

West Rainton & Leamside Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held at 19:00 on Thursday 18th June 2026

at Jubilee Hall, West Rainton

Present:

Councillors I Diggory (Chairperson), M Potts, M Scott and M Stabler.

In Attendance:

Parish Clerk – Mark Ramshaw

County Councillors – Alan Bell and Phil Heaviside

NOTE: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Corfield, Cllr Langford and Cllr Wood.

Parish Council resolved to approve these 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

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** **Parish Council resolved** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st May 2026 be approved as a correct record.
- b) **Review of Actions.** The Parish Clerk advised that he had reported Cllr Wallages resignation to Electoral Services and the process regarding the filling of the vacancy had commenced.

5. Planning Applications

A planning application in respect of Arden House was discussed. The application centres on the building becoming an alternative education provision.

Cllr Diggory advised that he had met the applicant whilst passing the building and had invited him to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss his plans for the future of Arden House.

Parish Council resolved to approve Cllr Diggory to speak with the Planning Dept. regarding the application and use of the building.

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Signed:.....

Dated:.....

6. Finance Report

PART A: FOR INFORMATION			£		
1. INCOME		Cemetery - Memorial (GT)	115.00		
		Cemetery - Memorial Add-in (MR)	45.00		
		Cemetery - Memorial (NW)	115.00		
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 - June	BACS	513.75	
2	HM Revenue and Customs Only 465PD00171320	HMRC Liability - June	BACS	128.40	
3	Makepeace Landscapes	Cemetery maintenance/Village Strimming	BACS	708.00	
4	Council	Trade Waste Service (Annual)	BACS	1066.52	
5	Lloyds	Service Charge	DD	3.00	
6	EON	Electricity supply	DD	16.87	
7	Unity Bank	Service charge	DD	7.00	
		TOTAL		2443.54	
B) Expenditure requiring approval					
ITEM	PAYEE	PURPOSE	Payment Method	AMOUNT (£)	BUDGET PROVISION
8	Lloyds	All purpose compost x 22bags	Card	134.00	Y
9	G Coates	Village Maintenance x 16hrs	BACS	232.00	Y
10	CDALC	Training x 2 New Councillors	BACS	40.00	Y
		TOTAL		406.00	
Total Expenditure A + B				2849.54	

Parish Council resolved to:

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

7. Annual Plan

This item was deferred to the July meeting.

8. Community Grants Policy

The Parish Clerk referred members to the previously circulated policy. Discussions took place around the amount of grant available, the deadlines for applications and the exceptional circumstances available. The Parish Clerk agreed to take on board comments and bring a revised version of the policy to a future Parish Council meeting.

9. Community Grant Application

The Parish Clerk referred members to the previously circulated grant application. Parish Council felt that the application did not meet the required exceptional circumstances for either the amount of money being requested or the fact that application was outside of the 30th November deadline process.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....

Parish Council resolved to refuse the application. Parish Council noted that any future application would need to be supported with more detailed information that would be requested at the time.

10. Parish Councillor Dispensation

Parish Council considered the application submitted by Cllr Scott. Clarification was sought from Cllr Scott regarding her status within the Community Association. The application stated that she was a trustee however this was incorrect and Cllr Scott advised she was a volunteer. As a result, **Parish Council resolved** to approve that no dispensation would be required for Cllr Scott at the current time.

11. Bank Authorisation

As a result of Cllr Wallage resigning, the Parish Clerk advised that there were currently only two bank authorisers, Cllrs Diggory and Wood. **Parish Council resolved** to approve four bank authorisers, comprising Cllrs Diggory, Langford, Potts and Wood.

12. Smaller Council Forum

No update. Cllr Potts volunteered to attend any future meetings and **Parish Council** resolved to agree this. Cllr Diggory would also be in attendance.

13. Trees on Village Green

Cllr Diggory referred members to the previous meeting where concerns were raised by a member of the public regarding three trees directly outside of their property. As agreed, professional advice had been sought and the information circulated to members.

Parish Council resolved to agree the recommendations of the report and the Parish Clerk was asked to instigate the works within the recommendations with Special Branch Tree Services. Cllr Diggory agreed to speak to the member of the public regarding the findings.

14. General Correspondence: for consideration

The Parish Clerk advised Parish Council that an email had been received from Alan Langford in his role as Chair of the Community Association. This was to seek retrospective permission for some planters that have been placed outside of Jubilee Hall as they are on Village Green.

Given that the re-opening of Jubilee Hall and its new Café was imminent there was no opposition to this from the Parish Council.

15. Date and time of next Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council noted the next meeting would be on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 19:00 in the Jubilee Hall.

Signed:.....

Dated:.....