

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2010

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

Apologies: Councillor Mrs M Nicholls

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 11 October 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.
- 2 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed the local PC to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 19 reported incidences of youth causing nuisance/anti social behaviour, 10 of which were linked to fireworks/bonfire night. The Chair pointed out that there had been a number of problems associated with bonfire night, particularly the large number of bonfires which had generally caused a problem for residents as well as the Fire Brigade. The Officer advised that on 5 November 2010 there was also a major fire at Newton Aycliffe and all available Officers were deployed to this incident which had resulted in a lack of Police present in the village on bonfire night.

Since the last meeting there had also been 6 thefts. However, Members were advised that in general crime was down and details of the figures were outlined to Members.

The Officer reported that at the last meeting Members reported problems associated with youths causing a nuisance and drinking at a property in Granville Terrace. The Officer advised that the Police had visited the property, which was now flagged for standard operating procedure, and all incidences at the property would be logged.

With regard to reports of youths frequenting the property next to the Pizza shop the Officer advised that immigration had been contacted, however in the current climate this was not a priority

for them. The Chair advised that he had recently discussed with D Riseley, Enforcement and Education Manager (East) the possibility of moving the CCTV camera to monitor Vincent's Corner as youths tended to congregate in this area.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair thanked the Officer for the work undertaken in Wheatley Hill and acknowledged that crime rates had reduced.

The Chair made reference to Licensing Laws and the application from the Village Store, Wingate Lane for a licence to sell alcohol. The Chair pointed out that the owner of the Store was only obliged to post a sign in his shop window for 28 days and issue one notice in the local press. The Chair was concerned that residents would be unaware of the application due to the inadequate publicity and therefore miss the opportunity to object to the application.

The Chair had contacted the Licensing Officer and been advised that any representations the Parish Council wished to make would need to be relevant to the 4 Licensing Objectives which were the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm. Members were advised that any representation that did not relate to the above would be deemed not relative.

Members expressed concern regarding the following issues:-

- Already sufficient number of licensed premises in the village
- Property was close to a nursing home
- problems associated with anti social behaviour/youths causing nuisance
- road safety issues

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Licensing Enforcement Officer and express the concerns of the Parish Council, bearing in mind the 4 Licensing Objectives.

3 STREET WARDENS

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

(i) Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill Disabled Club.

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

(ii) 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group.

RESOLVED that a donation of £400 be made from the Section 137 budget.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS, COUNCILLORS MRS M GOYNS AND E GOYNS DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO FURTHER PART IN THE DISCUSSION OR VOTING

(iii) Wheatley Hill and Thornley Health Forum

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill and Thornley Health Forum.

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

(iv) Wheatley Hill Angling Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Angling Club.

RESOLVED that a donation of £1000 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Haswell and District Mencap Society - Carol Service

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Mencap Carol Service on 18 December 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Wingate Parish Council - Christmas Carol Service

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wingate Parish Council to attend a Christmas Carol Service on 9 December 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club - Christmas Concert

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the annual Christmas Concert on 1 December 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Durham County Council - Stray Dogs Review

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council had undertaken an efficiency review which had highlighted that they spent £24,000 a year on free poop-a-scoop bags that were distributed to the public through Town and Parish Councils. Subject to Members approval it was intended that the free distribution would cease from April 2011.

Therefore, if the Parish Council wished to continue to provide the bags to the public free of charge they would have to purchase them from the County Council.

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

5 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters for Members consideration.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

(i) Wheatley House

The Chair advised that a meeting was held on 5 November 2010 where 10 residents had volunteered to form a Committee. At the meeting a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were also appointed. The next stage would be for the Committee to prepare a business case. Councillor Nicholls had also pledged an amount from his county budget towards the upkeep of the building. It was anticipated that once established the Committee would approach the Parish Council seeking financial assistance.

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

7 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

(i) General

The Clerk advised that routine work had been undertaken in the Cemetery since the last meeting, details of which were outlined.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Theft of Small Trailer

The Clerk advised that there had been a theft from the compound on 27 October 2010 when the small trailer was stolen. The Police were advised and a crime number was issued.

Members were advised that the thieves had gained access through the privet hedge as there was only the metal gate into the compound and no security fencing.

Members were advised that the trailer was used on the short grave rows where the larger trailer was unable to access.

The Clerk advised that the small trailer was very old and of little monetary value. The Clerk would therefore discuss with the Head Groundsperson the merits of an insurance claim.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

(i) Annual Rent

The Clerk advised that all annual rents had been paid with the exception of Mr Maughan, the tenant of allotment 13.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr Maughan regarding the annual rent.

(ii) Mr Kelsey - Allotment 21

The Clerk reported a request from Mr Kelsey, 23 Handel Terrace, Wheatley Hill to re-designate allotment 21 as a stable block to allow him to keep horses on the plot.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to re-designate allotment 21 as a stable block.

(2) Village Walkabout

The Clerk advised that Mrs P Walker, Senior Civic Pride Officer, would lead a village walkabout on Monday 29 November 2010. Members were requested to meet at the Community Centre at 1.30 pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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) Ex-gratia Christmas Payments

The Chair suggested that an ex-gratia Christmas payment of £150 be made to J Davies, D Lamb and J Thompson.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for an ex-gratia payment of £150 to J Davies, D Lamb and J Thompson.

(ii) Safety Barrier - Vincent's Corner

The Chair provided an update on the safety barrier that had been damaged at Vincent's Corner and advised that the new barrier, which had been specially made, would be erected by 18 November 2010.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Access to Fishing Pond

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale queried if there was a public right of way at the fishing pond as the access point had been fenced off with barbed wire. The Chair explained that part of the fishing pond was private land, however he would make enquiries with regard to public access.

RESOLVED that the Chair take this matter up on behalf of Councillor Stogdale.

(iv) Wheatley Hill Roundabout - Pit Pony

Councillor Mrs M Goyns asked if it was intended to replace the pit pony on the roundabout.

The Chair advised if it was the intention to replace the pit pony and enquiries had been made to erect something similar to that at the entrance to Ryhope. However it was felt that the cost involved would be too steep to justify and further developments were awaited.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated

..... Chair