

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2010**

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

**Also Present:** Mr S Townley and Ms Million

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 13 September 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 **COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Chair welcomed the local PC to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 16 reported incidences of youth causing nuisance/anti social behaviour, 1 vehicle nuisance, 7 thefts and 8 burglaries.

The Officer provided an update on the hotspot area around Pizza Nova and advised that regular patrols were being undertaken in this area.

It was reported that there were problems associated with youths causing a nuisance and drinking around a property in Granville Terrace, particularly on a weekend. There was regularly loud music coming from the property as well as youths coming and going at all hours.

It was also reported that there were youths coming and going from a house next to the pizza shop. The Officer suggested that if residents could keep a diary of all activity at the property this could be used in future as evidence and possibly lead to the issue of a Closure Notice on the property. Clearly there were a lot of issues around this property which would need further investigation.

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

3 **STREET WARDENS**

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

4        **CORRESPONDENCE**

(1)        **Request for Financial Assistance - Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from   Wheatley Hill Constitutional 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 the Hartlepool and District Hospice.

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

(3)        **Northumbrian Water - Flushing of Water Mains**

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting, Members had expressed concern regarding work undertaken by Northumbrian Water in Wheatley Hill. The literature which had been issued to residents advising of the works had been unclear about the safety of the drinking water during the works.

The Clerk reported that Northumbrian Water had provided a full response to Members concerns, details of which were outlined to Members.

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

(4)        **Village Walkabouts**

The Clerk provided Members with a number of dates on which P Walker, Senior Civic Pride Officer would be able to undertake a village walkabout in Wheatley Hill.

**RESOLVED** that P Walker be advised that Monday 29 November 2010, preferably on the afternoon, would be suitable for Members to undertake a village walkabout.

(5)        **Bonfire Night Strategy**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Safe Durham Partnership outlining details of their Bonfire Night Strategy which had been developed to try and address some of the concerns surrounding this date.

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

**5 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Applications**

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

Extension of time limit for implementation of planning permission for 26 No. houses and associated works at former Scrapyard, Black Lane for Mr C Burnip

First Floor Side Extension (Resubmission) at 24 Sandwick Terrace for Mr C Watson

Rear Conservatory at 6 Quilstyle Road for Mr R Rutherford

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

**6 DELEGATES REPORTS**

(i) **Association of Parish and Town Councils**

Councillor Mrs M Goyns advised that she had recently attended a meeting of the Association of Parish & Town Councils which was also attended by the Durham County Liaison Officer.

The attendance of the Durham County Liaison Officer at the meeting was very much appreciated and Members had agreed that this should happen on a more regular basis, to prevent Parish and Town Councils feeling excluded.

The Meeting also discussed the AAP's and there was a general concern at the lack of information being provided by the AAP's.

At the meeting it was agreed that further discussion was needed on the situation related to travellers throughout the County and it was suggested that a Special Meeting be held and the Durham County Council Gypsy Liaison Officer be invited to attend.

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

(ii) **Wheatley Hill Clinic**

The Chair provided an update on the clinic.

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

(iii) **Wheatley House**

The Chair advised that a meeting to discuss the future of Wheatley House would be held on Thursday 14 October 2010 at 1.30 pm at Wheatley House.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

**7 HEAD GROUNDS PERSONS 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.

**8 CLERK'S REPORT**

(1) **Allotments**

(i) **Annual Rent**

The Clerk advised that the annual rent letters had been issued.

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

(ii) **Stable Blocks 11 and 12**

The Chair welcomed Mr Townley and Ms Million to the meeting. Mr Townley advised that his stable block (No 11) adjoined Mr Dawes stable block at number 12. He explained to Members that Mr Dawes was in poor health and had been struggling to maintain his garden.

Therefore, both Mr Townley and Mr Dawes were making a joint application to have stable blocks 11 and 12 put in their joint names.

The Clerk advised that Mr Townley was currently on the Parish Councils waiting list for a second allotment and if the application for joint tenancy was agreed Mr Townley would remove his name from this list.

**RESOLVED** that the application from Mr Townley and Mr Dawes for the joint tenancy of stable blocks 11 and 12, be approved.

(2) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting Durham County Council were approached to provide a quotation for work on the Cemetery wall.

The Clerk advised that an Officer from Durham County Council had been out to inspect and survey the wall and as yet, no quotation had been received.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

(3) Christmas Lights Competition

The Clerk sought clarification from Members on whether they wished to hold the Annual Christmas Lights Competition.

Members expressed concern that the same properties were winning the competition each year and the number of entrants was declining. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not sponsor the Annual Christmas Light Competition.

(4) Precept 2011/2012

The Clerk sought approval to hold a Special Meeting to set the precept for the financial year 2011/12.

**RESOLVED** that a Special Meeting be held on Monday 13 December 2010 at 5.30 pm.

(5) Youth Activities

The Chair expressed concern at the general lack of activities for youths in Wheatley Hill and suggested that discussion could be held with representatives from the Community Centre, Community Groups and other organisations operating within the County area. Wheatley Hill suffered problems associated with youths congregating on street corners and it was felt that any activities to get youths off the street would be a benefit to the whole village.

The Parish Council would also be willing to assist in financing activities.

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

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) Demolitions - Caine/Henderson Avenue

Councillor B Maddison queried the position related to demolitions currently ongoing in Caine and Henderson Avenue. The Chair provided an update on the current situation.

(ii) **Overgrown Hedge**

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale advised that there was an overgrown hedge which needed cutting back at Office Street on the way to Shotton.

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

..... Signed

..... Dated