

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

Present: Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)
Councillors Mrs M Nicholls, B Maddison,
J R Lamb, Mrs L Stewart, Mrs C Stogdale,
Mrs E Carr, Mrs M Goyns and E Goyns

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 14 June 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 P Gooden and PCSO K Wager to the meeting.

The Officer provided details of incidences that had been reported since the last meeting which included 2 thefts, 2 incidences of criminal damage and various reports of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour. Members were advised that the overall crime rate in the area, as well as in Wheatley Hill, had reduced. The Chair thanked the Police for their efforts in reducing crime rates.

The Chair made reference to The Knoll and advised that the new owner of the property had erected locked gates at the property.

The Police reported on action that had been taken with regard to quad and motor bikes and reiterated that if residents knew who the culprits were they could pass the names and addresses to the Police who would take any necessary action.

The Chair made reference to the ongoing problems associated with the pizza shop on the corner of the Front Street, particularly parked vehicles and youths congregating. The Police advised that they had recently targeted this area and had issued a number of warning notices. The Police would continue to monitor the area and would issue tickets as and when necessary.

The Chair reported problems at 16 Harpers Bungalows regarding youths cutting across the grassed area to the front of the properties and peering in windows. The problem had been reported to the Neighbourhood Wardens and the possibility of erecting a fence around the area was being investigated.

The Police advised that the current priorities set for Wheatley Hill were speeding vehicles on the Front Street, particularly after 6pm and parking around Woodlands Avenue. The Chair pointed out that there was also problems associated with parking around East View.

Reference was made to a letter which had been sent to residents in Woodlands Avenue regarding parking in the street. The Police advised that they were not responsible for the letter and had no knowledge of it.

The Police advised that the problems associated with youths congregating and cars

parking at Vincent's Corner could be included in the list of priorities for Wheatley Hill.
RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and a letter of thanks be forwarded to the Police for their efforts in reducing crime in Wheatley Hill.

3 STREET WARDENS

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

(i) East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau.

Members were advised that the Parish Council gave an annual donation to the East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau of £600.

RESOLVED that a donation of £600 be made from the Section 137 budget.

(ii) The Royal British Legion – Wheatley Hill Women's Section

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from The Royal British Legion – Wheatley Hill Women's Section.

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 the Haswell and District Mencap Society following a donation of £300.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Durham County Council - Civic Reception and Dinner

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Chair of Durham County Council for the Chair to attend a civic reception and dinner on 8 October 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Durham County Council - North East Salsa Event

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Chair of Durham County Council for Members to attend a North East Salsa Event on 24 July 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

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

Proposed storage container (retrospective) at fishing pond off old A181 Wingate Lane for Mr Hall.

Proposed raised patio area (retrospective) at 6 Quilstyle Road for Mr R Rutherford.

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 proposed closure of Wheatley House and advised that a number of meetings had been held.

Residents were working with S Pearce, AAP Co-ordinator to keep Wheatley House open and it was hoped that a committee could be established to take the project forward. Work was currently underway to establish what finance would be required to retain the building and it was possible that the Parish Council would be asked to contribute towards the ongoing upkeep and maintenance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Parish and Town Councils Conference

Councillors Mr and Mrs Goyns advised that they had attended the Parish and Town Councils Conference held at Durham County Council on 19 July 2010 and would provide a comprehensive report to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

(i) General

The Clerk advised that routine work had been undertaken in the Cemetery since the last meeting, details of which were outlined.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Purchase of Leylandi Hedging

The Clerk advised that the Head Groundsperson had sought permission to purchase Leylandi Hedging at a cost of £135.25 excluding VAT, to complete the hedging around the ash section in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the purchase of the Leylandi hedging at a cost of £135.25 excluding VAT.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

(i) Waiting Lists

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Letter of Complaint

The Clerk reported that a letter purporting to be from Wheatley Hill Parish Council had been sent to Wheatley Hill Workmen's Club complaining about the state of the allotments to the rear of the Club.

It was stressed that the letter was in no way connected to Wheatley Hill Parish Council and had not been sent by either the Clerk or a Member of the Parish Council.

It was unclear who the author of the letter was and therefore no further action could be taken.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

PROIR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR M NICHOLLS DECLARED AN INTEREST.

(2) Greenhills Centre – Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk advised that at a previous meeting the Parish Council had agreed to fund the cost of repairs to the play area at the Greenhills Centre to the amount of £2,125.50 excluding VAT.

In addition to the funding for the play area the Greenhills Centre had also requested financial assistance along the lines of that previously provided by the Parish Council.

Following a lengthy discussion it was pointed out that the Parish Council had already agreed to fund the repairs to the play area at the Centre and therefore no further financial assistance could be offered.

RESOLVED that the Clerk advise the Greenhills Centre that their application for financial assistance had been refused on the basis that the Parish Council had previously agreed to fund the repairs to the play area.

(3) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting Members discussed a quotation received from a local builder which was based on a daily work rate. As the quotation had provided no indication of how long the work would take or the cost of materials, the Clerk had contacted the builder to discuss the quote in greater detail.

Unfortunately the Clerk had been unable to establish how long the job would take. The builder was unsure how long it would take until he started the job and

could ascertain the damage and the amount of work that was needed.

Following a lengthy discussion on the options available and the cost involved it was suggested that the Clerk investigate the possibility of erecting a fence to the front of the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that the Clerk carry out further investigations into the possibility of erecting a fence to the front of the Cemetery.

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) 10 Byron Street

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale requested that her thanks be recorded in relation to the work undertaken at 10 Byron Street.

(ii) Blocked Manhole

Mrs C Stogdale reported that a manhole opposite Wheatley Terrace was partially blocked.

(iii) School Path

Mrs C Stogdale advised that the trees running along the path at the side of the school required pruning back, in addition the path needed clearing of the overgrown nettles.

(iv) Fishing Pond

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale advised that the walkway from Quetlaw Road to the fishing pond was overgrown and needed strimming back.

(v) Wheatley Hill Clinic

The Chair provided an update on the Clinic and advised that discussions were currently ongoing with the Doctors at the surgery.

(vi) Wheatley Hill and Thornley Regeneration

The Chair advised that consideration of a report relating to the regeneration of Wheatley Hill and Thornley was to be considered by Durham County Council's

Cabinet this week.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(vii) **“30” MPH Signs**

The Chair advised that Durham County Council were looking into re-locating the “30” MPH signs further into the village.

12 Letter of Thanks

The Chair advised that Mr F Appleby was retiring from Durham County Council after many years service. Over the years Mr Appleby had been of great assistance to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Appleby for all the help and assistance he had provided the Parish Council over the years.

..... Signed

..... Dated