

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

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

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 8 July 2013, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**MATTERS ARISING – WHEATLEY HILL HEALTH CENTRE**

Councillor Mrs Goyns asked for an update in relation to the proposed new Clinic. The Chair advised that there were a number of minor issues to resolve but it was expected that building work would commence shortly.

There had been a number of queries from residents and some confusion over the location of the new build but these matters had now been resolved.

- 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

- 3 STREET WARDENS**

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

F Daghish provided Members with an update on the calls received for Wheatley Hill.

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported that on a number of occasions she had heard horses trotting past East View in the early hours of the morning. F Daghish advised that she would pass the information onto the Police to investigate.

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

- 4 COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Chair welcomed PCSO's C McCombe and N Bowman to the meeting.

Members were advised that since 9 August 2013 there had been 121 incidents reported which included 25 anti-social behaviour, 15 burglaries, 1 criminal damage, 1 theft of a motor vehicle, 1 criminal damage to a motor vehicle and 1 theft from a motor vehicle.

It was explained that most of the anti-social behaviour incidents were related to Burns Street. The Chair pointed out that Members had requested a comprehensive update on the situation related to Burns Street at the last meeting.

Councillor Mrs Goyns once again reported the trotting horses on East View and Woodlands Avenue.

The Chair reported that vehicles were parking on the yellow lines in the vicinity of 19 to 22 East View and obstructing the view of cars leaving Johnson Estate.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 5 CORRESPONDENCE

### (1) Requests for Financial Assistance

#### (i) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society – English Heritage Open Days

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society.

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

#### (ii) Bishop Auckland Rugby Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Bishop Auckland Rugby Club.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

#### (iii) Wheatley Hill Working Men's Club Football Team

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Wheatley Hill Working Men's Club Football Team.

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

### (2) Wheatley Hill History Club - Coal under the Limestone

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill History Club to attend the launch of their new exhibition – Coal under the Limestone on 12 September 2013 at Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) No 2 Poultry Centre Allotment Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr J Frost on behalf of the No 2 Poultry Centre Allotment Society.

Members were advised that the Society had received several complaints from allotment holders in relation to fly tipping. Incidents were escalating and becoming more frequent with allotment holders clearing some of the fly tipped rubbish themselves on several occasions.

The track where the rubbish was being dumped did not belong to the Society and they were concerned that this external problem, which was beyond their control, would reflect on the site.

They were seeking help to determine who owned the track and was responsible for its maintenance. The Society would like to see fly tipping bylaws with signage and access restricted and monitored. They also suggested restricting unlawful access by means of locking removable posts or a gate with a stile

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr Frost to discuss the matter.

(4) Wingate Lane Post Office

The Clerk reported that Wingate Lane Post Office would close for refurbishment on 12 September 2013 and re-open on 19 September 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Approvals

PL/5/2013/0148 – Two storey rear extension at 20 Sandwick Terrace, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LN for Mr W Dawson

PL/5/2013/0253 – Building for storage for fodder and machinery at land opposite Crows House, Wheatley Hill DH6 3QL for Mr A Harvey

PL/5/2013/0226 – Variation of condition no 2 attached to planning application ref no PL/5/2012/0313: Demolition of existing surgery and rebuild new two storey premises at The Surgery, Thornley Road, Wheatley Hill DH6 3NR for Dr J Chandy

PL/5/2013/021 – Erection of boundary fence and wall at Rock Farm Dairy, Wheatley Hill DH6 3NL for UK Dairy Sales Ltd T/A, Rock Farm Dairy

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update in relation to the following:-

- Areas of land at the entrance to the Community Centre – Section 215 Notices had been served
- Projected savings that were required to be made by Durham County Council over the next 3/4 years
- Implications of the welfare reforms particularly the “Bedroom Tax”
- West House - possible planning application for housing
- Possible new housing planned for Wheatley Hill following approval of the County Durham Plan

- Wheatley House
- Grass cutting at Ryan and Cain Terrace following demolition

## 8 HEAD GROUNDS PERSONS 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.

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

#### (ii) Allotment Number 6

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from Mr G Coxon advising that he did not want to renew his tenancy of allotment number 6.

**RESOLVED** that allotment number 6 be allocated to Mrs J Dinsdale of 6 Wheatley Terrace, Wheatley Hill DH6 3RN.

#### (iii) Allotment Number 14

The Clerk reported that Mr Stevenson had advised that he did not wish to renew his tenancy of allotment number 14.

**RESOLVED** that allotment number 14 be allocated to Mr A Kelly of 56 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill DH6 3RH.

#### (iv) Application for an allotment/stable block

The Clerk reported the receipt of an application for an allotment/stable block from Mrs Lisa Bradwell of 9 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill DH6 3JT.

**RESOLVED** that Mrs Bradwell be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment/stable block.

#### (v) Request to Extend

The Clerk reported the receipt of an application from Mr K Newton, the tenant of stable block number 22, to extend his plot into stable block 23 which had recently been allocated to Mr Barnett.

Mr Newton had noted that little work had been undertaken on the plot and thought it was vacant. The Clerk had contacted Mr Barnett who had

confirmed he still wished to retain the plot and work would start shortly to tidy it up.

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

**(2) War Memorial**

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that a former resident of Wheatley Hill, Mr Charles Wylie, who died during the 1st World War, had been omitted off the War Memorial located in the Cemetery.

Mr Wylie lived with his parents at 5 Fourth Street, High Wheatley Hill prior to joining the Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Irish). He was killed in action on 1 July 1916 aged 23. Mr Wylies name was on the War Memorial at Thornley as well as the Memorial at Thievpal, Somme, France.

Scott Memorials had provided a quotation of £50 plus VAT to add Mr Wylie's name to the memorial. Following liaison with the Chair the work was undertaken and Mr Wylie's name was added to the memorial.

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

**(3) Annual Audit 2013**

The Clerk reported that BDO LLP had completed the Annual Audit for the year ended 31 March 2013 and there were no separate issues that required attention.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Notice of Conclusion of Audit was displayed for a minimum of 14 days.

The cost of the Annual Audit was £480.00

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

**(4) Pay Settlement 2013/14**

The Clerk reported that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had confirmed that agreement had been reached on the 2013/14 pay award for local government workers on NJC terms and conditions.

Members were advised that a pay increase of 1% had been agreed from 1 April 2013. This was the first increase since 1 April 2009.

As part of the settlement it had been agreed that spinal column point 4 (SCP4) would be deleted from 1 October 2013 to ensure no staff were paid below the national minimum wage. Therefore, from 1 October 2013 anyone on SCP4 would automatically be moved to SCP5 with effect from 1 October 2013.

Details of the effect of the pay increase and the deletion of SCP4 was outlined to Members.

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

(5) Shed Alarms

The Clerk reported that following an increase in the number of shed burglaries the Parish Council had purchased 200 shed alarms for distribution to residents in Wheatley Hill.

Each alarm cost £1.75 plus VAT and delivery. In addition 200 brass hooks were purchased to enable the alarms to be easily fitted. The total cost for 200 alarms, 200 brass hooks, delivery and VAT was £370.84.

Members discussed how the alarms would be distributed and agreed that they would be made available to residents living in Wheatley Hill free of charge. Alarms would be limited to one per household.

Publicity would be undertaken in conjunction with the Police and details would also be made available on the Parish Councils website.

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

(6) Heritage Centre – Additional Office Space

The Clerk provided Members with an update on proposals to provide additional space for the Heritage Society at the Heritage Centre.

Members were advised that the Clerk was seeking advice from Durham County Council in relation to the erection of additional office space to be sited in the Cemetery, to the rear of the Heritage Centre, and if planning permission would be required for a garden shed type structure.

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

(7) Winter Maintenance

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held with Durham County Council on 12 July 2013 to discuss winter maintenance arrangements for 2013/14.

Members discussed the current arrangements and suggested that the Parish Council continue with the current arrangements, which was to salt the footways on Cemetery Road, Johnson Estate, Woodlands Avenue and the Front Street. Salt bins would also continue to be filled. These activities would be dependent on the County Council supplying the necessary salt.

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

(8) Cemetery – Repairs to Water Supply

The Clerk reported that during recess there had been a number of leaks in the Cemetery. It had been difficult to determine where the leak originated and Northumbrian Water was asked to provide assistance in locating the pipework.

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

**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) Horses Grazing on Football Pitch**

Councillor B Maddison reported that 3 horses were being grazed on the football pitch.

**(ii) Allotment Track**

Councillor B Maddison reported that the track leading from St Godric's School to the allotments had a number of pot holes that were in need of repair.

**RSOLVED** that the Clerk investigate.

..... Signed

..... Dated