

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 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 **11 November 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 Robson to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been **89** incidents reported which included **14** anti-social behaviour, **2** burglaries, **4** thefts, **3** criminal damage, **1** theft of a vehicle, **2** thefts from a vehicle and **2** criminal damage to a motor vehicle. It was explained that **8** of the anti-social behaviour incidents related to Burns Street.

In relation to crime overall, incidents were down **1%** year on year and anti-social behaviour was down **38%**.

The Chair thanked the Police for the work undertaken in the village.

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

**4 STREET WARDENS**

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Requests for Financial Assistance**

**(i) Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute.

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

**(ii) Haswell and District Mencap Society**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Haswell and District Mencap Society.

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

**(2) Letters of Thanks/Christmas Cards**

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks and Christmas cards.

Wheatley Hill Community Association  
Wheatley Hill "Over 20's" Club  
Wheatley Hill Heritage Society  
Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

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

**(3) All Saints Church - Community Carol Service**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from All Saints Church to attend the Community Carol Service on 22 December 2013.

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

**(4) Bishop Auckland Town Council – Ecumenical Service**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Bishop Auckland Town Council to attend the Mayor's Ecumenical Service on 22 December 2013.

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

**(5) First World War Commemorations – Candlelit Vigil**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society to hold a candlelit vigil at the war memorial on 4 August 2014 between 10.30pm and 11.00pm. The actual war started at 11.00pm on 4 August 1914.

At the vigil there would be readings and the names of all 188 men from Wheatley Hill who died, would be read out.

**RESOLVED** that the Heritage Society be advised that the Parish Council had no objection to the candlelit vigil on 4 August 2014.

**(6) Grant of Premises Licence – Wheatley Hill Filling Station**

The Clerk reported that the application for a new premises licence at Wheatley Hill Filling Station was considered at a meeting of Durham County Council's Licensing Committee on 26 November 2013.

The Parish Council had objected to the application on the grounds that it did not promote the 4 licensing objectives.

Members were advised that prior to the meeting discussion had taken place between the applicant and residents. The applicant was keen to be a "good neighbour" and agreed to further reduce the hours in which alcohol would be sold to 10.00pm.

The Clerk reported that the Licensing Committee granted the application for the sale of alcohol between the hours of 06.00am to 22.00pm Monday to Sunday.

The Licensing Sub Committee also considered the conditions suggested in the Operating Schedule of the application and felt it necessary and proportionate to impose a number of additional conditions upon the licence, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society – Work Experience Placement

The Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill Heritage Society had been approached by Northumbria University to provide a work placement for Mr J Elliott, an undergraduate studying history. Mr Elliott was the grandson of Mr K Gilson, a volunteer with the Society.

Mr Gilson had been planning to co-ordinate the Societies graves register database, by adding a photograph of each headstone to the data-set which would make it more efficient if anyone enquired about a headstone. This was a huge task and one which Mr Gilson felt Mr Elliott could help with.

Work would be undertaken outside in the Cemetery and would not interfere with the day to day operation of the Cemetery. Access to the Heritage Centre would be limited and whilst the official work experience would take place in May 2014 access to the Cemetery would be required to plan the work.

The Heritage Society would supervise the work placement, carry out an induction, and undertake all health and safety issues and any other administrative tasks.

RESOLVED that the Heritage Society be advised that the Parish Council had no objection to the work experience placement.

(8) County Durham Association of Local Councils – Funding for Secretariat

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) advising of Durham County Council's intention to withdraw its financial support for the Association's Secretariat.

The County Council had agreed to extend its support until 31 March 2016 after which, no further support would be available. The County Council would however continue to provide accommodation and associated support after this date.

The current arrangement was that an officer was employed by Durham County Council and seconded to work directly for CDALC. The County Council covered two thirds of the salary and the remaining third was paid for by CDALC subscriptions. After 1 April 2016 the Association would need to fully fund the post. If funding could not be secured the County Council would terminate the secondment arrangements and initiate redundancy procedures.

At the CDALC Executive Committee held on 4 December 2013 a working party was established to investigate how the Association's Secretariat could continue to be funded after 1 April 2013.

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

(9) East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils – Future Meeting Dates

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Association would be held on 14 January 2014 and the Annual General Meeting would be held on 11 March 2014.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(10) Traveller Encampments and Annual Horse Fair

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils held on 12 November 2013 concerns were raised in relation to Traveller Encampments and the Annual Horse Fair, details of which were outlined to Members.

Since the meeting J Stephenson, Community Safety Officer, Durham County Council had offered to attend individual Parish Council meetings to discuss both issues in greater detail.

RESOLVED that J Stephenson be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

CE/13/01338/FPA – Erection of 2 dwellings at land at Moor View, Wheatley Hill, Durham for Mr T Cunningham

CE/13/01009/FPA – Erection of 6 dwellings with associated car parking and access at land adjacent to 1 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3JT for J Kemp Ltd

CE/13/01486/FPA – Erection of hay storage barn at land south of Wingate Quarry, Thornley Road, Trimdon Station, Durham for Mr J Anderson

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Approvals

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 on the following.

- Cain Terrace/Henderson Avenue – Discussions were ongoing in relation to the provision of new housing. A planning application was expected to be submitted in the new year
- Durham Aged Miners Homes (DAMHA) – Discussions were ongoing with DAMHA in relation to the provision of housing at Peterlee Cottages and the rear of the Aged Miners Bungalows

- Speed Humps – Durham County Council were looking at road safety measures on Cemetery Road/Woodlands Avenue
- 30 MPH Signs – The 30mh signs at the entrance to Wheatley Hill would be relocated closer to the junction

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

#### (ii) Annual Rents

The Clerk advised that only 2 rents were outstanding.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

#### (iii) Allotment 15

The Clerk reported that Mr R Harper had surrendered the tenancy of allotment number 15. Members referred to the Parish Councils waiting list and agreed to offer the tenancy to Mr P Broughton of 58 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill Durham DH6 3JT.

RESOLVED that the tenancy of allotment number 15 be offered to Mr P Broughton of 58 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RH.

#### (iv) Fly Tipped Rubbish

The Clerk reported an increase in fly tipping at the allotments. In addition rubbish was also being dumped in stable block 23. Stable block 23 did not have a secure boundary fence and there was concern that rubbish would continue to be dumped in this plot if it was not secured.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the tenant of stable block 23.

### (2) Greenhills Centre

The Clerk reported that the Greenhills Centre would remain open over the Christmas period, full details were available on the Parish Councils website.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Cemetery Fees

The Clerk provided details of the current Cemetery fees, implemented in April 2012 and a comparison of fees charged by neighbouring Parish Councils. Following discussion it was suggested that fees remain at their current level and reviewed again next year.

RESOLVED that no increase be made to the current Cemetery fees.

(4) Ex-Gratia Christmas Payments

The Chair suggested that an ex-gratia Christmas payment of £150 be made to J Davies, D Lamb and J Thompson.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for an ex-gratia payment of £150 to J Davies, D Lamb and J Thompson from the Chair's account.

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.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Members also wished to thank the Mothers Club for the excellent Christmas Carol Concert.

..... Signed

.....Dated