chairperson)& G Warby

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Boettcher (ill health) and Cllr Kellett (work commitments). **Parish Council resolved** to approve these absences.

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 members of public present.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

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5) FINANCE REPORT

PART A: FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME		Re-Open	£159		
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 - Nov 21	398.70	303200	
2	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk Net Salary - Dec 21	398.70	303201	
3	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - Nov 21	99.60	303202	
4	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - Dec 21	99.60	303203	
5	Peter Morson	Cemetery Gates - repairs	280.00	303204	
6	Special Branch Tree Services	Cemetery Maintenance - October 21	339.24	303205	
TOTAL			1615.84		
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	CHEQUE NO.
7	Gary Coates	Heritage Garden Maintenance	85.00	Y	303206
8	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Training x 2 Managing a Year in Life of the Council	20.00	Y	303207
9	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	Cemetery Water Supply 2/8-1/11/21	13.23	Y	303208
10	Special Branch Tree Services	Cemetery Additional Works x 3 Graves	144.00	Y	303209
11	DCC	Supply/Removal of Xmas tree and lights	2480.35	Y	303210
12	WR & L Community Association	Hire of Jubilee Hall 1 1/2 hrs	33.00	Y	303211
TOTAL			2775.58		
Total Expenditure A + B			4391.42		

Parish Council resolved to:

- Note income and expenditure reported for information in Part A
- Approve expenditure listed in Part B

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The Parish Clerk asked members present to consider a donation as in previous years, to Pittington Brass Band for their performance at the carols around the Christmas tree event. In previous Years this donation had been £100. Parish Council **resolved to approve** a £100 donation.

6) Planning Applications

Parish Council considered planning application DM/21/02634/FPA which is a proposal for excavation and engineering works to create 2 no. ponds for competition and leisure fishing at Ryehill Farm, Marks Lane.

Members discussed a number of concerns regarding the proposal which included the impact on road safety from the increase in traffic on Mark's Lane, the access road off a bend on Marks lane onto a track which is a public footpath / bridleway, the lack of any reference to the existing permissive/unregistered public footpath that goes down the middle of the site which has been well used for over 20 twenty years and should now be considered as a permanent public right of way and the erosion of green belt land /countryside character of the area giving way to commercial development.

Parish Council resolved to:

Raise awareness of the application via the Village Partnership, the Website and the Facebook Page

Submit a response to DCC on the application in relation to:

1. Adverse impact on the Local Highway Network from increased vehicles, particularly on Marks Lane and at the site entrance on a blind bend
2. Adverse impact on the safety of users of existing public footpath / bridleway which is to be used as the access road
3. Loss of Amenity – If the existing permissive / unregistered public footpath is lost as a result of this proposal.
4. Adverse impact to the character of the local area as a result of a commercial development in a rural area next to a nature reserve.
5. Need – Is there a demonstrable need for fishing ponds in this location
6. Residents comments received and publicised on the planning portal

Cllr Diggory agreed to draft the response with support from Cllr Wallage.

7) Russell Foster Football Centre Planning Application

Cllr Wallage advised that the Public Meeting was taking place tomorrow evening at 19-30. She advised that Mary Foy MP hadn't been able to confirm her attendance however her aid Nick Rippin is going to attend. Cllr Wallage advised she would ring the Case Officer for any updates prior to the meeting.

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8) Annual Plan

Cllr Wallage expressed her frustration regarding obtaining responses from DCC to progress agreed actions. She did advise however that some positive feedback had been received regarding proposed traffic restrictions and this information has been circulated to members. Members advised that there were no concerns with the proposals which were welcomed to ease resident concerns about parking issues in the parish.

Cllr Wallage advised that she had also shared the proposals near the School with the Head Teacher who was also happy with the proposals.

Cllr Wallage advised that some work had already been completed in renewing faded yellow and white road markings – particularly around the school.

Cllr Wallage discussed the footpath from the Doctors Surgery to opposite the chemist not being in very good condition. DCC haven't been helpful with regards to repairing the path as it isn't on their land. County Councillor Hall is supportive of the improvements required and has approached DCC Officers with a view to DCC adopting the land.

Talks also continue between DCC and The Surgery with regards to tarmacking some grassed areas to provide additional car parking.

Cllr Wallage advised members that she had a site meeting regarding the Adult Gym proposal. This was with DCC Outdoor Facilities Manager and a representative from an equipment Company that DCC had previously used.

DCC felt that the 'rec' would not be their first choice location for an outdoor gym and thought this may be better suited as an upgrade to Adventure Lane Park. However, they were happy work with the Parish Council to develop a project on the 'rec@ to develop a park with facilities for all ages.

Discussions centred around the requirement for gym equipment that would suit older young people and adults of allfitness levels and abilities. An indicative quote of £30000-35000 for a potential scheme provided by the supplier was tabled for initial feedback.

There would also be a cost of the surfacing work required which would be undertaken by DCC but further information on this was needed.

As the site is an existing park on land owned and maintained by DCC land, DCC would adopt the new provision which would include the maintenance and insurance of any new equipment. They would procure the equipment, deal with any grant applications and run the Project.

Cllr Wallage advised an offer was made by both the DCC officer, and the supplier, to attend a meeting of the parish council to discuss the proposed

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project. The outdoor facilities manager had been invited to attend this meeting but regretfully, a response had not been received.

There had been no written confirmation received from DCC regarding the cost of the installation of benches, picnic tables and a tree bench. It is estimated these could cost around £4500.

Cllr Wallage advised members that in addition to the £25K S106 monies currently available, other funding sources included AAP Town & Villages Funding and County Councillor Neighbourhood funding. Further S106 monies would become available next year from the Housing development on Benridge Bank.

Cllr Wallage advised that she hadn't had a response from the Green Group regarding developing a potential project as an extension of the Community Orchard Project at the Middle Rainton Picnic Area.

Cllr Wallage agreed to discuss the proposed scheme with the Chair of the Village Partnership to develop an approach to community engagement/consultation which would be necessary to support grant applications.

9) Memorial Wall

Cllr Diggory referred members to his circulated updated Report. He advised that it was unclear at this stage whether planning permission would be required for a wall.

He advised that an estimated cost for building a wall similar to the one at Horden would be somewhere near £6000. There would also be other fees and costs associated with its installation, maintenance and operation.

Cllr Diggory advised members that he had spoken with a member of staff from North Tyneside who looks after a number of cemeteries where they are also building a memorial wall.

He advised that they also have a memorial tree which has been popular. People purchase a 10 year tenure for a leaf on the tree which they get engraved.

Parish Council discussed the options for a memorial tree (s) and the building of a wall.

It was felt that a tree may be a more appropriate option however Cllr Diggory agreed to further research whether a local College would be prepared to work with the Parish Council on the design and build of a wall as well as options with regards to the purchasing and installation of a memorial tree (s). Lead time for production and installation would also be established.

10) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

There was no update.

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11) Smaller Councils Forum

There was no update.

12) General Correspondence

No correspondence was tabled

13) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council noted the date and time of next meeting: Thursday 20th January 2022 at 19:00 in St Marys Church Meeting Room.

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