

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held

at 19:00 on 19th October 2023

At St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors B Kellett, M Massey, P Morson, A Wallage (Chairperson) and K Wood

In Attendance: M Ramshaw (Parish Clerk)
2 x Members of the public

NOTE The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Boettcher (operation recovery) and Cllr Diggory (holiday). **Parish Council resolved** to approve these absences.

2) Co-Option to Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Clerk advised members that there had been no interest in the current vacancies.

Parish Council resolved that a further advert go out for the two vacancies with a closing date 10th January 2024.

3) Declarations of interest

Cllr Kellett declared an interest in Item 15 on the Agenda due to involvement in his role as a County Councillor. It was agreed that any other declarations of interest would be dealt with as and when the need arose.

4) Public Participation

Janet Tayler and Emily Burns were in attendance to speak in support of the grant application from the Community Association (Item 15).

They summarised the current situation regarding the management of the Hall, following DAY's decision not to proceed with the proposal that it would purchase and run the Jubilee Hall going forward. It was stressed that there was an urgent need of funding in the short term, actions are planned to consult with the community, and that it is intended to develop a longer term strategy for the future of the Hall.

5) Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6) Finance Report

Signature.....

Date.....

PART A: FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME		Interest (Close of Co-operative Account)		97.67	
		Interest Instant Access Account (Unity Trust Account)		18.84	
2. EXPENDITURE					
A) Expenditure previously agreed by Parish Council due this month					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	
1	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk Net Salary - October 23	BACS	441.19	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - October 23	BACS	110.40	
3	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll	BACS	90.00	
4	Special Branch Tree Services NE Ltd	Cemetery maintenance - September 23	BACS	373.16	
5	Special Branch Tree Services NE Ltd	Village Green Maintenance - Sept 23	BACS	336.00	
6	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll - (Replacement payment for cancelled cheque (Oct 22))	BACS	90.00	
7	EON	Electricity Supply 5/9/23	Direct Debit	6.41	
8	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Direct Debit	18.00	
TOTAL				1465.16	
B) Expenditure requiring approval - Expected Invoice Pending					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
9	Leamside Nureries	Winter bedding	BACS	384.00	Yes
10	G Coates	Heritage Garden & Village maintenance	BACS	310.00	Yes
TOTAL				694.00	
Total Expenditure A + B				£2,159.16	

Parish Council resolved to:

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

7) Planning Applications

One planning application was considered however members had no comments.

8) Budget Position Q2 2023/24

The Parish Clerk referred members to the Q2 budget position report.

Parish Council resolved to note the Report.

9) School Avenue Park Project– Update

Cllr Wallage advised that both AAP and S106 funding applications were approved and that she was currently seeking contact with DCC regarding the progress of the Project.

Signature.....

Date.....

10) Grant Application from West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Wallage referred members to the application that had been circulated. The application for £285 was for match funding for a project to commence Nov 2023. After consideration, **Parish Council resolved** to refuse the application for the following reasons:

- a) The total cost of the project was £999 and a grant application had already been submitted to a third party for this full amount. The need for match funding had not been demonstrated.
- b) The application was not considered to be an "exceptional circumstance" in accordance with the Parish Council's Community Grant Policy.

11) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership update

Cllr Wallage advised that there was nothing to report as there hadn't been a meeting since the last Parish Council meeting.

12) Smaller Councils Forum Update

No update.

13) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised that there was no correspondence for consideration.

14) Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council noted the date and time of next meeting: Thursday 16th November 2023 at 19:00 in St Marys Church Meeting Room.

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)

15) Grant Application from West Rainton and Leamside Community Association – Parish Council to consider grant application

Cllr Kellett left the meeting (20:00).

Parish Council noted the confidentiality of reports commissioned by DAY that had been provided and circulated to members as supporting information for consideration of this application.

After discussion, **Parish Council resolved** to defer making a decision on the funding request pending clarification on queries and receipt of any additional information considered necessary to make a better informed decision.

Signature.....

Date.....