

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2013

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns and J R Lamb

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 11 March 2013, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PC S Bowman to the meeting.

PC Bowman advised of personnel changes within the unit and reported that she would be covering Wheatley Hill along with PC A Jepson. The Chair welcomed PC Bowman back to Wheatley Hill and stated that Members were happy to have her back working in the village.

The Officer reported that since the last meeting there had been 67 incidences reported which included 5 personal nuisance reports, 3 thefts and 2 vehicle crimes. There had been 11 incidences related to the Front Street and the Clinic where youths had been seen trying to set fire to the building by putting something through the letterbox.

The Officer reported that the number of incidences related to youths on scooters appeared to be on the decline. Once again both crime overall and anti-social behaviour in Wheatley Hill had reduced.

The Chair made reference to reports of adults and youths drinking outside the Co-op, particularly over a weekend. The Officer advised that extra patrols would be undertaken.

Complaints had been received that Pizza Nova were trading till 1am in the morning over the weekend, this was attracting youths to congregate outside the shop generally causing a nuisance and smashing glass. The railings situated outside the shop had also been vandalised.

The Chair reported that the seats located on the Front Street, outside the factory units, had been the subject of vandalism and were damaged.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute towards a charity night in aid of the clubs children's charity.

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

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley House Moving Forward
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) De-Restricted Speed Limit Order – Cemetery Road

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council in relation to the introduction of a 60mph speed limit on Cemetery Road, Wheatley Hill from 34 metres north of the A181 in a northerly direction for 65 metres.

The consultation would run from 28 March to 18 April, 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Wheatley Hill Children's Centre

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill Children's Centre to attend the launch of Baby Café, a breastfeeding support group, on 25 April 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Greenhills Centre – Free Activity Day

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Greenhills Centre to attend a free activity and taster sessions day for families on 11 April 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend an Extraordinary General Meeting of the East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau to be held on 17 April 2013.

Members were advised that the purpose of the Extraordinary General Meeting was to discuss the merger of up to 4 Bureau, namely East Durham, Durham City, Wear Valley and Chester-le-Street into a new Greater Durham CAB.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Wingate Grange Wind Farm

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Infinis, which provided an update on the proposal for a wind farm at Wingate Grange Farm.

Members were advised that Infinis had agreed to increase the community benefit fund from £2,000/MW/year to £3,500/MW/year. This could result in up to £43,750 per annum being available to spend on community projects or over £1m during the lifetime of the project.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

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

Extension of time limit to implement planning permission PI/5/2010/0108 for house (outline) approved originally under reference PLAN/2007/0070 at land at Moor View, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3NQ for Mr T Hodgson.

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

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

Health Centre

The Chair provided an update on the proposals for the new Health Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting List

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

The Chair advised that Councillor J R Lamb had given notice of his intention to terminate the tenancy of allotment number 1.

Members discussed the allocation of allotment number 23 which had previously been earmarked for Mrs J Dinsdale of 6 Wheatley Terrace and Mr D Barnett of 9 Shinwell Terrace. Members discussed the division of the stable block into two allotments and suggested that tenancies be offered to Mrs Dinsdale and Mr Barnett with a view to it being halved into two allotments.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mrs Dinsdale and Mr Barnett in relation to stable block number 23.

(ii) Application for an Allotment

The Clerk advised that a request for an allotment had been received from Mr P Watson of 118 Wordsworth Avenue, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3RE.

RESOLVED that Mr Watson be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Payroll Services

The Clerk provided Members with an update in relation to payroll services and the introduction of real time information from April 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Annual Audit for the year ending 31 March 2013

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit date had been set for 5 June 2013.

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 the year ended 31 March 2013, be approved and signed by the Chair.

(4) Heritage Centre

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the proposal to provide extra space for the Heritage Society.

Members were advised that Mrs M Hedley had contacted Durham County Council to request if planning permission would be required for a portacabin type building to be sited to the rear of the Heritage Centre. This area of land had previously been suggested by the Planning and Conservation Officers as a suitable location for a conservatory type extension.

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

10 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.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Accommodation

The Chair reported that he was discussing the number of privately rented properties in Wheatley Hill with Officers. Discussions were also taking place with DAMHA in relation to what land was available for the provision of aged person's accommodation.

(ii) Litter Picking

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of youths on probation providing a litter picking service in Wheatley Hill.

(iv) Weardale Park

The Chair advised that discussions were ongoing in relation to access to the track at the former golf course, the access gate was still locked and walkers were still not able to access the track. The Chair was also in discussion with Officers in relation to the owner of the adjacent field as well as the state of the allotments to the rear of Weardale Park.

(v) Potholes

Councillor Mrs M Goyns advised that there were potholes to the rear of 1, 2, 18 and 19 South View.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated