

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 13 JANUARY 2014**

**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 December 2013 together with those of the Special Meeting held on 9 December 2013, copies 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 C Naisby to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 62 incidents reported which included 7 anti-social behaviour, 9 burglaries, 2 thefts and 3 criminal damage.

With regard to Burns Street 2 incidents had been reported. Members raised various issues and concerns in relation to Burns Street and requested that the information be passed onto PC Gooden.

In relation to crime overall, incidents were down 24% year on year and anti-social behaviour was down 37%.

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) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

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

**(ii) 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group.

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

**(2) Letters of Thanks**

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks.

Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute  
Haswell and District Mencap Society

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

**(3) Royal Garden Party 2014**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising they had been allocated 4 places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 3 June 2014.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Stewart be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on behalf of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

**(4) East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils would be held on 14 January 2014.

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

## **6 PLANNING**

### **Approval**

PL/5/2012/0319 - Erection of general purpose building incorporating stables and change of use of land for keeping horses at land to the east of Weardale Park, Wheatley Hill for Mr W Howe.

**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.
- Durham Aged Miners Homes (DAMHA) – Discussions were ongoing with DAMHA in relation to the provision of housing at Peterlee Cottages
- Front Street – Durham County Council were contacting absentee landlords with property on the Front Street
- Section 214 Notices – Durham County Council would be serving Section 214 Notices on owners of land to the entrance of the Community Centre if there was no improvement in the state of the land
- Developments at Bevan Crescent and West House

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- New Clinic – it was anticipated that building work would commence in March 2014

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### 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 CLERKS 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 reported that all rents had been paid.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

##### (iii) Allotment Number 15/Stable Block 23

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Mr P Broughton was allocated allotment 15. At the same meeting Members were advised of problems related to fly tipping and the lack of a boundary fence at stable block 23.

Since the last meeting discussions had taken place with Mr D Barnett, the tenant of stable block 23, who was struggling with the large plot. Mr Broughton, the tenant of allotment 15 had indicated he would prefer a larger plot.

Following consultation with the Chair approval was granted for the tenants to swap plots.

Mr Barnett, the former tenant of stable block 23 had previously paid £60 rent. It was suggested that as he now held the tenancy of an allotment he be reimbursed the additional £30. In addition, Mr Broughton, the new tenant of stable block 23 had undertaken extensive work and removed a large amount of fly tipped rubbish from the plot. It was suggested that Mr Broughton be offered a free years rent.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Allotment 15 be allocated to Mr D Barnett and he be offered a years free rent
- (ii) Stable block 23 be allocated to Mr D Broughton and he be reimbursed £30 rent.

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### (2) Fly Tipped Rubbish

The Clerk reported an improvement in fly tipping at the allotments.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) Estimates of Expenditure 2013/2014

The Clerk reported that at a special meeting of the Parish Council held on 9 December 2013 Members resolved that the net spending requirement of the Parish Council for 2014/15 be set at £127,743.00. This was made up of a Local Council Tax Support Grant of £32,579.00 and an additional £95,164.00 precept.

The Clerk provided Members with a detailed breakdown of the various budgets for approval.

RESOLVED that the Councils estimates of expenditure for 2014/15, be approved.

### (4) Jet Card Account

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been advised that the account it held with Jet was now subject to an annual charge of £9.14. The Parish Council had not been given any prior notice of the charge.

RESOLVED that the annual charge be paid and the Jet account closed.

### (5) Additional Office Accommodation

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had advised that they would accept, in principle, a temporary building of suitable size and design in the Cemetery.

The County Councils preference was for a single building which would be positioned well in from each side of the Heritage Centre to reduce its prominence.

Detailed measurements of the proposed building had been provided to the County Council and site visits had been held. Planning permission was not required and the Parish Council would not consider erecting a building which did not complement the existing building and look of the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that quotations be obtained for a temporary building.

## 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.

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**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(i) Fly Tipped Rubbish – Scout Hut**

Members reported a large amount of fly tipped rubbish to the side of the Scout Hut at Black Lane, leading to the dog track.

**(ii) Fencing to the rear of Wordsworth Avenue**

Members reported that a number of fence panels were blown down and damaged to the rear of Wordsworth Avenue. It was unclear who was responsible for maintenance of the fence.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Members for their support throughout the year.

..... Signed

.....Dated