

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2013**

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs L Stewart

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 13 May 2013, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO A Jepson to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 59 incidents reported in Wheatley Hill. This included 3 burglaries, 4 thefts, 1 criminal damage and 1 theft from a motor vehicle.

With regard to anti-social behaviour there had been few reports. Figures compared to last month were down 40% however the figures compared to the same time last year were up 38%. Crime overall compared to last month was up 78% and compared to the same time last year were up 192%.

Reference was made to a property in Greenwood Close which had been left in a poor condition by the previous tenant. It appeared that the rubbish from the wheelie bin at the property had been emptied on the street. The property belonged to East Durham Homes and it was likely it would need to be boarded up. There was still a car at the property which belonged to the previous owner so it was expected they would return to collect it.

There had been complaints related to fly tipped rubbish and rats to the rear of Granville Terrace.

The Chair made reference to the on-going problems at Burns Street. Residents were concerned and frustrated that it appeared the Police were doing very little to resolve the problem. The PCSO explained that once the Police submitted their evidence it was the then the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service as to what action would be taken.

In relation to the issues raised at the last meeting regarding parking at the Knoll PCSO Jepson advised that she had spoken to a number of drivers who were parked illegally and they had been warned not to park there in future. Members reported that a blue van was regularly parked outside the pizza shop and hindered visibility for motorists.

Reference was made to an accident that had occurred on the Zebra Crossing at Alexander Terrace. It was unclear what exactly had happened but initial reports were that two cars were seen racing along the Front Street prior to the accident.

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) Hartlepool and District Hospice

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Hartlepool and District Hospice.

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

(ii) Wheatley Hill Women's Section - Royal British Legion

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill Women's Section of the Royal British Legion.

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

(iii) Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

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

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

(iv) 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.

(2) Shotton Colts Football Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Shotton Colts Football Club requesting permission to use the Parish Council's small football pitch for the 2013/2014 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2013/2014 season.

(3) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society – Annual Report

The Clerk reported the receipt of the Annual Report from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society which provided details of the work undertaken by the Society during 2012/13, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Haswell and District Mencap Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Haswell and District Mencap Society to attend a 6th Anniversary event at the Lisa Dixon Centre on 22 June 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) East Durham Association of Town and Parish Councils

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the East Durham Association of Town and Parish Councils would be held on 11 June 2013 at Easington Colliery Parish Council.

The Parish Councils representatives advised that the new time of 4pm for the meeting was unsuitable and asked the Clerk to submit their apologies and query the timing of future meetings.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Police Day of Action – 19 June 2013

The Clerk reported that the local PCSO's were holding a Day of Action on 19 June 2013. The section office in Wheatley Hill would be open 10am to 6pm. Street Wardens would be micro-chipping dogs between 10am and 11am and bike marking would take place between 4pm and 5pm.

It was also proposed to hold a walkabout with the PCSO's, local Members and other interested parties.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

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

PL/5/2013/0148 – Proposed two storey rear extension at 20 Sandwich Terrace, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LN for Mr W Dawson

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

(ii) Approval

Extension of time limit to implement planning permission PL/5/2010/0108 for house (outline) approved originally under reference PL/2007/0070 at land at Moor View, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3NQ for Mr T Hodgson.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

8 HEAD GROUNDSPERSONS REPORT

The Clerk reported 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.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting List

The Clerk provided Members with details of waiting lists for allotments and stable blocks. Stable Block 23

Members were advised that at a meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee held on 4 June 2013 Members met with Mr Barnett, on site, and he agreed to take on stable block number 23. It was suggested that due to the condition of the plot Mr Barnett would not be charged any rent for the first year to October 2013.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Allotment Sub Committee

The Clerk reported that a meeting of the Allotment Sub Committee was held on 4 June 2013. The following issues were raised at the meeting:-

Allotment Number 13

Members noted that this allotment did not appear to be used, it was overgrown and in a poor condition.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenant advising that the allotment must be cleaned up.

Allotment Number 14

Members noted that a horse was being grazed on the allotment. Under the terms of the tenancy agreement the tenant was not allowed to keep a horse on an allotment.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenant advising that the horse must be removed immediately.

Stable Block Number 17

Members noted that that the stable block was in a poor condition and there were allegations of sub-letting.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenant advising that the plot must be cleaned up and no sub-letting was allowed.

Stable Block 19

Members noted that the stable block was in a poor condition and there were allegations of sub-letting.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the tenant advising that the plot must be cleaned up and no sub-letting was allowed.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Heritage Centre

(i) Refurbishment of Interior Door

The Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill Heritage Society had sought permission to refurbish the interior door in the Heritage Centre. Following the installation of the mosaic in the porch at the Centre it had highlighted the need for the interior door to be refurbished.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the refurbishment of the interior door at the Heritage Centre.

(ii) Erection of Portakabin

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the proposal to provide additional space for the Heritage Society at the Heritage Centre.

Members were advised that Mrs Hedley had asked Durham County Council to confirm if planning permission would be required for a portakabin type building to be sited to the rear of the Heritage Centre. This area of land had previously been suggested by the Planning and Conservation Officers as a suitable location for a brick extension.

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

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 MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) **Wheatley Hill Health Centre**

The Chair reported that it was hoped work would start on the new clinic in July 2013.

(ii) **Woodlands Avenue – Speeding Traffic**

The Chair reported speeding traffic on Woodlands Avenue.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated