

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held
at 19:00 On Thursday 17th February 2022**

At St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors M Boettcher, E Bulmer, I Diggory, B Kellett, P Lowrie, P Morson and A Wallage (Chairperson)

In Attendance: M Ramshaw (Parish Clerk)

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Haddick (family commitments) and Cllr Warby (unwell). **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 the public in attendance.

4) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

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5) FINANCE REPORT

PART A: FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME		Cemetery - Re-open JWK Derek Moss Funeral	£159.00		
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 - Feb 22	398.70	303225	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - Feb 22	99.60	303226	
3	Special Branch Tree Services	Removal of Tree and Stump (Sth Street - storm damage)	1170.00	303227	
4	Special Branch Tree Services	Grounds maintenance Contract-Jan 22	339.24	303228	
TOTAL			2007.54		
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	CHEQUE NO.
5	M Ramshaw	Reimbursement for mobile phone purchase for Parish Council business	42.00	Y	303229
6	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	Cemetery water supply	15.51	Y	303230
7	M Ramshaw	Reimbursement for 24 x 1st class stamps	20.40	Y	303231
8	G Coates	Weeding village planters, Heritage Garden and Cemetery flower beds, purchase of pansies	124.00	Y	303232
9	Special Branch Tree Services	Tree work - removal of storm damaged Hawthorn and gring stump (South Street)	360.00	Y	303233
10	The Cumbria Clock Company	Service of Church Clock	222.00	Y	303234
11	Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership Fee 2022/23	112.00	Y	303235
12	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance 15/3/22-14/3/23	484.51	Y	303236
TOTAL			1380.42		
Total Expenditure A + B			3387.96		

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Parish Council resolved to:

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

The Parish Clerk advised members that an invoice had been received after the Finance Report had been written. He advised members that the invoice for £20.00 was for the hire of the Church Meeting Room. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the payment.

6) Planning Applications

Parish Council noted that there had been one planning application within the Parish however there were no comments.

7)2022/23 Insurance Renewal

The Parish Clerk asked members to note that the Parish was entering the final year of a 3 year agreement for its insurance. The final year (2022/23) payment of £484.51 was approved.

8) Russell Foster Football Centre Planning Application

There were no updates on the planning application.

9) DCC Find & Fix Project Plan for West Rainton & Leamside

Cllr Wallage advised members that she had anticipated that there may have been a Report from DCC for this item however it was not forthcoming. The Find and Fix It Team look to bring together all works to be done in an area and then diary it in to carry out all of the works at once as a part of a Project Plan.

Cllr Wallage advised that the Find &Fix It Team would refurbish the metal benches around the Parish including the two in the Cemetery. After some consideration it was agreed that the benches be repainted the existing green colour.

Once the Plan is developed Cllr Wallage advised that she will bring it to Parish Council.

10) Annual Plan

a) Memorial wall/tree project

Cllr Diggory advised that he had sought three quotes for the supply and installation of a memorial tree as Parish Council had requested. Cllr Diggory had made contact with Nth Tyneside Council who had previously had a memorial tree installed and more recently ordered a further two.

Cllr Diggory circulated the prices he had received for two options.

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Parish Council discussed the options and **resolved to approve** the purchase of a "Mulberry" memorial tree with a granite trunk at the price quoted of £9,995 + VAT from a company called Columbaria based in Hull.

b) Proposal to replace boulders with metal fencing

Cllr Wallage referred members to the previously circulated report. The quote provided by DCC for the required work in December 21 was £23828.26. Cllr Wallage advised that she has since had a follow up site meeting with DCC officers who advised that an additional fee of £4,000 would be incurred for the disposal of the boulders. The report also detailed a number of concerns expressed by officers at this site visit about the proposal who concluded that they did not think removing the boulders and replacing with fencing represented good value for money in that:

- The fencing quote requested did not include fencing off access from the doctor's surgery end. Car access would still be possible if this was not also addressed.
- Fencing would not prevent anti-social behaviour from motor bikes or quad bikes because of the footpath access required. Footpath access was required for grass cutters and emergency vehicles.
- The area would be subject to more DCC herbicide spraying than at present as DCC would not support the addition of hedging behind the fencing, as first envisaged, and DCC could not carry any strimming. More spraying was likely to have an adverse impact on the overall appearance of the area and was likely to result in more complaints from residents about the extent of spraying carried out in the parish.

It was noted, that DCC have offered to address the main gap in the boulders opposite the garage, which is the main point of access by car joy riders, and their offer to install a wooden fence to stop vehicle access from the Doctors Surgery end. Members however expressed concerns that spacing of some of the other boulders may still allow car access where they had split and were too low or too small to prevent displacement.

Parish Council resolved to approve the recommendations in the report:

- The boulders are left in situ.
- The Parish Council's grounds maintenance contractor is asked to trim around the boulders once a month over the summer months to prevent the necessity for DCC spraying and enhance the appearance of the area.
- The Parish Council continues to work with DCC to reduce the gaps in the boulders to help reduce anti-social behaviour from car joy riders.

c) School Avenue Park Project

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Cllr Warby had circulated the first draft of a survey to be used for public consultation on the proposed Adult Gym. Cllr Wallage had commented on the survey and developed an introduction to go alongside the survey. Members in attendance had no further comments on the proposed consultation document.

Cllr Kellett noted that the Adult Gym Equipment proposed could also be used by anyone 13 years upwards and questioned whether there would be provision for younger children. Cllr Wallage advised the proposal for an Adult Gym was considered in response to resident’s feedback and there is already a young children’s play park on site. Adventure play park equipment is aimed at older children and the Parish Council also supports the Youth Service, hence Parish Council’s decision to support an Adult Gym.

Various means for consultation were discussed involving the Village Partnership, target user community groups and door knocking – particularly residents living nearby so ensure they were aware of the overall proposals for the park, as well as the Council’s website, Facebook page and Village News. As the editorial deadline had passed for the February edition of Village News, the potential of getting fliers printed to go out with the Village News was also discussed as well as a full page article in the next edition. Cllr Wallage agreed to discuss with the Village News Editor.

Cllr Wallage advised that as well as having paper copies of the survey, an online version would need to be developed via Survey Monkey. Cllr Wallage has already approached the AAP regarding support in the use of survey software and the AAP Co-ordinator has offered assistance.

Post note: All manual survey responses would need to be captured using the online survey to automate the analysis of the responses.

Cllr Wallage asked members for volunteers to assist with the targeted group / residents consultation discussed. Membersto contact Cllr Wallage.

Parish Council resolved to approve:

1. The content and format of the community consultation survey and introduction and the consultation strategy discussed.
2. Utilise Durham AAP to assist with the online tool Survey Monkey for the electronic version of the Survey.

d) Improved maintenance of village greens and village areas

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The Parish Clerk advised that a quote had been sought from the contractor to carry out regular maintenance of areas around the Villages including the strimming of areas including the boulders to eradicate some of the herbicide spraying.

e) Refurbishment of Village Benches

Cllr Wallage referred to the previously circulated report. DCC have offered to refurbish all the metal benches throughout the Parish including those in the Cemetery. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the refurbishment and the colour green for repainting. Progress made by Cllr Morson in refurbishing the 2 wooden benches was also noted.

f) Additional Benches

Cllr Wallage referred members to her report regarding actions in the agreed Annual Plan relating to consideration of additional benches. DCC has now advised that if a Parish Council is willing to fund provision, they would support by installing on flagstones free of charge. This makes the preparation of budget estimates for such projects easier.

Parish Council has already agreed that 2 new benches should be provided in the cemetery and budget estimates for these plus an additional 6 elsewhere in the Parish were presented for consideration.

The need for additional waste bins was also briefly discussed.

Following consideration of costings and initial potential locations, the need for more than 6 new benches was questioned.

Due to the lack of time to fully consider, Cllr Wallage asked members to consider potential locations for the new benches, and also whether there could be a need for an additional bin alongside the new bench, and feedback so that proposed locations could be considered and agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Parish Council resolved to approve:

1. A request for DCC to install 2 Traditional Benches in the cemetery: one on the left path and one on the right path at an estimated cost of £900 as part of the DCC Find & Fix Project Plan
2. Approve the supply and installation of up to 8 additional benches across the parish by DCC to be funded from the VIP and / or via AAP grant application if eligible.

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g) Replacement of Black Planters

Cllr Wallage referred members to her report regarding an action in the Annual Plan to consider replacing the existing square black planters with hexagonal Marmax planters. Budget provision for replacement could now be considered as DCC have advised they would support with free installation on flagstones. (already in place). There may however be a charge for removal of old planters.

Parish Council discussed recycling the existing planters and it was suggested that residents of Finchale View would welcome a planter and they would be happy to fill and maintain it.

Parish Council resolved to:

1. Ask DCC to remove the 8 existing black planters and supply and install Marmax Hexagonal Planters as part of the DCC Find & Fix Project Plan.
2. Consider the suggestion to relocate 2 of the old planters to Finchale view in consultation with DCC.
3. Approve seeking clarification of AAP funding and, if eligible, the submission of a grant application for all /part funding.
4. If no external funding available, to approve funding from the Village Improvement earmarked reserve.

11) From Parish Plan to Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Diggory referred members to his report. It was agreed by Parish Council for Cllr Diggory to look into the development of a Parish Plan and as such he had been to Witton Gilbert where they have developed such a Plan.

Cllr Diggory explained the stages of development to members and advised that he had been on a CDALC Neighbourhood Planning briefing session.

Parish Council resolved to approve the completion of steps 1 and 2 of the process and for Cllr Diggory to consult with the Village Partnership, to seek some initial community feedback, by attending a VP meeting to give a presentation on the subject.

12) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Wallage reminded members that Parish Council had been asked to consider what plans the Parish Council had for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Wallage advised that she had attended a sub-committee of the Village

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Partnership Meeting where the matter was discussed. The Village Partnership intend to tie in the celebrations with the Big Lunch as they fall at the same time. Parish Council reviewed some memorabilia items which are available to purchase from various companies.

Cllr Wallage advised members that she was going to speak to the school to see what plans, if any, they have.

After some discussion members agreed to feedback ideas to Cllr Wallage in the next two weeks so that a report could be prepared with some firm proposals to the next meeting.

13) 2022 Big Spring Clean (21st Feb-4th April)

Cllr Wallage advised that a similar event had been organised a few years ago and that the Green Group have a litter pick scheduled for 12/3/22. Parish Council did not feel it necessary to organise another event at this time.

14) Storm Damage

The Parish Clerk advised that the hawthorn tree on South Street that had been subject to discussion at the previous Parish Council Meeting had actually fell down as a result of the latest storm. Due to the issues around health and safety the contractor was asked to remove the tree and grind the stump down.

Cllr Kellett left the meeting at 21:12

15) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Not covered due to time.

16) Smaller Councils Forum

Not covered due to time.

17) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk referred members to an email that had just been circulated from DCC regarding consultation on the introduction of some further double yellow lines in the Village. Parish Council had no comments on the proposal.

18) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council noted the date and time of next meeting: Thursday 17th March 2022 at 19:00 in St Marys Church Meeting Room.

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