

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2015

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

Apologies: Councillor J Miller

1 THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING held on 11 May 2015 together with those of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS held on 11 May 2015, 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 K Hyde to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 1 burglary, 3 incidents of criminal damage and 5 reports of anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour was down 28% year to date.

Reference was made to the PACT meetings which had been moved from Wheatley House to the Greenhills Centre. The Officer reported that the change of venue was made as Wheatley House was going to charge room hire. The Chair advised that if PCSO A Robson had explained that the Police were unable to pay for room hire something could have been sorted to allow the meetings to remain at Wheatley House.

The Chair reported continued problems associated with youths congregating outside the pizza shop on the Front Street and causing a nuisance. Members were advised that a walkabout of the Front Street to look at the shop fronts and empty properties was planned. The Officer advised that if invited the Police would attend the walkabout. It was pointed out that youths congregating on the Front Street could be a PACT priority.

The Chair reported that cars were still parking at the entrance of Johnson Estate which obstructed the visibility of cars leaving the estate.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 STREET WARDENS

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 8 June 2015

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

(i) Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club towards the honorary members' day out in July 2015.

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

(2) Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill Mothers' Club to a Brass Band night on 8 July 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Shotton Colts Football Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Shotton Colts Football Club requesting permission to use the Parish Council's small football pitch for the 2015/2016 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2015/2016 season.

(4) Wheatley Hill Heritage Society – Annual Report 2015

The Clerk reported the receipt of the Annual Report from Wheatley Hill Heritage Society which provided details of the work undertaken by the Society during 2014/2015, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Village Artwork

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 18 May 2015 to discuss proposals to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Wheatley Hill pit by commissioning a piece of public artwork for the village.

The Clerk took Members through the minutes of the meeting outlining the main issues which included the size and appearance of the artwork, the location, the costs involved and fund raising options.

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 29 June 2015 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Haswell and District Mencap Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to the 8th Anniversary event of the Lisa Dixon Centre, home of Haswell and District Mencap Society, on 20 June 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) 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 9 June 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(i) APPLICATIONS

DM/15/01088/FPA – New centre and clubhouse building with associated car parking for East Durham Microlights at Greenhills Farm, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3QS for Mrs A Horn

DM/15/01694/FPA – Construction of detached garage in separate garden area to rear of dwelling (retrospective application) at 25 East View, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3LF for Mr and Mrs S Hill

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

There was nothing to report.

8 HEAD GROUNDPERSONS 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 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

Members were provided with details of waiting lists for allotments and stable blocks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Thomas Kenny - Victoria Cross Memorial Stone

The Clerk reported that following a special meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 June 2015 the Chair and Clerk met with S Pearce, Principal Area Action Partnership Co-ordinator on 5 June 2015.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Members concerns following the special meeting and the feeling that Durham County Council and the Area Action Partnership were passing all responsibility for the event onto the Parish Council. This was of particular concern when there was no budget in place to cover the cost of the event and little time to organise it.

The Clerk reiterated that the extent of the Parish Council’s involvement was to grant permission for the VC Stone to be sited in the Cemetery and to take on the future maintenance of the stone.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that;

- (i) approval be granted to allow the VC Stone to be sited in the Cemetery, opposite the war memorial,
- (ii) the Parish Council agree to take on the future maintenance of the VC Stone.

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 there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Horses - Wordsworth Avenue

The Chair reported that a meeting was scheduled to be held on 19 June 2015 to discuss the continued problems associated with Wordsworth Avenue.

Representatives from Durham County Council, the Police and East Durham Homes were invited to discuss problems related to horses being kept in the gardens and garages of residential properties.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated