

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs E Carr, J Miller, E Goyns
and Mrs M Goyns

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 9 February 2015, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

There was no Police present at the meeting.

4 STREET WARDENS

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society to assist with the purchase of a new printer.

RESOLVED that a donation of £350 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Projected Election Costs

The Clerk reported that at a recent meeting of the Smaller Councils Forum a question was raised regarding the cost of elections and how parish councils could gauge what to “set aside” for the May 2017 election process.

Using the 2013 election costs the electoral services section had estimated the cost to be between £1 and £1.50 per elector. Therefore, with an electorate of approximately 2,456 the parish council would need to set aside an estimated £3,684 if an election was required in 2017.

If the parish council was unopposed and no election was required no costs would be incurred.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Village Artwork

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Wheatley Hill Mother's Club

Members were advised that Wheatley Hill pit closed on 3 May 1968. The 50th anniversary of the closure would be in May 1918 and Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club would like to mark the occasion by placing a piece of public artwork next to the pit wheel at Patton Walk.

The Mothers Club had met with Ray Lonsdale, the sculptor responsible for 'Tommy' the soldier at Seaham, who was willing to undertake the work.

A project of this size was expensive and funding bodies, such as the Heritage Lottery, would need to be approached for the majority of the money. The Mother's Club felt that if the village could raise £10,000 towards the total cost it would put them in a strong position to approach funders for a grant.

It was their intention to set up a small working group, for the duration of the project, made up of representatives from interested organisations and had requested the parish council for volunteers willing to attend the occasional meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk request the Mother's Club to advise the Parish Council when a date for the first meeting was confirmed.

(4) Visit to Gurney Traveller Site

The Clerk reported that at the request of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils the Area Action Partnership (AAP) was organising a visit to the Gurney Valley Traveller Site.

Members were advised that the visit would take place in May, on a date to be determined and transport would be provided.

RESOLVED that the Association be advised that Councillor Maddison would attend the visit if the date was suitable.

(5) Victoria Cross Memorial Stone – Thomas Kenny

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Area Action Partnership (AAP) advising that special paving stones would be laid in the home towns of every UK soldier awarded the Victoria Cross as part of the World War I centenary events. The specially commissioned stones would be given to councils in the areas where the VC recipients were born.

A total of 7 stones would be unveiled in County Durham to commemorate medals awarded and would be laid every year up to 2018. As part of the unveiling ceremony there would be a parade which would include representatives from the Royal British Legion, other regimental

associations and serving soldiers from the relevant regiment.

The stones would initially form part of an exhibition in the DLI Museum and from there would be transported to the agreed sites.

The first VC in Durham was awarded to Thomas Kenny on 4 November 1915. Mr Kenny was born in South Wingate, which no longer existed and the nearest community was Wheatley Hill, where he was buried.

As part of the process to determine the site of the VC stone the AAP had suggested that, with their support, Wheatley Hill and Wingate Parish Councils nominate representatives to view the possible sites and make recommendations as to the most appropriate location.

RESOLVED that the AAP be asked to advise the Parish Council once a date had been confirmed.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Approvals

DM/15/00049/FPA - Excavation to create secondary pond (re-submission) CE/14/03229/FPA at land to the north of roundabout at A181 and Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill, Durham for Mr A Hall

DM/15/00077/FPA - Erection of single storey extension and raised patio area to rear and erection of porch to front (re-submission) at 5 Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RF for Mr and Mrs A Mole

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

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 CLERKS 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 that following the last meeting Mr Telford of 53 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill failed to pay the rent for allotment number 6 and the tenancy was terminated.

The allotment was subsequently allocated to Mr Dove of 33 South View, Wheatley Hill, who declined the tenancy as he was now working away. Mr Dove had requested that he be retained on the waiting list.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Mr Dove be retained on the waiting list,
- (ii) allotment number 6 be allocated to Mr P Watson of 18 Wordsworth Avenue, Wheatley Hill DH6 3RE

(iii) Request for an Allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following requests for an allotment.

Mr M Kennedy, 33 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RX

Mrs M Askew of 7 Brandling Court, Shotton Colliery DH6 2QE

RESOLVED that;

- (i) Mr Kennedy be accepted onto the waiting list,
- (ii) Mrs Askew be advised that as she lived outside the parish she could not be accepted onto the waiting list.

(2) Wheatley Hill Community Association

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk which gave details of the Meals on Wheels service provided by Wheatley Hill Community Association, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Clerk took Members through the report in detail and following a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that: -

- (i) approval be granted for a financial donation, from the Section 137 Budget, of £4,866 to Wheatley Hill Community Association to assist with the following costs related to the provision of the Meals on Wheels service: -
 - Paid staff - Meals on Wheels delivery - £2,535
 - Trade refuse collection – Meals on Wheels, Luncheon Club and general running - £1,217

- Lift maintenance – essential for all users with limited mobility - £1,114

(ii) the Parish Council continue with grass cutting at the children’s play area during the summer months.

(3) Summer/Winter Bedding

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided the following quotation for the 2015/16 summer/winter bedding.

Provision, installation, watering and removal of 18 hanging baskets - £1,925.95

Supply and maintenance of 2780 summer bedding plants - £2,969.90

Supply and maintenance of 1190 winter bedding plants - £1,271.28

Supply only of summer bedding plants for the Cemetery - £294.00

All prices quoted were exclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted.

(4) Trade Waste Contract 2015/16

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £557 for the annual trade waste contract for the Cemetery. The contract price was based on 3 bins on alternative weekly collections.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council in the amount of £567 be accepted.

10 PAYMENTS

The Clerk presented Members with a 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 information given, be noted and the payments endorsed.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated