

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2013**

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

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 9 September 2013, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**MATTERS ARISING – SHED ALARMS**

Councillor B Maddison asked for an update in relation to the distribution of shed alarms purchased by the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that following an article in the local press take up had been very good and there was approximately 80 alarms left.

- 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

- 3 STREET WARDENS**

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

- 4 COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Chair welcomed PCSO's D Edson and I Goodwin to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 72 incidents reported which included 13 anti-social behaviour, 9 burglaries, 2 criminal damage and 3 thefts.

It was explained that 4 of the anti-social behaviour incidents related to Burns Street. The Chair pointed out that Members had requested a comprehensive update on the situation related to Burns Street at the previous 2 meetings. To date this information had not been provided. Councillor J Miller pointed out that since the last meeting there had been more than 4 incidents reported to the Police in relation to Burns Street.

The Officer advised that year on year crime was down 5% and anti-social behaviour was down 36%.

The Chair reported that there had been concern in relation to a Police presence in the village and it was hoped that the appointment of PCSO Andy Robson would improve the situation.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 5 CORRESPONDENCE

### (1) Requests for Financial Assistance

#### (i) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

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

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

#### (ii) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society. The Heritage Society was hosting a number of events in 2014 to commemorate the beginning of World War 1, details of which were outlined to Members.

As the programme of commemorative events did not start until July 2014 it was suggested that a donation be agreed in principle and made from the 2014/15 budget.

RESOLVED that a donation to the Heritage Society be agreed, in principle, and due to the timescales it be made from the 2014/15 Section 137 Budget.

#### (iii) Great North Air Ambulance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 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 towards their annual Honorary Members Christmas Party.

The Clerk advised that since June 2012 the Club had received 6 donations amounting to £1,150.00. In the current financial climate and with reducing budgets the Parish Council was keen to assist as

many local organisations as possible and distribute the budget evenly. With this in mind it was suggested that a donation of £50 be made.

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

**(2) Letter of Thanks**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Mr H Wylie.

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

**(3) Curry & Quiz Night – Bishop Auckland Town Council**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Bishop Auckland Town Council to attend a charity curry and quiz night on 7 November 2013.

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

**(4) Licensing Application – Wheatley Hill Filling Station**

The Chair welcomed H Johnson, Licensing Team Leader from Durham County Council who was present at the meeting to discuss with Members the application for a new premises licence, for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises from 06.00am to 01.00am each day at Wheatley Hill Filling Station.

H Johnson outlined the application process and explained how the Parish Council could make a representation. Information related to the 4 Licensing Objectives and guidance for interested parties was circulated to Members.

It was explained that a number of agencies, including the Police, had been consulted in relation to the application. The Police had advised that they would not be objecting to the application. Samantha Level, Licensing Officer for the East, Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit would be attending the PACT meeting on 16 October 2013 to discuss the application with residents.

Members were particularly concerned at the length of time in which alcohol could be sold and felt it would be more appropriate if it was limited between the hours of 11.00am and 11.00pm.

The Licensing Officer advised that any representation the Parish Council wished to make would need to be relevant to the 4 Licensing Objectives which were:-

- prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety

- prevention of public nuisance
- protection of children from harm

Members were advised that any representation that did not relate to the 4 Licensing Objectives would be deemed not relative.

Members expressed concern regarding the following issues:-

- There was already sufficient licensed premises in the village, including clubs and general convenience stores
- The filling Station was in close proximity to residential properties and it was likely they would suffer disturbance in relation to additional noise and increased traffic
- The village already suffered problems associated with anti-social behaviour/youths causing nuisance due to alcohol abuse
- The Filling Station was located on a busy main road and there was concern that additional vehicle movements in and out of the garage, purely to purchase alcohol, could pose a road safety issue

It was pointed out that if the licence was granted and it was subsequently proved to be causing a nuisance then it could be reviewed. The Parish Council could also put forward suggestions in relation to the operating schedule.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council object to the application on the grounds that the application did not promote the 4 licensing objectives.

**(5) Landscaping Improvement Works – Pit Pony Roundabout**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising that landscaping improvement works were proposed for the pit pony roundabout.

The works formed part of the Streetscene's roundabout landscaping improvement works across the County. The works were intended to reduce long term maintenance and enhance an area. The works would consist of weed suppressing membrane, sustainable planting and slate or gravel surround.

In respect of the pit pony statue the County Council had given an assurance that it would remain in place as the centre piece of the planting scheme.

Works were programmed to be carried out between November 2013 and March 2014.

**RESOLVED** that no objection be made to the proposed works.

**(6) County Durham Plan Consultation – Local Plan Pre Submission Draft**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were undertaking a consultation on the County Durham Plan Pre Submission Draft.

The Plan set out the policy framework up to 2030 to support the development of a thriving economy in County Durham. The consultation was on the “pre-submission” draft version of the County Durham Plan. This was the version of the Plan the Council would submit to the Secretary of State for examination.

The pre submission draft document was available to view at local libraries and Customer Access Points across the County as well as on the County Councils website. In addition exhibitions and public consultation events were taking place across the County, details of which were outlined to Members.

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

**(7) Lunchtime School Crossing Patrol Consultation**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were undertaking a review of the lunchtime school crossing patrol service, details of which were outlined to Members.

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

**(8) Garden Waste Collections Consultation**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were undertaking a review of the garden waste collection service, details of which were outlined to Members.

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

**(9) Community Conservation Event – 20 October 2013**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to a community conservation event at Noses Point Nature Reserve on 20 October 2013.

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

**(10) County Durham Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting**

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting would be held on 26 October 2013.

Councillors Mr and Mrs Goyns were unable to attend the meeting and asked for their apologies to be submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk submit apologies for Councillors Mr and Mrs Goyns.

**(11) Wheatley Hill Mother's Club – Christmas Carol Concert**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for Members to attend the annual Christmas Carol Concert on 4 December 2013.

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

**6 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Approvals**

**CE/13/00876/FPA – Alterations to existing rear extension including new roof, demolition of existing detached garage and rebuilding in revised location and replacement boundary enclosure at Lynn Garth House, Lynn Terrace, Wheatley Hill Durham DH6 3QN for Mr M Spraggon**

**CE/13/00974/OUT – Two houses (outline) at land adjacent Regal Villa, Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill Durham for Mr J Ridley**

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

**7 DELEGATES REPORTS**

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

- **Areas of land at the entrance to the Community Centre – Section 215 Notices had been served**
- **Projected savings that were required to be made by Durham County Council over the next 3/4 years had increased by a further £20M**
- **The County Council were undertaking a further review of residential care homes in the County**
- **Landlords with properties on the Front Street had been approached with a request to smarten up the front of their properties by hanging a suitable window dressing**
- **Possible new housing identified for Wheatley Hill in the County Durham Plan**
- **Discussions were underway with a local bus operator, based in Peterlee, regarding the provision of an express bus service to run on a Saturday from Thornley, through Wheatley Hill, Shotton and Easington to the Metro Centre/Newcastle. This would provide residents with a service which required only one bus to get to the metro Centre. The route and frequency of the service was still to be finalised. Once agreement was reached the appropriate publicity would be undertaken to promote the service.**

**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.

The Clerk provided details of an incident which involved the siting of a Memorial Desk Top Tablet being refused as it did not comply with the Parish Council's standard size. Following investigation it was established that the funeral director had omitted to submit an application to the Parish Council for the stone.

**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.

**(ii) Allotment Number 6**

The Clerk reported the Mrs J Dinsdale had accepted the tenancy of allotment number 6.

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

**(iii) Allotment Number 14**

The Clerk reported that Mr A Kelly had accepted the tenancy of allotment number 14.

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

**(iv) Allotment number 7 and Stable Blocks 19 and 21**

The Clerk reported that Mr Kelsey, the tenant of allotment number 7 and stable blocks 19 and 21 had recently died. His wife has requested that all 3 plots be transferred to her so her sons could continue working the plots

**RESOLVED** that allotment number 7 and stable blocks 19 and 21 be transferred to Mrs J Kelsey.

**(v) Annual Rents**

The Clerk reported that the annual rent letters were sent out at the

end of September. To date only 2 rents had been received.

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

**(2) Heritage Centre – Additional Office Space**

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

The Clerk was seeking advice from Durham County Council in relation to the erection of additional office space to the rear of the Heritage Centre, and if planning permission would be required for a garden shed type structure.

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

**(3) Insurance – Wheatley Hill Banners**

The Clerk reported that the insurance cover for the Wheatley Hill Banners had been increased to cover the banners anywhere in the UK and not just the territorial limits. The additional cover did not increase to the annual premium.

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

**(4) Summer/Winter Bedding**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been requested to provide details of the Parish Council contract for summer and winter bedding.

**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) Pothole – 1 & 2 South View**

Councillor M Goyns reported that the pothole outside 1 & 2 South View was starting to open up again.

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

The Chair advised that the traffic calming measure recently installed outside the Cemetery was not working as well as expected. The possibility of adding an additional hump to either side of the chicane was being investigated.

**(iii) Speedwatch – Woodlands Avenue**

The Chair advised that a speedwatch was planned for Woodlands Avenue.

**(iv) Parking – Johnson Estate**

The Chair advised that cars were continuing to park on East View and obstructing the view of cars leaving Johnson Estate

**RSOLVED** that the information given, be noted and the issues reported as necessary.

..... Signed

..... Dated