

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2012

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs L Stewart

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor M Nicholls be elected Chair of Wheatley Hill Parish Council for the ensuing year.

Councillor M Nicholls accepted the office of Chair of Wheatley Hill Parish Council and thanked the Members for all their help and support. He thanked them for their confidence in him and stated that he would act in the best interests of the village and community over the forthcoming year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs E Carr be appointed Vice-Chair of Wheatley Hill Parish Council for the ensuing year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED that Mr G Fletcher be appointed Internal Auditor to Wheatley Hill Parish Council for the ensuing year.

4 APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs C Stogdale be appointed to serve as School Governor to Wheatley Hill Primary School.

5 APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:-

Cemetery Sub-Committee
Councillors Mrs M Goyns, B Maddison and Mrs E Carr

Allotment Sub-Committee
Councillors B Maddison, M Nicholls and J R Lamb

6 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to serve as representatives of the Parish Council on the following external bodies for the forthcoming year:-

Easington Area Association of Parish and Town Councils
Councillors Mrs M Goyns and E Goyns

Durham County Association of Local Councils
Councillors Mrs M Goyns and E Goyns

Citizens Advice Bureau
Councillor J R Lamb

Durham Rural Community Council
Councillor J R Lamb

7 DATE AND TIME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED that Meetings of Wheatley Hill Parish Council be held on the second Monday of each month commencing at 6.00pm, with the exception of August where no Council Meeting would be held due to recess. Meeting dates were subject to change with the consent of the Chair of the Parish Council.

8 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 16 April 2012, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Girlguiding – 1st Wheatley Hill Brownies

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Girlguiding – 1st Wheatley Hill Brownies who were holding an event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

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

(ii) Haswell and District Mencap Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Haswell and District Mencap Society.

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

(iii) Hartlepool and District Hospice

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Hartlepool and District Hospice.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(iv) Wheatley Hill Community Primary and Nursery School

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Community Primary and Nursery School who were celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee with a garden party.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(v) 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group who were undertaking work to improve storage at their headquarters.

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

(vi) Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Disabled Club who were hosting an event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(vii) All Saints Parish Church

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from All Saints Parish Church who were hosting an event to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(viii) St Godric's RC Primary School

The Chair welcomed Mrs June Richardson and Mrs Angela Tomlinson from St Godric's RC Primary School.

Members were advised that Mrs Richardson and Mrs Tomlinson were in attendance at the meeting to discuss a project to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics 2012.

Members were advised that St Godric's School proposed to create a mosaic to be located in the Heritage Centre, Wheatley Hill. It was hoped that the production of the mosaic would bring together all the community groups operating and working within Wheatley Hill and Thornley.

Each group involved in the production of the mosaic would be represented by a picture/logo/name to be designed and included in the mosaic. Community groups would also have the opportunity to take part

in workshops designed specifically for the making of the mosaic. Thornley Library had offered the use of its premises for the workshops.

At this stage it was difficult to specify the costs involved. The project group would be applying to the Arts Council for a grant and it was possible to apply for funding up to £10,000. It was explained that the Arts Council would require the project group to raise at least 10% of the money required.

Mrs Richardson gave details of the groups and organisations that had already been approached and stated that all the Schools in Wheatley Hill and Thornley were on board. Many groups did not wish to take part in the physical making of the mosaic but they could still have their logo or name included by making a small donation.

In order for the funding group to have a better understanding of what funding was required for the project they would need to determine how many groups would be taking part and the level of donations they could expect to receive.

As there was limited wall space in the Heritage Centre Mrs Richardson proposed to erect the mosaic, which was mounted on boards, on the left hand side of the hallway. It was stated that the mosaic would also accommodate the window and radiator that were already in place.

The Chair thanked Mrs Richardson and Mrs Tomlinson for their attendance at the meeting whereupon they left.

Members discussed the proposal in detail and pointed out that there was a memorial plaque erected on the wall where it was proposed to locate the mosaic. The plaque related to the opening of the Heritage Centre and had been donated by Wheatley Hill Mothers Club. It was suggested that further clarification be sought in relation to the plaque and any discussions that had been held with Wheatley Hill Mothers Club.

With regard to a financial donation Members agreed, in principle, to a donation. The exact amount of the donation would be determined at a later date when the project group were in a position to provide further information regarding costs.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) approval be granted, in principle, to locate the mosaic in Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre subject to clarification regarding the memorial plaque donated by Wheatley Hill Mothers Club
- (ii) approval be granted, in principle, to a donation and the exact amount be determined at a later date when further information related to costs was available.

(2) Shotton Colts Football Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr P Hilton requesting permission for Shotton Colts Boys Football Club to use the Parish Council's small football pitch for the 2012/2013 season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2012/2013 season.

(3) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill History Club

Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

Learning Library

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau

The Clerk advised that following the meeting held on 12 March 2012, the East Durham Citizens Bureau were requested to provide additional information and statistics in relation to the outreach services provided in Wheatley Hill as well as other areas within the former Easington district area.

Members were advised that to date no response had been received from the East Durham Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Proposed dwelling at 3 Office Street, Wheatley Hill for Mrs L Baldwin

Proposed private garage at 3 Office Street, Wheatley Hill for Mrs L Baldwin

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

11 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

12 HEAD GROUNDPERSONS REPORT

(i) General

The Clerk advised that routine work had been undertaken in the Cemetery and

round the village since the last meeting, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Memorial Plaque

The Clerk reported that a memorial plaque, located in the ashes section, had been removed by the Stonemason due to a spelling mistake on the stone.

The stone was subsequently replaced when the Head Groundsperson was absent from the Cemetery and he did not initially notice that an additional piece of granite had been placed over the spelling mistake. The Head Groundsperson immediately contacted the Stonemason and the family concerned and explained that the stone would need to be removed and replaced. Both the family and the Stonemason understood and accepted the situation and a new stone was currently being cut.

The old stone was removed immediately from the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Waiving of Burial Charges

The Clerk reported that a 28 year old mother of three had died in Wheatley Hill. Due to a number of circumstances, which were outside the family's control, the burial would need to take place on a Monday.

Members were advised that it was the policy of the Parish Council to charge double fees for a burial held on a Monday.

Due to the exceptional circumstances in this instance, details of which were outlined to Members, it was suggested that the Parish Council waive the double fee charge in this instance.

RESOLVED that due to exceptional circumstances the Parish Council waive the double fee charge in this instance.

13 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting Lists

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting, Mrs Dinsdale and Mr Barnett were contacted and asked to confirm if they were still interested in an allotment tenancy.

Members were advised that both Mrs Dinsdale and Mr Barnett had confirmed they were interested in an allotment and both were happy with the suggestion to half stable block No. 23 into two allotments.

Members were advised that Mrs Dinsdale had advised that she was going to view the plot and advise the Parish Council of her decision.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mrs Dinsdale to determine if she was interested in the tenancy being proposed.

(ii) Application for an Allotment

The Clerk advised that a request for an allotment had been received from Mr Chris Dove of 33 South View, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3LL.

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

(2) Poop Scoop Bags

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had purchased 4,000 poop scoop bags at a cost of £57.85. The bags were kept at the Heritage Centre and were free to all residents.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Purchase of Equipment – Long Reach Hedge Trimmer

Members were requested to approve the purchase of a long reach hedge trimmer at a cost of £495 plus VAT. The purchase of this equipment would allow the hedges within the Cemetery to be cut at a safe height.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to purchase a long reach hedge trimmer at a cost of £495 plus VAT.

(4) Heritage Centre – Roof Repairs

The Clerk reported that a quotation had been received from RnB Roofing for repairs to the Heritage Centre in the sum of £295.

RESOLVED that the quotation from RnB Roofing in the sum of £295 be accepted.

(5) Heritage Centre/Cemetery Bungalow – Window Repairs

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quotation from P & P Windows Limited for the supply and fit of 2 no double glazed units to the Cemetery bungalow at a cost of £102 and the supply and fit of 1 no double glazed unit (patterned) at the Heritage Centre at a cost of £86.

RESOLVED that the quotation from P & P Windows Limited for 3 windows at a cost of £188 be accepted.

(6) Annual Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2012

The Clerk reported the appointment of Mr G Fletcher as the Parish Council's

Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED that information given, be noted.

(7) Precept 2012-2013

The Clerk reported that following a complaint from Mr D Henderson of 11 Greenwood Close, Wheatley Hill regarding the level of precept set by the Parish Council for 2012/2013 an invitation was extended from the Parish Council to Mr Henderson to meet with the Clerk to discuss this further.

Members were advised that Mr Henderson had declined the invitation via e-mail details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk provided Members with an update on work that had been undertaken to the Cemetery wall since the last meeting.

Following discussion on the work that had been undertaken it was suggested that the Clerk meet with Councillor Mrs M Goyns and Councillor Mrs E Carr to undertake an inspection of the work.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Councillors Mrs M Goyns and Mrs E Carr to arrange a suitable date for an inspection of the wall.

14 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.

15 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Potholes

Members reported potholes at the following locations: -

- Rear of Nimmo Cottages - near the Scout hut
- Rear of 16 and 17 Gable Terrace

- Area between 1 South View and the last house in East View, just past the traffic calming measures outside 2 – 3 South View

RESOLVED that the Clerk report the issues to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated