

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 18 APRIL 2011

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

Apologies: Councillor E Goyns

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 14 March 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 WHEATLEY HOUSE

The Chair welcomed Mrs E Briddick and Mrs K Foster to the meeting.

Mrs Briddick provided Members with an update on the situation at Wheatley House. Good progress had been made and the Management Committee had expected to sign a lease for the building with Durham County Council. However, it had come to light that there were no Lintels over any of the windows in the building. There had been three surveys undertaken by the County Council on the building and this problem had not come to light before now.

The Management Committee was now reluctant to sign the lease as they would effectively be taking on the liability for the defective windows. They were also concerned that this would impact on the public liability insurance they would need.

Members were advised that there was also Asbestos in the roof. Whilst this in itself was not a problem there was no loft hatch in the building, therefore any works required to the ceiling or roof would require access through the roof, therefore disturbing the Asbestos.

In addition Mrs Foster advised that there had been problems with the Land Registry and Northumbrian Water in that they had been led to believe that Wheatley House had been demolished.

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

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PC Mellenthin to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 87 incidences which included 4 burglaries, 7 thefts, 2 criminal damage, 3 theft of motor vehicle and 3 complaints of youths causing nuisance/anti social behaviour.

The Officer advised that crime across the whole division had reduced significantly and particularly good results had been achieved with regard to burglary, down 42% and anti social behaviour down 22%. Crime in general in Wheatley Hill had been reduced by 20%. The Chair advised that complaints had been received regarding the allotments, particularly in relation to youths sleeping overnight in a caravan and burning tyres. The Police agreed to investigate.

Councillor Mrs E Carr made reference to the break in at the Church and asked if any progress had been made. The Officer advised that he would speak to the Beat Officer and ask him to contact Councillor Mrs E Carr direct.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

There were no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) **Requests for Financial Assistance**

(i) **The Chapel - Dodds Close**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from The Chapel at Dodds Close.

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

(ii) **Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club**

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

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

(iii) **Victim Support**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Victim Support.

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

COUNCILLOR M NICHOLLS DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS AND TOOK NO PART IN THE VOTING THAT ENSUED.

(iv) **Greenhills Centre**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Greenhills Centre.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(v) **Crimestoppers**

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

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) **Letters of Thanks**

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

St Godrics RC Primary School

Haswell and District Mencap Society

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) **Durham Miners Gala**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Durham Miners Association requesting the Parish Council to place an advert or message of support in the Durham Miners Gala Souvenir Brochure.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council place a message of support, up to a maximum of 20 words, in the Durham Miners Gala Souvenir Brochure at a cost of £35.

(4) **Armed Forces Day - Fly A Flag**

The Clerk advised that 25 June 2011 had been designated Armed Forces Day and organisations were encouraged to fly an armed forces day flag to show support for the military community both serving and retired at home and abroad.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) The Royal British Legion

The Clerk advised that the Royal British Legion had held a 90th Anniversary event on 12 April 2011, which was attended by Councillor Mrs E Carr and Councillor Mrs C Stogdale.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

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

Rear extension at 8 Bevan Crescent for Mr L Smith

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

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the clinic and advised that all outstanding issues should be sorted by the end of May 2011.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

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

The Chair reported a number of recent problems associated with the allotments and suggested that a meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee be held.

RESOLVED that a meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee be held.

(2) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that a meeting was required between Mr P Burr, Direct Services and the Parish Council to progress the work on the Cemetery wall.

It was suggested that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council together with Councillors B Maddison and J R Lamb attend the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr P Burr with regard to dates for the meeting.

(3) Website

The Clerk advised that work was underway to provide the Parish Council with a website. The content of the website was discussed with Members.

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

(4) Annual Audit for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

The Clerk advised that the Annual Audit had been set for 27 May 2011.

The Clerk proceeded to take Members through Section 1, Statement of Accounts and Section 2, Annual Governance Statement.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2011, be approved and signed by the Chair.

10 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.

11 RISK ASSESSMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) **Football Pitch - Container**

The Chair advised that complaints had been received regarding the amount of rubbish, particularly water/soft drinks bottles around the container at the Old Fire Station football field.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Mr D Blyth and Mr B Hammond and request that the area be kept clear of drinks bottles.

(ii) **Cemetery**

Councillor Mrs C Stogdale advised that she had received a complaint regarding the untidy state of the Cemetery on Mother's Day.

It was explained that it was unusual to receive any adverse comments in relation to the appearance of the Cemetery. It was suggested that high winds on this particular day may have resulted in debris being blown around the Cemetery.

(iii) **West House**

Members were advised that West House had been sold and the new owner was currently in discussions to erect bungalows on the site.

(iv) **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 16 May 2011.

..... Signed

..... Dated

..... Chair