

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 2010

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

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 8 November 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 81 incidences which included 17 reported incidences of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour, 1 vehicle nuisance involving a quad bike, 2 thefts, 1 theft of motor vehicle, 2 burglaries and 1 theft from motor vehicle.

The Officer advised that the incidences of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour were mainly around the Alexandra Terrace/Front Street area, particularly Vincents Corner. In relation to the vehicle nuisance incident, the owner of the quad bike had been warned that if there were any further incidents the bike would be confiscated.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

3 STREET WARDENS

The Chair welcomed 2 Street Wardens from Durham County Council to the meeting. Members were advised that there had been no major incidences to report in the Wheatley Hill area.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Greenhills Centre - Elderly Members/Childrens Christmas Parties

The Clerk reported the receipt of 2 requests for financial assistance from the Greenhills Centre towards the elderly members and children's Christmas parties.

RESOLVED that a donation of £450 be made from the Section 137 budget.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS
COUNCILLOR B MADDISON DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO
PART IN THE VOTING.

(ii) Wheatley Hill History Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill History Club towards a Local History Day in 2011.

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

(iii) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society towards the restoration of the 1930's colliery banner.

RESOLVED that a donation of £1,000 be made from the Section 137 budget.

PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR J LAMB DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTING.

(iv) 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 members Christmas party.

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 Hill Angling Club

Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Licensing Act 2003 - Village Store Extra, Wingate Lane

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting of the Parish Council considered the application for a Premises Licence from the Village Store Extra, Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill.

The Parish Council had objected to the application and made representation under the 4 Licensing Objectives.

Members were informed that Durham County Council's Licensing Enforcement Officer had advised that following consultation with the County's Principal Solicitor (Litigation) it was the Licensing Authority's view that the Parish Council's concerns were not a valid representation as they did not provide relevant evidence related to any of the licensing objectives.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Parish and Town Council Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council's Standards Committee had recently appointed a Parish and Town Council Sub-Committee comprising of 3 County Councillors, 3 Parish/Town Councillors and 3 Independent Members.

The remit of the Committee was to support Parish and Town Councillors and their Clerks in maintaining high standards of conduct, whether through training or otherwise, and for this purpose to maintain close links with the County Durham Association of Local Councils.

Members of the Sub Committee had advised that they would be happy to provide training or other assistance and were willing to visit local Councils.

Councillor Mrs Goyns provided an update on the Governments "Programme for Government" which proposed to abolish the Standards regime and the Members Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Village Walkabout

The Clerk advised that the village walkabout scheduled to be held on 29 November 2010 had been cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. It was hoped to re-arrange the walkabout for early in the new year.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Mr Wilson - Whitehouse Farm

The Clerk advised that an account for £763.75 had been received from Hall and Co., Solicitors, who had acted on behalf of the Parish Council in the defence of the claim by Mr Wilson.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

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

Agricultural Building to Store Fodder and implements at High Crows House, Wheatley Hill for Mr J Hughes

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

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

(i) Arriva Bus Services

The Chair advised that Arriva Bus Services had announced proposals to change the Arriva 21 Darlington to Peterlee and Arriva 21a Middlesbrough to Peterlee routes from 30 January 2011.

Minor changes to the timetable would effect the Arriva 21. Arriva 21 would be rerouted to run via Deaf Hill and Wingate instead of Thornley and Wheatley Hill in place of the Arriva 26. The revised Arriva 57 would replace the Thornley to Peterlee section.

Arriva 57 Durham to Kelloe would be extended from Kelloe to Peterlee via Thornley and Wheatley Hill.

Members expressed concern that the proposals would result in Wheatley Hill and Thornley losing a route. It was also pointed out that the buses were constantly breaking down which also affected the service.

Once again it was suggested that the Parish Council, together with other local Parish Councils, could contribute towards the running of a service on a Saturday.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council object to the changes to the Arriva bus services.

7 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

(i) General

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had assisted with winter ploughing and gritting throughout the severe winter weather conditions that had recently been experienced.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

(i) Annual Rent - Update

The Clerk advised that all annual rents had been paid.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Waiting List

Councillor Maddison advised that Mr J McGinn formerly of 1a Quetlaw Road no longer lived in Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that Mr J McGinn be removed from the Councils waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Greenhills Centre - Play Area

The Clerk advised that in May 2010 the Parish Council had agreed to a request from the Greenhills Centre to pay the cost of repairs to the play area in the amount of £2,125.50 exclusive of VAT.

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council has undertaken the work and an invoice had been received in the amount of £2,055.65 plus £359.74 VAT.

RESOLVED that the invoice from Durham County Council for the repairs to the play area be paid by the Parish Council.

(3) Winter Maintenance

The Clerk advised that discussions were currently underway with Durham County Council with regard to the Parish Council assisting with winter maintenance in Wheatley Hill.

Discussions were centered around the Parish Council assisting with winter maintenance on a more formal footing with the County Council. Durham County Council would be willing to supply the Parish Council with sufficient salt and assist with the purchase of equipment to allow the side streets, estate roads and footpaths to be ploughed and gritted during adverse weather conditions.

Discussions were currently ongoing and Members would be kept up to date with current developments.

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

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) **Severe Winter Weather**

Members wished their appreciation recording for the work that had been undertaken by Durham County Council's Refuse Collectors and Carers during the recent severe winter weather.

RESOLVED that the Clerk pass on the Parish Councils appreciation to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated

..... Chair