

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

Present: Councillors I Diggory (Chairperson), A Langford, K Wood and A Wallage

In Attendance:
Parish Clerk

NOTE:
The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Corfield and Stabler who were both on holiday.

Parish Council resolved to approve the 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

No members of the public were in attendance.

4) Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Approval of previous meeting

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

b) Review of Actions

The Parish Clerk advised that a link to the book History of West Rainton by Philip Ronan was now available on the website.

Cllr Wallage informed members of the damage to two wooden benches in the Heritage Garden. One bench was beyond repair and was removed as it posed a health and safety risk. Cllr Wallage agreed to bring a report to the September meeting.

5) Co-option to Parish Councillor vacancies – Deadline for expressions of interest

The Parish Clerk advised that there had been no interest in the current vacancies. **Parish Council resolved** to approve the next submission deadline for applications of 10th September 2025.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

6) Finance Report

PART A: FOR INFORMATION			£		
1. INCOME		Interest	554.27		
		Memorial Leaf (PH)	180.00		
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 - July 25	BACS	497.82	
	HM Revenue and Customs Only				
2	465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - July 25	BACS	124.40	
3	M Ramshaw	Parish Clerk Net Salary - August 25	BACS	497.62	
	HM Revenue and Customs Only				
4	465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - August 25	BACS	124.60	
5	Makepeace Landscapes	Cemetery Maintenance & Village strimming	BACS	708.00	
6	Jones Boyd (NE) Ltd	Payroll maintenance	BACS	90.00	
7	EON	Electricity Supply - Village Green	DD	30.00	
8	Lloyds	Debit Card Charge	DD	3.00	
9	Unity Bank	Account Service Charge	DD	6.00	
		TOTAL		2081.44	
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
10	Lloyds Bank	Purchase of Shredder	Debit Card	81.48	Y
11	St Marys Church	Contribution to Church Clock repair	BACS	930.00	Y
12	Leamside Nurseries	Summer bedding plants	BACS	604.80	Y
		Village/Heritage Garden maintenance			
13	G Coates		BACS	122.00	Y
		TOTAL		1738.28	
Total Expenditure A + B				3819.72	

Parish Council resolved to:

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

7) Planning Applications

Parish Council noted the application from Woodside Developments. Cllr Diggory advised that the appeal is ongoing with an anticipated date in August for the decision. It was also noted that a revised application had been submitted by Woodside Developments for 12 bungalows and one commercial unit.

8) Jubilee Hall – Update from the Working Group

Cllr Langford advised members that the AGM of Community Association had been held and some trustees have now left and both Cllr Langford and Cllr Wood are now Trustees.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

He advised that despite some people withdrawing their support the overall picture is positive.

Cllr Wood advised that the Architects plans are to be discussed in the near future. The working group has now been formally disbanded as both Cllr Langford and himself take up their positions on the Community Association.

9) Budget Position Q1 2025/26

Parish Council resolved to note the budget position.

10) Bank Reconciliation Q1 2025/26

Parish Council resolved to note the bank reconciliation. Cllr Wallage carried out the relevant checks and signed to confirm.

Cllr Diggory brought forward item 16.

11) Chairing and Leadership Training – Feedback from Cllr Wood

Cllr Wood discussed recent training and advised that it had been both interesting and informative.

12) Supply and installation of a defibrillator

Cllr Diggory introduced the item and advised that the Village Partnership had discussed the issue recently. In discussing the location, members felt that there wasn't one in place in Leamside.

Cllr Wallage advised that the Village Partnership went through the Community Heartbeat Organisation who supply and maintain the equipment.

It was felt that the Three Horse Shoes may be a suitable location. As the Village Partnership already has a number of defibrillators, it was felt appropriate to approach them with regards to installing another one which the Parish Council could fund.

Cllr Wood agreed to look into the funding aspect.

13) Notice of Motion

To consider the following motion proposed by Councillor Stabler-

The Parish Council writes to the residents of the 4 properties directly affected (DH4 6NX), and commences a 6 months consultation period to gauge public opinion to see if there would be any objection to return this road to its original name of Marquess Lane.

This motion was not seconded.

14) Annual Village Plan 2024/25

Cllr Diggory referred members to the Plan. Members felt that road safety remains a high priority. It was agreed to add this to the next Agenda.

15) Cemetery Trees – Parish Council to consider remedial action

The Parish Clerk advised that he had been contacted by a neighbour to the Cemetery who had concerns regarding the overhanging trees to his property. Advice had been sought from two trees surgeons and due to the need for

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

remedial action, **Parish Council resolved** to approve the work to be carried out by Special Branch Trees Services in line with their quotation.

16) DCC Christmas lighting request

The Parish Clerk advised members of the request from DCC regarding Christmas Tree and lighting requirements. The Parish Clerk was asked to respond.

17) Smaller Councils Forum

Cllr Wallage advised that she was unable to attend. The next meeting is 20th November 2025.

18) West Rainton & Leamside Village Partnership

Cllr Diggory advised there was nothing further to discuss that hadn't already been mentioned.

19) General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised there was no general correspondence.

20) Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is Thursday 18th September 2025 at 19:00.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....