

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2011

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

Apologies: Councillor B Maddison

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 14 November 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 COMMUNITY POLICING

There were no Police present at the meeting.

3 STREET WARDENS

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letters of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks: -

Greenhills Centre
Wheatley House Moving Forward

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Memorial Stone

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr J Patterson of 24 South View, Wheatley Hill regarding a memorial stone in Wheatley Hill Cemetery.

The correspondence related to Mrs J Tupling and a memorial stone she had commissioned from Scott's Memorials.

The Clerk outlined to Members the history in relation to the memorial stone and Mrs Tupling.

Following a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Mrs Tupling outlining the Parish Councils position in this regard.

(3) Standards for England

The Clerk advised that it was likely that Standards for England would be abolished by 31 March 2012. Standards for England would continue to accept new cases until 31 January 2012 and would continue to deal with first tier tribunal cases

until their conclusion. It was expected that most cases outstanding at 31 January 2012 would be transferred back to the relevant local authority.

Members were advised that the Department for Communities and Local Government would release further information concerning the removal of powers for existing Local Standards Committees, the requirement to adopt a local code and to appoint an independent Member and importantly, the dates when all of this would come into force.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters to report.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

7 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting List

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

The Clerk advised that stable block 23 was currently vacant.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the allocation of stable block 23 be deferred.

(ii) Allotments 16a and 16b - Mr Frost and Mr Wilson

The Clerk advised that allotment 16 had previously been divided into 2 plots for Mr Frost and Mr Wilson and they each paid £15 for their half of the plot.

Mr Wilson had advised that he would be surrendering his half of the allotment and Mr Frost had requested consent to convert it back into one plot. The annual rent was paid for the forthcoming year and Mr Frost had confirmed that in future he would be responsible for the full £30 rent.

RESOLVED that Mr Frost be granted approval to convert allotments 16a and 16b into one plot to be known as allotment 16.

(iii) Fire at Allotment 6 - Mr Coxon

The Clerk advised that there was a fire at allotment 6 on 28 November 2011. The Fire Brigade was called and 2 engines attended. In order to access the allotment the fire engine had to cross the football field and as a result of this there was damage to the pitch.

Durham County Council had been requested to assess the pitch and undertake any necessary repairs. The local football team had also been contacted and they had advised that there was no home matches scheduled to be played on the pitch for a couple of weeks.

With regard to allotment 6 there was considerable fire damage and a lot of debris that contained asbestos. Durham County Council was requested to assess the allotment and they had provided a quotation of £500 for the removal of the asbestos material.

The Clerk had contacted Mr Coxon and given him an assurance that the Parish Council would assist with the clearance of the allotment.

With regard to the fire, this was a matter for the Police to deal with.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting a list of snagging issues related to the Cemetery wall was drawn up and discussed with Direct Services.

A number of the outstanding issues had been attended to, however, there were still a number of outstanding issues which would need to be rectified before signing off the work.

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

(3) Winter Maintenance

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting Mr Andrew Blankley, Assistant Engineer, Durham County Council, had attended the meeting to discuss winter maintenance.

At that meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would, in principle, agree to work in partnership with Durham County Council with regard to winter maintenance.

The Clerk advised that several meetings had been held with Mr Blankley to discuss winter maintenance in Wheatley Hill.

Members were advised that the Clerk had agreed with Mr Blankley a route of footways that would be gritted by the Parish Council and had also agreed that the Parish Council would fill a number of grit bins throughout the village.

All of this was dependent on Durham County Council supplying the Parish Council with the necessary salt.

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

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) Litter

Councillor Mrs Stogdale made reference to the Lengthsman and the area that he covered. Members were advised that there was an accumulation of litter on the path adjacent to the allotments.

(ii) Temporary Road Closure - Quilstyle Road

The Chair advised that sewerage upgrade works would commence on 16 January 2012 at Quilstyle Road. It was expected that this would have an effect on the bus stop at this location and a temporary bus stop would be erected during the course of the works.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated