

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2012

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

Apologies: Councillor J R Lamb

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 16 January 2012, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO S Bowman and PCSO A Jepson to the meeting.

The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 72 incidences reported which included 2 dwelling burglaries, 2 criminal damage, 1 criminal damage to a motor vehicle, 1 theft of a motor vehicle and 11 reports of anti-social behaviour.

With reference to the relocation of the Police to the Greenhills Centre, PCSO Bowman advised that the situation was currently on hold. Estimates to provide IT equipment at the Greenhills Centre were in the region of £15,000. However, as all PCSO's were to be supplied with PDA's there was no need for a base at the Greenhills Centre. PCSO Bowman confirmed she would keep Members advised of further developments.

Reference was made to the problem of youths congregating to the rear of Nimmo Cottages, particularly over a weekend. The Street Wardens present at the meeting confirmed that a large group of youths were regularly congregating at this location. The Street Wardens had approached the youths and moved them on and no alcohol was found on any of the youths involved. PCSO Bowman advised that she would check the records for any complaints or reports made regarding this incident.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

3 STREET WARDENS

The Chair welcomed F DGLISH and K Topping, Street Wardens from Durham County Council to the meeting. Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 4 reported incidences which included problems associated with youths congregating at Nimmo Cottages, eggs being thrown, stolen gates and a shed being burnt down.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Royal Garden Party Nomination 2012

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that 31 nominations were received from Councils across the Associations area to attend the Royal Garden Party on 22 May 2012.

Members were advised that the successful nomination was Councillor Mrs K Foster from Waldrige Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Durham Miners' Gala Souvenir Brochure 2012

Consideration was given to correspondence received from the Durham Miners' Association requesting the Parish Council to place an advert in the Durham Miners' Gala Souvenir Brochure.

Members were advised that a message of support in the Brochure, up to a maximum of 20 words, would cost £35.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council place a message of support in the Durham Miners' Gala Souvenir Brochure at a cost of £35.

(4) Small and Medium Local Councils Forum

The Clerk advised that the first meeting of the Small and Medium Local Councils Forum would be held on 17 February 2012.

Members were advised that the Parish Council were entitled to send 2 representatives to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk and Chair be authorised to attend.

(5) Police and Crime Commissioners Consultation

The Clerk advised that as part of the Durham Police Authority's Transition Programme to The Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police Authority was inviting residents and businesses in County Durham and Darlington to take part in a survey regarding how the future Police and Crime Commissioner would communicate and engage.

The results of the consultation would be used to inform the new Police and Crime Commissioner about how best to connect with his or her communities across County Durham and Darlington.

Members were advised that the survey would be invaluable to the Commissioners future strategy.

RESOLVED that the Clerk complete the Durham Police Authority Public Consultation Survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

(6) Mid Durham Projects Club

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 October 2011 Members were provided with details of a quotation from the Mid Durham Projects Club to erect a new pony and tub on Wheatley Hill roundabout.

The total cost of the project was £6,000. The Area Action Partnership had contributed £5,000 and the shortfall of £1,000 would be made up of a £500 contribution from Trimdon Foundry Parish Council and Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

RESOLVED that a donation of £500 be made to the Mid Durham Projects Club from the Section 137 Budget.

5 PLANNING MATTERS

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

Extension of time limit for implementation of planning permission, reference number PL/5/2009/0036, for residential development at Our Lady Queen R.C. Church, Greenhills Terrace, Wheatley Hill for Mr W Howe.

Members had no objection to the application but made reference to the state of this area of land which was often occupied by horses and was covered in manure. The area was currently an eyesore within the village.

RESOLVED that no objection or comment be made to Durham County Council regarding the planning application and the Street Wardens be advised of the state of the land.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

7 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

(i) Winter Maintenance Training

The Clerk advised that J Davies and D Lamb had attended a winter maintenance training course hosted by Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) General

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

Waiting List

Members were advised that an application for an allotment had been received from Mr D Barnett of 9 Shinwell Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that Mr D Barnett of 9 Shinwell Terrace, Wheatley Hill be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Burial – Thornley Parish Council

The Clerk advised that she was contacted by the Chair of Thornley Parish Council with a request for assistance with a burial to be held on 8 February 2012.

Members were advised that the Chair of Thornley Parish Council had advised that a member of staff had suffered a heart attack which left them short staffed. In order to comply with Health and Safety Regulations Thornley Parish Council had requested assistance to dig the grave.

Following consultation with the Chair it was agreed that the Parish Council would assist Thornley Parish Council with the digging of the grave.

It had initially been anticipated that assisting Thornley Parish Council would involve a half days work. It subsequently came to light that due to the location of the grave it would need to be hand dug which would require 1½ days for it to be prepared.

Following a lengthy discussion on the situation which included the option of recharging Thornley Parish Council it was agreed that as this was a one off situation no charge would be made.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) New Parish Council Website

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's new website would go live on 20 February 2012.

The Clerk provided a short presentation of the website to Members and suggested that if any Member wished for a more in depth look at the website that could be arranged.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Winter Maintenance Agreement

The Clerk reported the receipt of an outline agreement from Durham County Council in relation to winter maintenance. The agreement was between Durham County Council and Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

The activities to be carried out by the Parish Council, in relation to winter maintenance, were detailed in Appendix A of the agreement, details of which were outlined to Members.

Following a lengthy discussion on the winter maintenance arrangements it was RESOLVED that the agreement be signed and returned to Durham County Council.

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) Blocked Gully

Councillor Mrs Stewart advised that the gully between 16, 17 and 18 Granville Terrace was blocked due to slurry.

(ii) Winter Gritting

Councillor Mrs Stogdale advised that she had received a number of complaints regarding winter gritting around Cyprus View and the dentists.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated