

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2011

**Present:** Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)  
Councillors Mrs M Nicholls, Mr B Maddison,  
Mrs E Carr, Mrs C Stogdale, J R Lamb

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs M Goyns, E Goyns and Mrs L Stewart

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 17 January 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed Sergeant S Hawkes and P C K Wager to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 1 burglary, 1 vehicle damage and 3 incidences of vehicle nuisance. Members were advised that there were no trends or patterns that were a cause for concern and crime in general had reduced.

There had been a number of reports related to youths causing nuisance at the Community Centre. Following identification of the ringleader, the Police made a home visit and the problem stopped.

The Officer advised that the Police continued to be proactive throughout the village and had recently executed 3 search warrants. Following the last meeting the Police provided an update on Pizza Nova, and reported that they had been breaching their trading license, which had resulted in associated environmental issues. Pizza Nova had had an official warning and the situation was being monitored.

Reference was made to the village walkabout, which was held on 7 February 2011.

The Chair made reference to cuts to the Police budget and asked how this would affect community policing. Sergeant Hawkes advised that, to the best of his knowledge, funding for community/neighbourhood policing would not be affected and the current level of service would be maintained.

The Chair thanked the Police for the work that had been undertaken which had resulted in a reduction of crime and suggested that a letter be forwarded to the Chief Constable expressing the Parish Councils appreciation for the work undertaken in Wheatley Hill by the Police and PCSO's.

**RESOLVED** that a letter be forwarded to the Chief Constable thanking the Police and PCSO's for the work undertaken in Wheatley Hill.

### **3 STREET WARDENS**

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council - 14 February 2011

### **4 (1) Requests for Financial Assistance**

#### **(i) Butterwick House Children's Hospice**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Butterwick House Children's Hospice. Butterwick House was a children's hospice caring for children and their families, providing respite and end of life care along with much needed family support and bereavement services.

Butterwick House had stated that they currently cared for 29 children from this area, however, they were not specific if any of their patients were from Wheatley Hill.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Butterwick House Children's Hospice and request further information.

(ii) **Wheatley Hill Mothers Club**

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

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

(2) **Letters of Thanks**

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

Great North Air Ambulance

Over 20's Club

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

(3) **Wheatley Hill Rockets/Shotton Colts**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Wheatley Hill Rockets/Shotton Colts requesting use of the small fire station football pitch for the 2011/2012 football season.

**RESOLVED** that approval be granted for Shotton Colts football team to use the small fire station football pitch for the 2011/2012 football season.

**5 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Applications**

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

Temporary portable building for training room and facilities at Wheatley Hill Community Centre, Stephens Terrace for Woodcraft for Landscapes.

Steel modular building to provide classroom facilities at Pond off old A181, Wingate Lane for Wheatley Hill Angling Club.

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

**6 DELEGATES REPORTS**

The Chair provided an update on the current situation regarding Wheatley House and the work that was being undertaken to keep it open.

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

**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) **Memorial Stone**

The Clerk advised that at the last meeting Members refused an application for a memorial stone that did not comply with the Parish Councils Policy in relation to height.

Members were advised that the Stonemasons involved, Scotts, were advised of the Councils decision and instructed to recut the stone to the Parish Councils specifications.

Scotts had subsequently submitted a revised design for the stone, which unfortunately did not meet the Parish Councils specifications.

Following a lengthy discussion, Members of the Parish Council confirmed its policy with regard to the size and height of memorial stones and refused the revised application.

RESOLVED that 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.

8 **CLERK'S REPORT**

(1) **Allotments**

Members were provided with details of waiting lists and stable blocks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that following the meeting held in December 2010 the Parish Council had advised Direct Services that the quotation of £77,894.19 for works to the Cemetery boundary wall had been agreed, in principle, subject to further agreement in relation to the issues discussed at the meeting in December.

Members were advised that Mr P Burr, Building and Facilities Maintenance Manager, Direct Services, had advised that the contract documentation outlining the specific works was being prepared and would be forwarded to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

**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) Granville Terrace - Request for Dog Bin

Councillor B Maddison advised that dog walkers using Granville Terrace were not cleaning up after their dogs and a request had been received for a dog bin.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council request a dog bin at Granville Terrace.

(ii) Designated Travellers Site

The Chair provided an update on Durham County Council's proposals to create a designated area for travellers within the former Easington district area. Proposals were underway to hold a meeting with all former Easington district Councillors to look at the proposals.

(iii) Grazing Land

The Chair advised that Durham County Council were in the process of selling of areas of grazing land throughout the County. There had been a number of complaints from the current leaseholders of the grazing land that no consultation had been undertaken with the current leaseholders. Durham County Council had admitted that this situation had been handled badly and lessons had been learnt for the future.

(iv) Post Office

The Chair advised that there had recently been concern regarding a wall that was demolished at the Post Office, which residents had thought was listed. The Chair advised that this was not the case and the building and wall were not listed.

(v) Hedge Cutting

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale advised that the trees and bushes on the street opposite Office Street, Wheatley Hill needed cutting back.

..... Signed

..... Dated