

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2015

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

Apologies: Councillors J Miller and Mrs M Nicholls

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 8 December 2014 together with those of the Special Meeting held on 8 December 2014, 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 Gilhooley to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 19 incidents reported of which 3 had been solved, 10 were closed and 6 were on-going.

The Officer reported that a planned walkabout of the Front Street would include representatives from Durham County Council and East Durham Homes. The Chair advised that the purpose of the walkabout was to look at the Front Street and the problems associated with housing, empty properties, shop fronts, absentee landlords, rubbish dumped in gardens and on waste ground.

Members were advised that crime overall was up 1% year to date. Burglary was down 10%, vehicle crime up 67%, criminal damage down 79%, anti-social behaviour down 55% and personal anti-social behaviour down 68%. It was pointed out that these figures were only to the middle of the month.

The Chair reported that cars were still parking at the entrance of Johnson Estate which obstructed the visibility of cars leaving the estate. Councillor Mrs Goyns advised that cars leaving East View also had their visibility obstructed. In addition cars were using the back of East View as a "rat run" and speeding. The Officer suggested that a speed watch to the rear of East View would provide evidence of speeding.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute
Mrs C Davies

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Royal Garden Party 2015

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 12 May 2015.

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

(3) Wheatley Hill History Club – 20th Anniversary

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend a pie and pea supper to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the History Club on 24 March 2015 at Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Church Windows

The Clerk reported that Mrs M Hedley was working to find placements for the church windows currently housed in the Heritage Centre. Members were advised that All Saints Church had been approached to house the Wilkinson window as a display piece once funding was secured for its refurbishment. Mr Wilkinson was the owner of the Wheatley Hill Estate so it seemed a fitting place for the window.

Thornley Hall Farm had expressed an interest in taking the Spearman window, as Mr Spearman once lived there. However, this was a private property and it was unlikely funding would be secured for placement in a private property.

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

(5) 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 13 January 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Consultation Events

(i) Police and Crime Commissioner

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend a consultation event on 30 January 2015 at County Hall, Durham.

(ii) Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend a consultation event on 6 February 2015 at the Glebe Centre, Murton.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Electronic Summonses

The Clerk reported that the Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 modified the provisions in Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 for the purpose of enabling and facilitating the use of electronic communications in the sending of summonses to Members of both principal and parish councils in England to meetings of those authorities.

The Order would be implemented on 30 January 2015 and would allow parish council Members to receive summonses electronically where they consented to it being transmitted by this method. Consent could be withdrawn at any time and Standing Orders would need to be amended to reflect this.

For parish councils, the Order allowed a summons to be provided by sending the summons to a Member by an appropriate method either by:-

- (i) leaving it at, or sending it by post to the Member's usual place of residence,
- (ii) where the Member has given consent for the summons to be transmitted in electronic form to a particular electronic address, sending it in electronic form to that address.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters to report.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the following:-

- New lighting - First Street
- Lighting at the Dog Track

- New Health Centre – Discussions were ongoing in relation to the lease with the NHS. Members were advised that the outstanding issues would not impact or delay the building work
- Parking issues at the Co-Op store, Quilstyle Road

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) Allotment Number 6

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting allotment number 6 was allocated to Mr Hogg of 9 Bevan Crescent, Wheatley Hill. Mr Hogg initially accepted the tenancy but subsequently had to decline it as it was not suitable for his needs. Mr Hogg had requested that he be retained on the waiting list.

The tenancy was then offered to Mr A Telford of 53 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RY who accepted.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Mr D Hogg be retained on the waiting list for an allotment,
- (ii) the tenancy of allotment number 6 be offered to Mr A Telford of 53 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RY.

(2) Dog Fouling – Fixed Penalty Notice

The Clerk reported that on 25 November 2014 the Street Wardens issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for dog fouling on Woodlands Avenue. The FPN was issued to a resident living in Wheatley Hill who was caught on an early morning patrol.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Football Field

The Clerk reported that unauthorised vehicles and bikes had caused considerable damage to the football field. Both the Police and Street Wardens were advised and asked to investigate. Peterlee Town Council had been asked to provide a quotation to roll the pitch and repair the damage.

Members were advised that Mr B Hammond had arranged for new gates to be erected at the football field which would prevent further unauthorised access. Whilst the gates were provided at no cost to the Parish Council Mr Hammond did incur out of pocket expenses of £137.00.

It was suggested that Mr Hammond be reimbursed his out of pocket expenses and a donation of £163.00 be made to Wheatley Hill Working Men's Club Football Team from the Section 137 budget.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Mr B Hammond be reimbursed £137.00 out of pocket expenses,
- (ii) a donation of £163.00 be made to Wheatley Hill Working Men's Club Football Team from the Section 137 Budget.

(4) Estimates of Expenditure 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that at a Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 December 2014 Members resolved that the net spending requirement of the Parish Council for 2015/16 be set at £127,317.00. This was made up of a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £29,299.00 and an additional £98,018.00 precept.

Members had deferred submitting the precept request to Durham County Council until the tax base was confirmed by Cabinet on 17 December 2014.

RESOLVED the Durham County Council be formally advised of the Parish Councils precept request for 2015/2016.

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 M ANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) **Pot Holes**

Councillor Mrs Stogdale reported pot holes at Bevan Crescent.

RESOLVED that the pot holes be reported to Durham County Council.

..... **Signed**

.....**Dated**