

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs E Carr, J Miller,
Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs C Stogdale

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 16 March 2015, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PC S Rowe to the meeting.

The Officer advised that there was currently no beat officer working in Wheatley Hill but the vacancy would be filled as soon as possible.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 2 reported burglaries, 4 incidents of criminal damage, 1 theft of a motor vehicle and 8 reports of anti-social behaviour.

Members were advised that there was little variation in the figures year on year. The detection rate was 30% and the biggest reduction was in anti-social behaviour.

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 and vehicles parked on the corner made it very difficult for cars to pass safely.

The Chair reported various problems associated with Wordsworth Avenue, particularly those related to empty properties, absentee landlords, untidy gardens and horses being kept in the gardens and garages of residential properties.

Councillor Mrs Stewart reported seeing a young person riding a horse bareback up the middle of the main road whilst being filmed by an adult who was also standing in the middle of the road. At the same time a Police car was passing and done nothing to stop the horse or the person filming.

The Officer advised that unfortunately the Police had very few powers to deal with horses and there was no law which prevented anyone riding a horse on the road. With regard to the person filming in the middle of the road again the Police were limited in what they could do.

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported quad bikes causing a nuisance by racing side by side on the road over a weekend.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

All Saints' Parish Church

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from All Saints' Parish Church to assist with costs associated with the engagement of an architect to inspect the church.

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

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Thomas Kenny Victoria Cross Memorial Stone

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Area Action Partnership to attend a meeting at the Greenhills Centre on 21 April 2015 at 10am.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider possible sites and agree the most appropriate location for the Thomas Kenny Victoria Cross Memorial Stone.

Members were advised that the first VC in Durham was awarded to Thomas Kenny on 4 November 1915. As part of the World War I centenary events specially commissioned stones would be laid in the home towns of every UK soldier awarded the Victoria Cross. The specially commissioned stones would be given to councils in the areas where the VC recipients were born.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Village Artwork

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill Mothers Club to attend a meeting in Wheatley House on 18 May 2015 at 6pm.

Members were advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposals to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Wheatley Hill pit which closed on 3 May 1958. Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club wanted to mark the occasion by commissioning a piece of public artwork for the village.

The Mothers Club had met with Ray Lonsdale, the sculptor responsible for 'Tommy' the soldier at Seaham, who was willing to undertake the work.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

DM/15/00774/FPA – Creation of enlarged highway access onto a classified road at Hillcrest, Sandwick Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3LN for Mr and Mrs R Reay

DM/15/00778/FPA – Creation of enlarged highway access onto a classified road at Glenrae, Sandwick Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3LN for Mr and Mrs M Turner

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

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on various issues relevant to the village.

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 at the last meeting Mr P Watson of 118 Wordsworth Avenue, Wheatley Hill was allocated allotment number 6. Mr Watson had declined the tenancy as he was moving out of Wheatley Hill.

Members discussed the problems associated with the letting of the allotment and suggested it be allocated to Mr P Broughton of 58 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill. It was also suggested that this years' rent of £30 be waived.

RESOLVED that Mr P Broughton of 58 Peterlee Cottages, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3RH be allocated allotment number 6 and this years' rent of £30 be waived.

(iii) Request for an Allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an allotment from Mrs V Barman of 41 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3RY.

RESOLVED that Mrs V Barman be accepted onto the waiting list.

(2) Annual Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2015

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit date had been set for 30 June 2015.

The Clerk proceeded to take Members through Section 1, Statement of Accounts and Section 2, Annual Governance Statement.

RESOLVED that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015, be approved and signed by the Chair.

(3) Policies and Procedures

The Clerk reported that a review had been undertaken of the Councils Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy. A light touch review had also been undertaken of the Parish Council policies and procedures.

RESOLVED that the review of the Parish Councils policies and procedures, as outlined in the report, be noted.

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 reported that the Councils Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy had been reviewed.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Summer Bedding and Hanging Baskets

Councillor Mrs Goyns made reference to the summer bedding and hanging baskets provided by Durham County Council.

Councillor Goyns referred to the colour of the flowers used and asked that the County Council be requested to use brightly coloured flowers in the displays and hanging baskets.

Particular reference was made to the hanging baskets on the side of the street that did not get a lot of sun. Last year the hanging baskets had little impact as the flowers used were dark reds and maroons.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be requested to use brightly coloured flowers in the summer bedding displays and hanging baskets.

(ii) Potholes

Councillor Maddison reported potholes at the entrance to Bevan Crescent.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

.....Dated