

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010**

**Present:** Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)  
Councillors Mrs M Goyns, E Goyns, B Maddison,  
Mrs M Nicholls, Mrs L Stewart, Mrs C Stogdale

**Apologies:** Councillor J R Lamb

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 22 March 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 **COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Chair welcomed PC S Rowe and PC P Harbisher to the meeting.

The Officer provided details of incidences that had been reported since the February meeting, which included 3 burglaries, 6 criminal damage, 3 thefts, 1 theft of motor vehicle, 2 thefts from motor vehicles and 23 reports of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour.

The Police advised of the action that had been taken with regard to quad and motor bikes. The Police had undertaken visits to residents and warned them of the implications. Since then the situation had appeared to improve.

Reference was made to a property at Peterlee Cottages where problems had been experienced with youths congregating. There had also been a number of fires at the property and the garden was strewn with rubbish and litter. The Police advised that they were aware of the problems associated with this property and everything was being done to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

The Chair made reference to a property at Greenhills Terrace which was being used as a meeting point for youths to congregate and drink. The Chair advised that the landlord of the property had been advised of the problems and he had

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 19 April 2010

given an assurance that action would be taken. The Police agreed to monitor the situation at the property.

Councillor Mrs M Goyns advised of recent problems regarding youths congregating to the rear of East and South View. This was happening on a regular basis for approximately half an hour every night, particularly a Wednesday and Saturday night. However, by the time the Police were called the youths had usually disappeared. Councillor Goyns advised that she regularly reported the problem to the Police who had recently been very off hand and abrupt on the phone. The Officer advised that calls received by the Police were handled by civilian staff and there had been a number of similar complaints regarding the unhelpfulness of staff when answering calls. PC Rowe advised Councillor Goyns to continue reporting the problem in order to establish a profile of evidence.

The Chair once again referred to problems caused by vehicles parking outside the Pizza shop on the corner of the Front Street and asked if there was any way Traffic Wardens would be able to assist. The Police advised that there were no longer Traffic Wardens. He did however suggest that as there were yellow lines along the Front Street it would be useful to find out if they were enforceable.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### 3 **STREET WARDENS**

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

### 4 **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### (1) **Requests for Financial Assistance**

##### (i) **Greenhills Centre**

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS, COUNCILLOR M MORRIS DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE DISCUSSION OR VOTING THAT ENSUED.**

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 19 April 2010

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the Greenhills Centre requesting support from the Parish Council towards the running costs of the Centre. Members were advised that the Greenhills Centre had been successful in obtaining Capital Grants but were finding it difficult to draw down Revenue Grants to cover the day to day running costs attached to the building and grounds.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that consideration of this item be deferred and the Clerk contact the Greenhills Centre to obtain a copy of their Business Plan and accounts for Members consideration.

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS, COUNCILLOR B MADDISON DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE DISCUSSION OR VOTING THAT ENSUED.**

### (ii) **Wheatley Hill History Club**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill History Club.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

### (2) **Letter of Thanks**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Victim Support.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

## 5 **PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Applications**

Consideration was given to the following planning applications received from Durham County Council: -

## **Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 19 April 2010**

Conversion of garage to bedroom and erection of garage at 6 Church Park for Mr G Grove

House (outline) at land at Moor View for Mr T Hodgson

**RESOLVED** that no objection or comment be made to Durham County Council.

### **6 DELEGATES REPORTS**

#### **(i) Wheatley House**

The Chair provided Members with an update on the situation regarding Wheatley House and advised that a meeting was held with Mrs S Pearce, AAP Area Co-ordinator on 26 March 2010. It was hoped that a further meeting would be held in May to discuss the way forward.

#### **(ii) Wheatley Hill Clinic**

The Chair advised that further meetings were scheduled to be held to discuss the clinic and provided an update on the current situation.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### **7 HEAD GROUNDSPEOPLE'S REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

### **8 CLERK'S REPORT**

#### **(1) Allotments**

##### **(i) Waiting List**

Members were provided with details of waiting lists for allotments and stable blocks.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **Complaint**

The Clerk provided details of a complaint received from Mr Kelsey regarding problems at the allotments, details of which were outlined to Members.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(2) **Dog Fouling - Football Field**

The Clerk reported details of a complaint regarding excessive dog fouling on the football field. Durham County Council had been contacted to provide a quotation to have the area cleaned and the Street Wardens had also been asked to be extra vigilant in this area.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(3) **Community Centre Play Area**

The Clerk advised Members that a representative from the Greenhills Centre had met with Durham County Council to discuss the outstanding repairs required at the Centre's play area. The Parish Council was still waiting to hear from the Centre what works would be required and what the costs involved.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

(4) **Contract Renewal - Dog Bins**

The Clerk reported the receipt of the contract for the servicing of 3 no. dog bins from Durham County Council.

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 19 April 2010

The cost to empty each bin per week was £3.45 which amounted to an annual contract fee of £538.20 plus VAT, an increase of £16 on last year.

**RESOLVED** that the contract with Durham County Council be renewed.

### (5) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that Mr B Thubron had previously agreed to carry out repairs to the Cemetery wall. However, Mr Thubron had subsequently advised that he was unable to undertake the work and would recommend somebody local who could undertake the work.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### (6) Annual Audit 2010

The Clerk advised that the Annual Audit date had been set for 28 May 2010.

The Clerk proceeded to take Members through Section 1, Statement of Accounts, and Section 2, Annual Governance Statement.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2010, be approved and signed by the Chair.

## 9 PAYMENTS AND ORDERS

The Clerk presented Members with a written report of all payments and receipts made since the last meeting.

Members were also provided with details of the financial position of the Parish Council in comparison with the Annual Budget.

**RESOLVED** that the report be received and the payments itemised, be approved.

**10 Risk Assessment**

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(i) Village Walkabout**

The Chair advised that a street walkabout/clean up was scheduled to be held on 11 May 2010. With regard to this the Chair provided details of properties in Greenhills Terrace, Peterlee Cottages, Wordsworth Avenue and Granville Terrace where there had been issues regarding rubbish. All Members were encouraged to attend the walkabout.

**(ii) "30 mph" Speed Signs**

The Chair advised that the 30 mph speed signs situated at the top of Wheatley Hill were scheduled to be re-located further into the village.

**(iii) "Slow Down" Sign**

The Chair advised that he was investigating the possibility of erecting a "slow down" sign in Wheatley Hill to assist in slowing traffic.

**(iv) Rock Farm Dairy**

Councillor Mrs E Carr reported that the paths and roads leading to and from Rock Farm Dairy were a mess due to the volume of traffic going in and out.

**(v) Path – Doctors Surgery**

Councillor Mrs M Goyns advised that the footpath leading from the car park to the Doctors surgery was overgrown with grass and strewn with

**Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 19 April 2010**

rubbish. Most of the soil had been washed out making it virtually impossible to walk on the path.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

The Chair concluded the meeting by advising that Councillor J R Lamb had recently been admitted to hospital and on behalf of the Parish Council wished him a speedy recovery.

..... Signed

..... Dated