

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2013**

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns, Mrs M Goyns, Mrs L Stewart
and Mrs C Stogdale

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 10 June 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 Sgt J Peel to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been **11** reports of anti-social behaviour, **11** burglaries, **2** criminal damage and **1** theft from a motor vehicle.

Sgt Peel reported that on **19 June 2013** the Neighbourhood Policing Team of PCSO's held a "Day of Action" in Wheatley Hill. The purpose of the day was to interact with members of the community and raise awareness of the monthly PACT meetings. The day consisted of opening the Police section office to the public for a "Cuppa with a Copper". Council partners were in attendance and provided a dog chipping service where over **40** dogs were chipped.

PCSO's carried out high visibility patrols around the village handing out leaflets, information and advice. Community speedwatch was conducted and **25** out of **40** drivers seen were over the speed limit and were contacted by Police.

A bike marking session was also carried out to improve the security of cycles. The monthly PACT meeting took place on the evening and PCSO's attended the Mothers Club.

The Chair, once again, asked that a Speedwatch be undertaken on Woodlands Avenue. Vehicles were speeding in this area from 7am onwards and it was only a matter of time before there was an accident.

Reference was made to parking in the vicinity of **17 to 19 East View**. There were yellow lines leading to white lines at this location but cars continued to park in a way that restricted the view of motorists leaving Johnson Estate.

The Chair made reference to the increase in the number of shed burglaries and queried if shed alarms could be supplied to residents.

Reference was made 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. A number of incidents had been reported to Inspector Coxon but to date no response had been received. The Chair asked that a comprehensive update be provided to Members at the next meeting.

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) No 2 Poultry Centre Allotment Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from No 2 Poultry Centre Allotment Society based in Wheatley Hill.

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

(ii) Butterwick House

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Butterwick House who were based in Stockton on Tees.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill Disabled Club
Hartlepool and District Hospice
Mosaic – 2012 Together
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club
Wheatley Hill Women's Section – Royal British Legion

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Armed Forces Day – 29 June 2013

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Mr G Hammond of 35 Liddell Terrace, Wheatley Hill who had organised a charity event for Armed Forces Day on 29 June 2013.

RESOLVED that a donation of £75 be made to the charity event from the Chair's Account.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

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

PL/5/2013/0241 – Erection of boundary fence and wall at Rock Farm Dairy, Wheatley Hill DH6 3NL for UK Dairy Sales Ltd, T/A Rock Farm Dairy

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

PL/5/2013/0226 – Variation of condition No 2 attached to planning application Ref No PL/5/2013/0313 - Demolition of existing surgery and re-build new two storey premises, Wheatley Hill for Mr J Chandy

PL/5/2013/0253 – Building for storage of fodder and machinery at land opposite Crows House, Wheatley Hill DH6 3QL for Mr A Harvey

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

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update in relation to the following:-

- Durham County Council – Projected savings that were required to be made by Durham County Council over the next 3/4 years were outlined.
- Welfare Reforms - Implications of the “Bedroom Tax” on the demand for social housing
- Bus Services - A meeting was held with residents to discuss bus services and further meetings were scheduled with operators to discuss the possibility of additional bus services
- Granville Terrace – Drainage works had started
- Empty Properties – A meeting and walkabout was held with representatives from Durham County Council to discuss empty properties throughout the village. A meeting would also be sought with the Esh group to discuss the provision of 2 bed bungalows
- Decent Homes Scheme – Schedule of the works to be undertaken on properties in Wheatley Hill

8 HEAD GROUNDS PERSONS 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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Loose Horses

The Clerk reported that during the early hours of 18 June 2013 the Police let 4 horses into the Cemetery via the bottom gates. The Police had received a report of 4 loose horses on Cemetery Road and on the grounds of safety placed the horses in the Cemetery. The Police did not advise either the Clerk or J Davies of their actions.

The Clerk contacted the Police and explained that whilst it understood why the horses were placed in the Cemetery the Police should have informed the Parish Council of their actions.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) War Memorial

The Clerk reported that Mr Charles Wylie, a former resident of Wheatley Hill, who died during the 1st World War, had been omitted off the War Memorial located in the Cemetery.

Mr Wylie lived with his parents at 5 Fourth Street, High Wheatley Hill prior to joining the Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Irish). He was killed in action on 1 July 1916 aged 23. Mr Wylie's name was on the War Memorial at Thornley as well as the Memorial at Thievpal, Somme, France.

RESOLVED that the Clerk obtain a cost and arrange to have Mr Wylie's name added to the War Memorial in Wheatley Hill Cemetery.

(4) Sumer/Winter Bedding and Hanging Baskets

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's hanging baskets, provided by Durham County Council, were erected on 5 July 2013. Members felt this was too late in the season and the baskets should have been erected earlier.

The Clerk was seeking a meeting with Mr J Talbot to discuss the Parish Councils winter and summer bedding requirements.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Winter Maintenance

The Clerk reported that a meeting with Durham County Council was scheduled to be held on 12 July 2013 to discuss winter maintenance arrangements for 2013/14.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Annual Insurance Premium

The Clerk reported that the Annual Insurance premium for 2013/2014 had been received from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £6,569.14. The previous year's premium was £6,568.17, an increase of £00.97.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

(7) ROSPA Safety Inspection

The Clerk reported the receipt of the annual ROSPA inspection carried out at the football pitch at Quilstyle Road. The Clerk took Members through the content of the report and outlined any actions that were required.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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 Community Association - Meals on Wheels

The Chair reported that Wheatley Hill Community Association had submitted an application to the AAP for financial assistance towards the purchase of a second hand vehicle which would be used for the delivery of meals on wheels.

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council could consider a financial donation towards the purchase of the vehicle.

..... Signed

..... Dated