

West Rainton & Leamside Parish

Annual Parish Meeting

**Held at St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton on
Thursday 25th May 2023 at 6.30 pm**

1. Present

Councillors: M Boettcher, A Wallage and K Wood

6 members of the public

M Ramshaw – Parish Clerk (Minute Taker)

2. Chairman's welcome and introductions

Cllr Wallage welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The minutes of the previous meeting held 12/5/22 were agreed.

3. Inspector Dave Clarke –Durham Neighbourhood Policing Team

Acting Inspector Dan Beardmore introduced himself to the meeting and advised that he was in attendance instead of Inspector Clarke.

Whilst his usual area is Durham City, he advised that he had been updated by a local PCSO for the West Rainton and Leamside area.

Anti-social behaviour was discussed, in particular the use of off-road motorcycles. A/I Beardmore advised that this problem is across County Durham. The Police are trying out some new long-range lens camera equipment in a bid to better identify offenders.

A/I Beardmore also advised that there had been a slight increase in public order offences in the area.

Pro-active work has been carried out including a multi-agency walkaround and an officer attending West Rainton Primary School over the last 12 weeks. A discussion took place around the fact that there is no PACT Meeting in the area.

A member of the public shared the details of some of the groups that attend Jubilee Hall and the time of their meetings.

A discussion took place around perceived under reporting of incidents. A/I Beardmore advised that incidents should be reported via 101. He also informed

everyone that a new P.C. would be starting in the area on 9th June 2023.

The issue of vehicles speeding on the cemetery road was also mentioned along with the anti-social behaviour of some people with cars and motorcycles.

4. Chair of the Parish Council to present the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Parish Council

Cllr Wallage referred those present to the Annual Report which had been previously circulated.

Cllr Wallage went through the Report and highlighted some areas which included the installation of the memorial tree in the Cemetery and the development of the School Avenue Park Project for the gym and seating area.

Work is ongoing with the Community Emergency Plan however getting engagement from members of the public has been difficult.

Cllr Wallage went on to advise those present that the Parish Council remains in a good financial position.

Cllr Wallage informed those present that the Parish Council is always open to new ideas of what can be improved or provided and asked for anyone with any ideas to speak to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had objected to two planning applications, one for the creation of two fishing ponds at Rye Hill Farm which was subsequently withdrawn and the Football Centre at Leamside where a decision was expected 6/6/23.

5. Public Participation - parishioners to raise any matters of concern relating to their local community

A member of the public from the Green Group was pleased that the aim to reduce herbicide use in the Village was in the Parish Plan and he was pleased in the reduction that has occurred.

The meeting closed at 20:10.

Signed: Date:

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council Chairman

Thursday 9th May 2024 - 6.30 pm

St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome and introductions
2. Minutes – to consider the approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 25 May 23
3. Banks Group – Station Road Development update
4. Woodside Commercial Developments – Update on Community Hub for the Station Road development
5. Chair of the Parish Council to present the 2023/24 Annual Report of the Parish Council
6. Public Participation - to invite parishioners to raise any matters of concern relating to their local community