

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 17 JANUARY 2011

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

Apologies: J R Lamb and Mrs M Nicholls

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 13 December 2010, together with those of the Special Meeting held on 13 December 2010, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed Sergeant S Hawkes to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 4 reported incidences of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour and 5 thefts. Members were advised that since the last meeting the number of incidences reported had reduced significantly. The Police and PCSO's were working in partnership with partner organisations to target problem areas.

The Chair made reference to the fast food/takeaway shop at Peterlee Cottages and explained that the premises were regularly open late into the evening. There had recently been problems associated with rubbish accumulating round the property as well as youths congregating at the premises late at night. Members were advised that the Chair had reported the problem to the Street Wardens. Sergeant Hawkes advised that he would investigate the situation, particularly in relation to youths congregating which could result in anti social behaviour.

The Chair asked Sergeant Hawkes to provide an update on youth provision at the Community Centre. Sergeant Hawkes advised that LMAPs money had been used to extend youth provision on a Friday night at the Community Centre. This would allow the service to continue to until March 2011 following which further funding would be required to sustain it.

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale made reference to the walkway which ran adjacent to the dog track and advised that quad bikes were using the walkway and causing a nuisance/disturbance. Sergeant Hawkes advised that there were dedicated off road motor cycle officers and this type of incident should be reported to them.

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

**3 STREET WARDENS**

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

**4 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Requests for Financial Assistance**

**(i) Durham Crimstoppers**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Durham Crimestoppers.

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

**(ii) East Durham Play and Community Network**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Eat Durham Play and Community Network.

**RESOLVED** that on this occasion no donation be made.

(iii) **Great North Air Ambulance**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

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

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS  
COUNCILLOR MRS E CARR DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO  
PART IN THE VOTING**

(iv) **Wheatley Hill Over 20's Club**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistant from the Wheatley Hill Over 20's Club.

**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 History Club

Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

Greenhills Centre

Wheatley Hill and Thornley Health Forum

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

**(3) Durham County Council - Charity Evening**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Chair of Durham County Council to attend a charity evening on 26 January 2011.

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

**(4) Royal Garden Party – 12 July 2011**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising that they had been allocated 4 places to attend the Royal Garden Party to be held on Tuesday 12 July 2011.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs L Stewart be nominated to attend on behalf of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

**5 PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

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

Rear conservatory at 2 Front Street, Wheatley Hill for Ms N Maslin

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

**6 DELEGATES REPORTS**

There was nothing to report.

**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

**PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS COUNCILLOR MRS L STEWART DECLARED AN INTEREST AND TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTING.**

**(ii) Memorial Stone**

The Clerk advised that a memorial stone from Scotts Memorials had been commissioned which did not comply with the Parish Councils regulations with regard to size and Members were therefore requested to refuse approval for it to be laid in Wheatley Hill Cemetery.

Members were advised that the original application from Scotts Memorials submitted to the Parish Council included a drawing, with dimensions, which complied with the Council's Policy. This application was approved by the Head Groundsperson.

Unfortunately when the stone arrived at the Cemetery it was not as stated on the application form and did not comply with the Parish Councils height requirements. The Head Groundsperson therefore had no other option but to refuse that it be laid. This obviously caused distress to the family involved.

Unfortunately this was the second time such an incident had occurred and whilst the fault lay with the Stonemason the situation reflected badly on the Parish Council. As a similar memorial tablet was refused in 2007 a precedent had been set. The Parish Council was therefore confirmed and the stone would not be allowed in the Cemetery until it was re-cut and complied with the Parish Councils requirements.

Following a lengthy discussion it was stated that this was in no way the fault of the family and Members acknowledged the distress the situation was causing.

**RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) the application be refused on the basis that it did not comply with the Parish Councils policy in relation to height and the Stonemason be instructed to recut the stone to the measurements originally approved,
- (ii) the Clerk contact all Funeral Directors and Stonemasons regarding the current regulations related to the erection of memorial stones within Wheatley Hill Cemetery.

**8 CLERK'S REPORT**

**(1) Allotments**

**(i) Mr A Kelly**

Members were advised that an application for an allotment had been received from Mr A Kelly of 56 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill.

**RESOLVED** that Mr A Kelly be accepted onto the Parish Councils waiting list for an allotment.

(ii) **Allotment No 3 - Mr A Jones**

The Clerk advised that Mr A Jones of 35 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill, the tenant of allotment No 3 had passed away. Members were advised that his brother, Mr J E Jones of the same address had requested that the tenancy be transferred into his name.

**RESOLVED** that the tenancy of allotment No 3 to be transferred to Mr J E Jones of 35 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

(2) **Quilstyle Road - Traffic Calming Scheme**

The Clerk advised that in July 2009 the Parish Council agreed to a financial contribution of £2,500 towards a traffic calming scheme at Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill to be undertaken by Durham County Council.

An invoice had been received from Durham County Council which related to the installation of speed humps, cushions and associated signing at Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill all of which were installed in July 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the invoice for £2,500 in relation to the road traffic calming scheme at Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill be paid.

(3) **Village Walkabout**

The Clerk advised that a village walkabout would be held on Monday 7 February 2011 and Members were requested to meet at the Greenhills Centre at 11.30 am.

**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**

The Chair provided an update for Members on the changes to Arriva Bus Services and the Clinic in Wheatley Hill.

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

..... Signed

..... Dated

..... Chair