

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 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 8 September 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's I Goodwin and D Edson to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 116 incidents which included 15 reports of anti-social behaviour, 4 burglaries, 8 thefts, 4 criminal damage, 1 theft from a motor vehicle and 3 criminal damage to a motor vehicle. The Chair asked for the year to date figures in relation to crime and was advised that they had not been provided this month.

Reference was made to the on-going problems associated with horses in the village. The Officer acknowledged the problem and explained that the situation was not unique to Wheatley Hill but was a county wide problem. It was explained that the Police had very few powers to tackle the problems related to horses and could only enforce the law.

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) 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.

(ii) All Saints Church – Christmas Fayre

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from All Saints Church towards their Christmas Fayre.

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

(iii) **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.

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

(2) **Wheatley Hill Mothers Club**

(i) **Christmas Concert**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for Members to attend the annual Christmas Concert on 3 December 2014.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) **Sculpture**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Wheatley Hill Mothers Club advising that they were looking into the possibility of commissioning Mr Ray Lonsdale, who sculptured Tommy at Seaham, to sculpture a Miner to be sited at the Pit Wheel for the 50 years anniversary of the pit closing in 2018.

The Mothers Club had the full support of the History and Heritage Clubs and was hoping to raise funds through the National Lottery.

Mr Lonsdale had been invited to attend the Mothers' Club on 22 October 2014 to give a talk on how Tommy was sculptured and made.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) **Licence Review – Village Store Extra, Wingate Lane**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council's Consumer Protection Manager had initiated a review of the Premises Licence at the Village Store Extra, 1 Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill.

Members were advised that the licensee had failed 2 test purchases in March and June this year and had ignored all attempts by the Licensing Unit to contact him.

Members expressed concern and felt that in light of the offence and the licensee's failure to co-operate with the County Councils Licensing Unit any action taken should reflect the seriousness of the offence. Members felt that the revocation of the licence or its suspension for a period of time would be appropriate in the circumstances.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council's Licensing Unit be advised that the Parish Council supported any action which reflected the seriousness of the offence such as the revocation of the licence or its suspension for a period of time.

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

The Clerk reported that the Annual General Meeting of the County Durham Association of Local Councils would be held on 8 November 2014.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Consultations

The Clerk reported details of the following consultations:-

- Durham County Council – Children's Centres
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

DM/14/02929/FPA – Conversion of roof space to form habitable accommodation at first floor level and infill extensions to front and rear at 14 Ryan Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RR for Mr and Mrs S Hill

(ii) Approvals

DM/14/02043/FPA – Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to rear of existing dwelling at 9 Church Park, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3SJ for Miss Gillian Armstrong

DM/14/02230/FPA – Erection of part first floor/part two storey extension including balcony at side of dwelling at 18 Weardale Park, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3QQ for Ms L Evans

DM/14/01981/FPA – Erection of first floor extension to rear of 13 Granville Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3JQ for Mr C McCallum

DM/14/01652/FPA – Installation of enclosed plant equipment at Wheatley Hill Primary School, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RQ for Mr Phillip Grimes

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

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the following:-

- Various problems throughout the village - particularly those related to housing, empty properties, absentee landlords, rubbish dumped in gardens, streets and waste ground. Members were advised that the Community Action Team (CAT) would be deployed in Wheatley Hill to tackle a range of issues including the introduction of an Accreditation Scheme.
- Regeneration of the Front Street
- Proposed New Housing Developments – Luke Terrace/Henderson Avenue and Cain Terrace
- New Health Centre

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 the annual rent letters were issued at the end of September and to date 7 rents had been paid.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) The Openness of Local Government Bodies 2014

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members were advised of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which came into

force on 6 August 2014.

Under the new provisions the Parish Council was required by law to allow any member of the public to take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings and report on all public meetings.

The Clerk reported that Standing Orders, which currently prohibited the recording or filming of public meetings, had been amended to reflect the changes. In addition a new policy on the public filming, recording and reporting at council meetings had been drafted for Members consideration.

RESOLVED that the revised Standing Orders and the Public Filming, Recording and Reporting at Council Meetings Policy be adopted.

(3) Annual Audit 2014

The Clerk reported that BDO LLP had completed the Annual Audit for the year ended 31 March 2014 and there were no separate issues that required attention.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be displayed for a minimum of 14 days.

The cost of the Annual Audit was £480.00

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Additional Office Accommodation

The Clerk reported that following discussions with a number of companies Mobile Mini UK had provided a quotation for a refurbished 20 foot Anti Vandal Mess Unit. The unit could be customised to create two separate external access points, one leading into an office and the other giving direct access to a mess section. The Parish Council would be able to choose the size of each section.

The mess section would be fitted out with a sink and worktop plus an over sink water heater. The unit would be repainted both internally & externally.

This Unit cost was £5,495.00 plus VAT. Delivery and siting of the unit would cost approximately £250.

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

10 PAYMENTS

The Clerk presented Members with a 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 information given, be noted and the payments endorsed.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Pot Holes

Members reported pot holes at Bevan Crescent, Wharrier Square, Harpers Bungalows and Gable Terrace.

(ii) Dog Fouling

Members reported dog fouling near to the Zebra Crossing on the B1279 at Vincent's Corner.

(iii) Fly-tipped Rubbish

Councillor Stogdale reported that there was still fly-tipped rubbish at Gore Hill Burn Bridge.

RESOLVED that the issues be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

.....Dated