

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 19:00

On Thursday 17th October 2024

At St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors I Diggory (Chairperson), B Kellett, A Wallage, M Boettcher, M Massey and A Langford

NOTE:

The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Cllr Boettcher (another meeting) **Parish Council resolved** to approve this absence. No apology was received from Cllr Morson. His absence was not approved.

2) Declarations of interest

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

3) Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Approval of Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

b) Update on actions taken

Cllr Diggory advised that he had prepared a response in support of the planning application for further housing however he had run into difficulties accessing the Planning Portal and was awaiting DCC support. The Parish Clerk advised that he would upload the response.

The Parish Clerk advised that he had entered into the 3 years fixed business plan at an annual estimated cost of £279.43 for the electricity supply.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

5) Finance Report

ITEM:	5					
DATE:	17/10/2024					
PART A:	FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME	Nil					
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 24	BACS	482.35		
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - October 24	BACS	120.80		
4	Special Branch Tree Services NE Ltd	Cemetery maintenance - October 24	BACS	391.81		
5	Special Branch Tree Services NE Ltd	Village green maintenance - October 24	BACS	336.00		
6	EON	Electricity Supply - October	DD	30.00		
7	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll	BACS	90.00		
8	St Marys Church	Room Hire - 9th & 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 19th September and 17th October	BACS	120.00		
9	Lloyds Bank	Debit Card charge - October	DD	3.00		
		TOTAL		1573.96		
B) Expenditure requiring approval						
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION	
10	Gary Coates	Village Maintenance	BACS	240.00	Y	
11	Gedney Buld Company Ltd.	Crocus x 500 /Daffodil x 500 bulbs	BACS	128.40	Y	
12	M Ramshaw	Re-imbursement for bedding plants	BACS	255.30	Y	
		TOTAL		383.70		
Total Expenditure A + B				1957.66		

Parish Council resolved to:

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

6) Planning Applications

No planning applications within the Parish had been circulated by Durham County Council since the last meeting.

7) Budget Position Q2 2024/25

The Parish Clerk referred members to the previously circulated Q2 budget position. Parish Council noted the contents.

8) Bank Reconciliation Q2 2024/25

The Parish Clerk advised members that the Q2 bank reconciliation was due and as previously agreed Cllr Massey would check off the reconciliation against the bank balances and budget information.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

9) Request to remove and replace trees

Cllr Wallage referred members to the information that had been previously circulated regarding trees that have died off within the Parish. Members discussed a number of issues around those trees that weren't thriving and how best to deal with the situation.

Parish Council resolved to approve removal of any dead trees and approach the Green Group for a wider view around tree planting in the Village,

10) School Avenue Park Project

a) Gym

Cllr Wallage gave an update on the installation of the equipment. There have been some issues with the surface and one incorrect piece of equipment had been supplied which would be changed. Some concerns had been raised by a local resident regarding people accessing the area despite it being fenced off. These issues had been passed to DCC who are managing the Project. Members discussed the idea of some form of official opening. It was not felt appropriate due to the imminent removal of the fencing meaning anyone could start using the area. It was agreed for the Chairman to include the item in the Parish Councils update in the Village News.

b) Street Furniture

Cllr Wallage advised that the furniture had been delivered to DCCs Depot and we are awaiting a date for installation from DCC.

c) Fencing

Cllr Wallage advised that Cllr Boettcher and herself had met Brambledown to discuss options around a specification for the fencing. Brambledown shared their expertise and gave an indicative costing along with some suggestion on where the fence should be situated.

Cllr Wallage advised that a meeting is to be held on 5th November on site with DCC to discuss the fencing.

11) Cemetery – Draft Rules and Regulations

Cllr Wallage referred members to the document that had been circulated and gave an update on the current situation.

It was felt that communication of the rules and regulations was key and the Parish Clerk agreed to draft a brief user-friendly guide to the Cemetery. Cllr Wallage agreed to draft information for display on the Cemetery noticeboard. In discussing the publication of the new information, Parish Council felt that those with the exclusive rights of burial to a grave in the new burial area to the rear should be contacted in writing individually to advise of the changes.

Parish Council resolved to approve the new rules and regulations come into force from 1st January 2025.

12) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership feedback

There had not been a meeting since the last meeting.

13) Smaller Council Forum

No attendees were present from the Parish Council.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

14) General Correspondence

The Parish Council advised that a renewal had been received for the Friends of Jubilee Hall Scheme which attracts discount on room bookings.

Parish Council resolved to approve the renewal at £25.00.

15) Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is Thursday 21st November at 7.00pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....