

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
19:00 On Thursday 17th April 2025
at St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors I Diggory (Chairperson), S Corfield, A Wallage & K Wood

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk

2 members of the public

NOTE:

The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Kellett (another meeting), Cllr Langford (holiday), Cllr Massey (family emergency).

Cllr Morson was not in attendance and no apology had been received.

Parish Council resolved to approve the absences of Cllrs Kellett, Langford and Massey.

Cllr Morson's absence was recorded as unauthorised.

2) Declarations of interest

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

3) Public Participation

Two members of the public were in attendance to discuss the planning application changes submitted by Woodside Developments at the Banks Development, Cathedral Meadows.

One of the members of the public spoke, mentioning a petition which had attracted support of around 700 people within the Village for any changes to retain at least one commercial property.

Cllr Diggory advised that he had attended the Planning Committee Meeting where the planning application was considered. The application was refused. Whilst acknowledging that the Parish Council was supportive of the commercial development, Cllr Diggory added that Woodside Developments had explained that they were unable to attract any commercial organisations to the proposed development. This had been explained by Woodside Developments at the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2024. Evidence had been sighted from Sainsburys which stated that there weren't enough houses

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

in the Villages. Other smaller companies had also been contacted and again there was no interest.

Cllr Corfield suggested that he would be willing to do some work around contacting commercial organisations in an attempt to see if there was any interest from the commercial sector.

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

5) Finance Report

PART A: FOR INFORMATION		£			
1. INCOME		Instant Access Account Interest	485.89		
		2025-26 Precept	41483.25		
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 - April 25	BACS	497.82	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - April 25	BACS	124.40	
3	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll (31/3/25)	BACS	90.00	
4	Special Branch Tree Services NE Ltd	Cemetery maintenance - March 2025	BACS	391.81	
5	Unity Bank	Service Charge	DD	6.00	
6	Lloyds	Service Charge (Debit Card)	DD	3.00	
7	EON	Electricity Supply - March 25	DD	30.00	
TOTAL				1143.03	
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
8	G Coates	Village Maintenance	BACS	203.00	
9	CDALC	2025/26 Subscription Charge	BACS	434.36	
TOTAL				637.36	
Total Expenditure A + B				1780.39	

Parish Council resolved to:

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

6) Planning Applications

a) Parish Council to consider DCC planning notifications

There were no planning applications to consider from the DCC circulated lists.

b) Station Road Development Planning Committee

This item had in the main been covered during Agenda Item 3. Parish Council were supportive of Cllr Corfield's offer to see if there was any interest from

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

commercial organisations. Cllr Wood offered his support if required. Cllr Corfield agreed to bring an update to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

7) Jubilee Hall

Cllr Wood advised that the public meeting was arranged for 24th April. A leaflet had been delivered to every household within the Village regarding the future of Jubilee Hall and the date and time of the meeting.

Cllr Wood advised that they were hopeful the meeting would be well attended and anyone interested in a role would be asked to stay behind to discuss the type of support they were able to offer and what was required.

8) Budget Position Q4 2024/25

The Parish Clerk referred members to the Q4 Outturn report which had been circulated. **Parish Council resolved** to note its contents.

9) 2024/25 Budget – Q4 Bank Reconciliation

The Parish Clerk referred members to the Q4 bank reconciliation. In the absence of Cllr Massey, Cllr Wallage offered to check the reconciliation against the bank statements and sign off.

10) 2025/26 Revised Budget

The Parish Clerk shared the updated budget for 2025/26 with members. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the revised budget.

11) Village Maintenance

The Parish Clerk advised members that as Special Branch Tree Services were no longer the contractor for the Cemetery, they wouldn't be undertaking the village strimming as they had done in previous years. The Parish Clerk advised that the new Contractor, Makepeace Landscaping Services had indicated that they would pick up any ad-hoc maintenance work as required. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the new contractor to carry out village strimming as instructed.

12) West Rainton & Leamside & Village Partnership

Cllr Diggory advised that there hadn't been a meeting of the Partnership since the last Parish Council meeting.

13) Elections

The Parish Clerk advised members that six applicants had come forward to be Parish Councillors. This was therefore an uncontested election and co-option of the further three vacancies would take place once the next Parish Council meeting takes place in May.

Declarations of Acceptance of Office forms will be required to be signed and witnessed prior to the commencement of the May meeting.

14) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk referred members to the circulated email from a member of the public requesting a memorial seat or plaque on an existing seat in the

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Village. Members noted the content and that the item to be placed on the Agenda for a decision at the next Parish Council meeting in May.

The Parish Clerk advised members that he had received 2 two detailed requests for information from a member of the public that was yet to be considered.

15) Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting is 6.30pm on 8th May 2025. Cllr Wallage advised that she would be unable to attend.

16) Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is Thursday 15th May 2025 at 7.00pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....