

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
19:00 On Thursday 16th October 2025
at St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

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

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk

County Councillor Phil Heaviside

NOTE: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Corfield who was on holiday.

Parish Council resolved to approve this absence.

2. Declarations of interest

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

3. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Approval of Minutes

Parish Council resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

b) Review of Actions

Cllr Diggory advised members that the planning application submitted by Woodside Developments for a shop unit and housing had been approved by Durham County Council.

A link to the information on Village Green land in County Durham has now been posted on the Parish Councils website.

Cllr Diggory advised that he hadn't yet contacted Durham County Council regarding reinstating the X20 bus service but he would do this in due course.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

5. County Councillor Report

County Councillor Heaviside advised that County Councillor Bell was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

Cllr Heaviside advised that he had been contacted recently about a boundary issue which was a civil matter.

He went on to advise that he would be attending a meeting for Jubilee Hall which was to discuss funding opportunities.

Cllr Heaviside informed members that there had been a video circulating of a homeless person who had pitched a tent in the Adventure Playpark. The person has moved on but the County Council have cleared a lot of the vegetation now in the area within the Playpark.

6. Durham County Council Consultations

a) Budget Proposals for 2026/27

Parish Council considered the information and asked the Parish Clerk to put a link to the consultation on the website and Facebook pages. No response was deemed necessary.

b) Exceptions to the Empty and Unfurnished Properties and Second Homes Council Tax Premium

Parish Council again considered the information and did not feel a response was necessary.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

7. Finance Report

WEST RAINTON & LEAMSIDE PARISH COUNCIL					
ITEM:	7	FINANCE REPORT			
DATE:	16/10/2025				
PART A: FOR INFORMATION					
1. INCOME		VAT Reclaim 2024/25	£3,000.83		
		Burial - Single Andrew Grey Funeral Services (NW)	£430.00		
		Credit - Bank Interest	£539.13		
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	BACS	513.55	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - October	BACS	128.60	
3	Jones Boyd (Durham) Ltd	Maintenance of Payroll	BACS	90.00	
4	Makepeace Landscapes Ltd	Cemetery maintenance & village strimming	BACS	708.00	
5	Unity Bank	Bank Service Charge	DD	6.00	
6	EON	Electricity Supply	DD	16.87	
7	Durham County Council	Xmas provision - supply, erection and disposal of tree & programming of lights	BACS	2750.71	
TOTAL				4213.73	
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
8	Mr G Coates	Village maintenance	BACS	137.00	Y
9	Lloyds Bank	Cartridge Save - 4 x Cartridges for HP Printer	Debit Card	136.55	Y
10	M Ramshaw	Reimbursement - Purchase of winter bedding plants	BACS	202.40	
11	M Ramshaw	Reimbursement - Purchase of 5 x A4 Reams (Amazon)	BACS	15.68	Y
TOTAL				491.63	
Total Expenditure A + B				4705.36	

Parish Council resolved to:

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

8. Budget Position Q2 2025/26

Parish Council noted the current budget position.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

9. Bank Reconciliation Q2 2025/26

Parish Council noted the bank reconciliation and Cllr Wallage carried out the check against the bank statements and signed the reconciliation as appropriate.

10. Planning Applications

There were no comments to the Durham County Council planning applications that are shared.

11. Application for the grant of a premises licence

Cllr Diggory referred members to the information regarding the application for a premises licence. **Parish Council resolved to approve** an objection to the application and Cllr Diggory agreed to inform the County Council of the objection.

12. Jubilee Hall

a) Progress Update

Cllr Langford advised members that there now additional volunteers and that another meeting had taken place. The proposed name for the Jubilee Hall is Jubilee Hall Community Centre. Cllr Langford reminded members that a fundraising event is being held on 21st November.

b) Request to transfer ownership of Village Green to the front of Jubilee Hall

The issue of the land outside of the Jubilee Hall was discussed. The land is registered as Village Green and this means there are restrictions as to what can be done on the land. The development proposals mean that some of the development will be on the land registered as Village Green.

The Parish Clerk was asked to seek advice from Durham County Council regarding the situation.

13. Road Safety

a) Parish Council to consider approach and requirements for action to improve road safety across the parish.

Cllr Diggory advised that the issue of road safety is in the Annual Plan and that whilst there are concerns, the Parish Council doesn't have a clear strategy to deal with the concerns.

b) Notice of Motion (Councillor Wood) - To seek support for a change of the speed limit signs for the residential section of Pittington Rd.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Cllr Wood referred members to the information circulated. He advised that a negative response to his request had been received from Durham County Council. He has since looked into the Regulations and intends to go back to the County Council. Cllr Wood advised he may bring the matter back to the Parish Council in the future.

Cllr Wallage advised that talks had taken place in the past with Durham County Council however it was difficult to achieve change if no accidents had taken place.

c) Notice of motion (Councillor Stabler) - Road Safety – Station Road

Cllr Diggory advised members that in the case of additional parking on Station Road, Banks had tried to carry this out but permission was not given by Durham County Council.

As with most other road safety issues, discussions would need to take place with Durham County Councils Highways Department. It was agreed to add this issue to the list of concerns.

d) Notice of Motion (Councillor Stabler) - Road Safety – Moorsley Road

This item was also to be added to the list of concerns.

14. Notices of Motions

a) Implementation of archive policy.

This item was not seconded. The Parish Clerk did advise that he would familiarise himself with the process for archiving at The Story.

b) Transparency and Accountability.

This item was not seconded.

c) Public Access to information.

This item was not seconded.

d) Cemetery Signage

Cllr Diggory seconded this motion and **Parish Council resolved** to approve ordering signage regarding the closing of gates (wording to be developed by the Parish Clerk).

15. Village Green Group Meeting

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Cllr Diggory advised members that he had attended the Green Group Meeting. They are currently working with Believe Housing on tree plating proposals. He reminded members that the Green Group had approached the Parish Council in March with a list of 15 provisional tree planting sites and 17 types of tress trees that could be suitable.

Cllr Diggory advised that he would meet Special Branch Tree Services with regards to the trees within the Cemetery and how they can be maintained.

16. General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from the Registered Manager of a childrens home within the Parish with regards to funding opportunities from the company Cambian. The Parish Clerk was asked to invite the organisation to the next Parish Meeting to discuss the opportunity.

17. Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is Thursday 20th November 2025 at 19:00.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....