

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2014**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs C Stogdale

**1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 12 May 2014 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 119 reported incidents which included 12 anti-social behaviour, 7 burglaries, 2 thefts and 2 reports of criminal damage. Members were advised that the increase in burglaries related to shed burglaries. The Officer advised that extra patrols would be undertaken and suspicious vehicles would be stopped.

Members asked if there had been any incidents related to Burns Street reported since the last meeting. The Officer advised that since the last meeting there had been 7 reports. Members expressed concern that in relation to Burns Street it appeared that incidents were being deliberately left out of the monthly figures for Wheatley Hill.

**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) East Durham Community Transport Limited

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from East Durham Community Transport Limited.

**RESOLVED** that consideration of this item be deferred.

(ii) Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 9 June 2014

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club towards the honorary members' day out in June 2014.

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

### (2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of the letter of thanks from St Godrics RC Primary School.

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

### (3) Haswell and District Mencap Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to the 7th Anniversary of the Lisa Dixon Centre, home of the Haswell and District Mencap Society, on 21 June 2014.

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

### (4) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill Mothers Club to a Brass Band night on 9 July 2014.

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

### (5) Peter Lee Booklets

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Wheatley Hill History Club advising that the Peter Lee booklets would be available at the end of June 2014.

The Club planned to donate 30 booklets to each primary school in Wheatley Hill and Thornley to be used as a teaching aid and keep the memory of Peter Lee alive.

Each school had been asked if they would like the booklets formally presented by a representative from the Parish Council and Peter Lee's grand-daughter if she was available.

**RESOLVED** that a representative from the Parish Council be authorised to attend the formal presentation of the booklets.

### (6) 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 10 June 2014.

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

(7) **Members Register of Interests**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Monitoring Officer, Durham County Council asking the Parish Council to undertake a review of the Members Register of Interests.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk advise the Monitoring Officer, Durham County Council of any changes to the Members Register of interests.

**6 PLANNING**

(i) **Applications**

DM/14/01431/FPA – Erection of two storey extension at side of dwelling including hip to gable roof extension, loft conversion including the installation of three dormers o rear and a single storey front extension at 33 Wheatley Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RW for Mr J Lowe

(i) **APPROVALS**

DM/14/00359/FPA – New detached single storey garage to replace existing at 4 Dalton Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RJ for Mr D Metcalf

DM/14/00872/FPA – Erection of single storey extension and raised patio area to rear and erection of porch to front at 5 Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RF for Mr and Mrs Mole

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

**7 DELEGATES REPORTS**

- **Front Street** – The Chair reported on the problems associated with the growing number of empty properties and absentee landlords on the Front Street. Absentee landlords were not looking after their properties and the deplorable state of them was bringing the village down.
- **New Clinic** – The Chair reported that work on the new clinic had started.
- **Walkabout with Street Wardens** – The Chair and Clerk had undertaken a walkabout with Street Wardens on 20 May 2014. Issues discussed included fly tipping, dog fouling, rubbish collections and the Front Street. Members were advised that 2 Lengthsmen were operational in Wheatley Hill.
- **Wingate Grange Wind Farm** – Several meetings had been held with Infinis to discuss the arrangements for the management of the Wingate Grange Wind Farm Employability Fund which would be administered by East Durham College. The Chair had previously met with Infinis and had not been satisfied with their response to questions posed to them regarding the Wind Farm.

The Memorandum of Understanding, which outlined the arrangements in

detail for the management of the Wingate Grange Wind Farm Employability Fund, had been received.

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) Request for a Stable Block

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for a stable block from Mr J Tyers of 20 Burns Street, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3LA.

RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred.

### (2) Dog Bags

The Clerk reported that Members had previously agreed to participate with the County Durham Association of Local Councils and purchase 10,000 poop scoop bags as part of a bulk purchase. At the time the cost of the bags was unknown as it was dependent on the number of council's involved and the total number of bags ordered.

Members were advised that the bags had been received and the cost was £86.16 inc VAT.

Members were asked to consider if they wished to charge for the bags or continue to distribute them, free of charge, to residents of Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the Parish Council continue to provide the dog bags free of charge to residents of Wheatley Hill.

### (3) Summer/Winter Bedding

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that Durham County Council had

provided a quotation of £8,019.80 plus VAT for the 2014/2015 summer/winter bedding contract.

Due to the timescales involved it was agreed that the Parish Council would accept the quotation and keep the situation under review.

Members were advised that following the meeting the Clerk was contacted by J Talbot, Durham County Council and advised that a mistake had been made in the calculation of the quotation and the work had been under-priced. The revised cost of the contract was £10,074.03 plus VAT giving a total of £12,088.83. J Talbot had advised that he would honour the original price quoted for this year only but would need to charge the correct price from next season onwards.

The Clerk reported that on checking the revised quotation she could not agree with the County Council's figures and had requested J Talbot to check the figures and provide clarification on how the quotation was calculated.

J Talbot, Durham County Council confirmed that, once again, the quotation was wrong and provided the following revised breakdown.

Provision of 18 Hanging Baskets - £559.85  
Watering 18 Hanging Baskets - £1187.41  
Installation and removal of 18 Hanging Baskets -£122.59  
Summer bedding maintenance of 2780 plants - £988.27  
Supply 2780 summer bedding plants - £1895.12  
Winter bedding maintenance of 1190 plants - £423.03  
Supply 1190 winter bedding plants - £811.22

The revised cost of the contract was £5,987.49 plus £1,197.50 VAT giving a cost of £7,184.99.

**RESOLVED** that a revised quotation from Durham County Council be accepted.

**(4) Planning Application – Wheatley Service Station**

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Central and East Durham Area Planning Committee held on 13 May 2014 the application for the erection of a canopy and retrospective erection of store extension and widening of rear access at Wheatley Service Station was considered.

Members were advised that the Planning Committee had viewed the application site that morning. At the meeting representations were read out from Councillor M Nicholls, who was unable to attend and Mr J Hedley spoke on behalf of the residents of Durham Road.

Following discussion it was agreed that the application be deferred to allow further dialogue with the applicant regarding measures to minimise the use of the rear access by HGV's.

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) Bus Route – Jack Lawson Terrace**

Councillor Maddison reported problems being experienced by service buses on the route past the Sure Start Centre on Jack Lawson Terrace. Cars were regularly parked down both sides of the road making it difficult for large vehicles to pass safely.

**(ii) Dog Fouling**

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported continued dog fouling at Gable Terrace, leading to the Knoll, East View and Woodlands Avenue.

Councillor Mrs Carr reiterated that there had been no improvement on Gable Terrace.

**(iii) Horse in Garden**

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported a horse being kept in the rear garden of a property in Wheatley Terrace.

RESOLVED that the matters be reported to the Street Wardens.

..... Signed

.....Dated