

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at
19:00 on Thursday 19th February 2026
at St Mary's Church Meeting Room, West Rainton

Present: Councillors S Corfield, I Diggory (Chairperson), A Langford, M Potts, M Scott, M Stabler and A Wallage.

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk

County Councillor Alan Bell

NOTE: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Parish Clerk advised that Cllr Wood had submitted his apology for being unable to attend (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

County Councillor Bell advised members that their had been a number of concerns raised about potholes in the roads and that a community speedwatch event was to take place the following day in the Village.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

a) Approval of Minutes

Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2026.

Cllr Stabler advised that he was not in attendance at the January meeting as he was unaware of the Parish Council meeting date due to non-receipt of the Summons which he chooses to receive by post which is in addition to the Summons that is sent to all Parish Councillors via email.

b) Review of Actions

No actions to be reviewed.

5. Planning Applications

There were no comments on the application within the Parish.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

6. Finance Report

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 - February 2026	BACS	513.75	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - February 2026	BACS	128.40	
3	Makepeace Landscapes	Cemetery Maintenance	BACS	624.00	
4	Marmax Products Ltd	2 x Benches (Heritage Garden)	BACS	1022.40	
5	Lloyds Bank	Service Charge	Direct Debit	3.00	
6	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge	Direct Debit	6.00	
7	EON	Electricity Supply	Direct Debit	16.87	
		TOTAL		2314.42	
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
8	Durham County Council	Pest Control	BACS	46.50	Y
9	Forvis Mazars LLP	Limited Assurance Review 31st March 2025	BACS	378.00	Y
10	Narked Ltd	Domain Registration (2 years)	BACS	160.00	Y
11	Narked Ltd	Parish Web Hosting: inc unlimited email accounts/support and training	BACS	225.00	Y
12	Anglian Water Business (National) Ltd	Cemetery Water Supply	BACS	145.52	Y
13	Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance Renewal	BACS	807.24	Y
		TOTAL		1762.26	
Total Expenditure A + B				4076.68	

Parish Council resolved to:

1. Note income and expenditure reported for information.
2. Approve expenditure listed in Part B
3. Approve the new rate declared by Gary Coates of £14.50 for ad-hoc village maintenance work.

7. Annual Plan

Cllr Diggory presented the Annual Plan to members and advised of the structure of the existing document. He went on to advise that he had added a 'resolution monitoring actions' section to allow easy tracking of progress. Cllr Diggory asked members to review the Plan and feedback by the 5th March 2026. He will then pull together the feedback and agenda the item again for the March meeting.

8. Motion – Proposal to implement a template for Motions

Cllr Diggory shared a draft template with members to get a view on the proposal of bringing a final version to the next Parish Council meeting.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

There was some discussion around accessibility for members who were not in possession of the Microsoft Word application. It was felt that this could be negated with the use of a table format via email. The idea of a template was supported by all Members present, and the final version will be brought to the next Parish Council meeting in March.

9. Assertion 10

The Parish Clerk presented his report to Parish Council which give an oversight to the requirements and position of the Parish Council. **Parish Council resolved** to note the report.

10. Cemetery – Proposals for steps to the rear of the Cemetery

The Parish Clerk presented a report on the two proposals/quotations that had been received from Companies who had considered how best to approach improving the access to the new burial area to the rear of the Cemetery.

Parish Council resolved to approve Option B.

11. Heritage Garden – Maintenance

The Parish Clerk presented information to members which included three quotations from Companies interested in carrying out the maintenance work within the Heritage Garden.

Cllr Scott asked that if any pesticides were to be used to kill of weeds, could consideration be given to using the most environmentally friendly option.

Parish Council resolved to approve Quote A.

12. West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership Meeting

The WRLVP meeting was held on 21 January 2026.

The Partnership is in a healthy financial position with an ongoing programme of applications for funds from a variety of sources helping to maintain activities.

Work on the new kitchen/community café in Jubilee Hall begins in February with completion scheduled before end of March.

The major roof work on St. Mary's Church has been completed. Next phase of roof repair scheduled to start in early February. Church is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th March.

Green Group is currently negotiating with the Parish Council and Durham County Council to establish sites in the village which could be sprayed with herbicide as opposed to the blanket spraying around trees, boulders etc.

The Big Lunch Date set for 7 June 2026.

13. Smaller Councils Forum

Cllr Wallage gave an update from the last Forum meeting. One of the main topics had been transforming lives through movement and how all organisations can get involved looking at any barriers that are in place for individuals.

Planning had also been discussed with more delegation proposed for decision making.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

A draft Housing Allocation Policy is also out for public consultation and this can be accessed via Durham County Councils Lets Talk Section on their Website.

14. General Correspondence

The Parish Clerk advised there was no general correspondence for consideration.

15. Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting is Thursday 19th March 2026 at 19:00.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....