

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY 2012

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns and Mrs L Stewart

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 12 December 2011, together with those of the Special Meeting held on 12 December 2011, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO S Bowman to the meeting. PCSO Bowman introduced herself and advised that she was the new PCSO for Wheatley Hill and Thornley.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 95 incidences reported which included 7 dwelling burglaries, 3 other burglaries, 1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 2 reports of damage to motor vehicles, 3 criminal damage, 3 anti-social behaviour and 2 reports of fly tipping.

The Chair asked if any progress had been made in relation to the relocation of the Police into the Greenhills Centre. PCSO Bowman advised that she would investigate and provide an update to the next meeting.

The Chair made reference to youths congregating on the Front Street and to the rear of the Constitutional Club. He also referred to the problem of quad bikes riding along the Front Street. PCSO Bowman advised that the Police were able to issue Traffic 183 Warning Notices, however in order to enable them to do this they required the names of the perpetrators.

Councillor Mrs Goyns referred to road safety problems on the Front Street. Councillor Goyns had witnessed a car parked outside the Chinese takeaway on the Front Street, at the same time there was a car parked on the opposite side of the road which was blocking the road to other vehicles. PCSO Bowman advised that for the Police to take any action they had to witness the obstruction and then they would be able to issue a ticket. Members were advised that the Police would continue to be monitored the area.

The Chair referred to the number of empty properties on the Front Street and asked PCSO Bowman to continue monitoring the situation.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

3 STREET WARDENS

The Chair welcomed F Daghish and K Topping, Street Wardens from Durham County Council, to the meeting.

Members were advised that during December 2011 there had been 8 reported incidences of which 6 were related to anti-social behaviour. Other reported incidences included quad bikes, a fire at the allotments and loose horses.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Wheatley Hill History Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill History Club to cover the costs of a Local Family History Day to be held in September 2012.

The Chair suggested that as the Local Family History Day was to be held in September 2012, the donation could be agreed in principle, and the funds provided from the 2012/2013 Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget for 2012/2013.

(ii) Learning Library

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Learning Library.

The Chair suggested that the donation be agreed in principle, and the funds be provided from the 2012/2013 Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget for 2012/2013.

(iii) Great North Air Ambulance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill Over 20's Club
Wheatley Hill Heritage Society
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Temporary Road Closure - Quilstyle Road

The Clerk advised that Northumbrian Water would be undertaking work to upgrade the sewerage network in Wheatley Hill from 16 January 2012. The £390,000 scheme would be undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding to three properties on Quilstyle Road. The work would take up to 2 months to complete and would involve installing a total of 340 metres of new sewer pipe and up sizing the existing combined sewer along Quilstyle Road.

Members were advised that during the works it would be necessary to install traffic management but every effort would be made to minimise inconvenience to residents.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils

The Clerk advised that a meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils was held on 10 January 2012.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Royal Garden Party 2012

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising that they had been allocated 2 places to attend the Royal Garden Party to be held on 22 May 2012.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs L Stewart be nominated to attend on behalf of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Installation of Septic Tanks at Wheatley Hill Angling Club, The Pond, Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill, for Wheatley Hill Angling Club.

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

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Goyns advised that she had attended the Mencap Carol Service in December 2011.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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 the waiting list for allotments and stable blocks.

The Clerk advised that stable block number 23 was vacant.

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

(ii) Water Usage

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had received a water services bill for the allotments in the amount of £570.65. The bill covered the period 30 August to 13 December 2011.

Members expressed concern at the high usage of water at the allotments and the impact this was having on the Council's budget.

Following discussion, it was suggested that the high water bill could be related to the recent fire at the allotments and the Parish Council would defer writing to all allotment holders until receipt of the next quarterly bill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that there had been no progress since the last meeting.

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

(3) Precept 2012/2013

The Clerk advised that following the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 December 2011, an updated report which detailed the expenditure required by the Parish Council for the 2012/2013 financial year was circulated to each Member.

Following consideration it was **RESOLVED** that the estimates of expenditure presented by the Clerk be approved and the precept level for 2012/2013 be set at £128,902.00

(4) Cemetery Fees

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk which gave details of the proposed Cemetery fees for 2012/2013, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member

RESOLVED that the Cemetery fees for 2012/2013 be approved and the increases outlined in the report be implemented from 1 April 2012.

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) Skip - Peterlee Cottages

Councillor Maddison advised that a skip located at 31/32 Peterlee Cottages was full and rubbish from the skip was being blown into the street and neighboring properties.

(ii) Fly-tipped Rubbish

Councillor Mrs Stogdale reported that rubbish had been fly-tipped on the track leading towards the farm down from Green Lane Nurseries, Trimdon Station.

(iii) Dog Fouling

Councillor Mrs Carr reported dog fouling around The Knoll.

(iv) Blocked Drain

Councillor Mrs Goyns advised that the drain at the front of the Cemetery appeared to be blocked with soil.

(v) Rubbish and Recycling Collections

The Chair advised that Durham County Council would be making changes to the rubbish and recycling collections throughout the County.

Changes in Wheatley Hill were expected to take place in June 2012. This would include the delivery of a new bin for recycling and a possible change of collection day.

Durham County Council would be issuing residents with a Guide to Services regarding the changes.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated