

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 13 JULY 2015

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns and Mrs L Stewart

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 8 June 2015 together with those of the special meeting held on 1 June 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

There was no Police present at the meeting.

4 STREET WARDENS

There was no Street Wardens present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Disabled Club towards a day trip.

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

(ii) Wheatley Hill Women's Section – Royal British Legion

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill Women's Section of the Royal British Legion towards a day trip.

RESOLVED that a donation of £390 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) 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 particularly those related to fund raising and publicity.

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 27 July 2015 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(i) APPROVALS

DM/15/01088/FPA – Change of use of land for the use of micro light centre and erection of new centre and clubhouse building with associated car parking at Greenhills Farm, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3QS for Mrs A Horn.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the following:-

- Durham County Council – Further cuts were required which could impact on front line services and jobs.
- Weardale Park Allotments – Issues related to fly tipping were being investigated by Durham County Council.
- Airdale House – Issues related to ownership.
- West House – Horses had been removed from the land and the boundary fence had been repaired.
- Front Street Walkabout – A walkabout of the Front Street took place on 19 June 2015 with representatives from Durham County Council, the Police and East Durham Homes. The County Council were in the process of writing to all absentee landlords and proposals to introduce an Accreditation Scheme were being considered.
- Horses - Representatives from Durham County Council, the Police and East Durham Homes were invited to a site visit at Wordsworth Avenue to discuss problems related to horses being kept in the gardens and garages of residential properties. A meeting for residents was scheduled to be held on 21 July 2015 at Wheatley House.

- **Village Bus Service** – discussions were ongoing in relation to the introduction of a village bus service.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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 a meeting of the Cemetery Sub Committee was held on 18 June 2015 to discuss the location and design of the Thomas Kenny VC Memorial Stone which was to be sited in the Cemetery, details of which were outlined to Members.

The last meeting of the Thomas Kenny Group was held on 23 June 2015 where it was reported that the Parish Council had agreed, in principle, to allow the VC Stone to be sited in Wheatley Hill Cemetery and to take on all future maintenance of the VC Stone.

Members were advised that the East Durham AAP had requested a letter of support from the Parish Council to accompany their funding application to the Heritage Lottery to cover the costs of the event.

The next meeting was scheduled to be held at 10am on 23 July 2015 at the Greenhills Centre.

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

(3) ROSPA Inspection 2015

The Clerk reported the receipt of the annual ROSPA inspection carried out at the football pitch at Quilstyle Road. The Clerk took Members through the content of the report and outlined the actions that were required.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the recommended actions be undertaken.

(4) Annual Insurance Premium 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that the annual insurance premium for 2015/2016 had been received from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £6,076.38. The previous year's premium was £6,388.07, a decrease of £311.69.

Members were advised that Zurich were offering a 3 year agreement at a reduced premium of £5,532.78 for the 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

RESOLVED that the quotation for a 3 year agreement be accepted in the sum of £5,532.78.

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) Cemetery

Councillor Mrs Goyns made reference to the Cemetery and how well it was maintained.

It was suggested that a letter of thanks be forwarded to J Davies and D Lamb recognising the effort that had been made in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Annual Bedding

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported that, as requested, the County Council had used brighter flowers in the summer bedding and baskets. Reference was however made to the poor design of the display at the entrance to the village.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Mrs C Davies

The Clerk advised that Mrs Davies was in hospital following an operation.

RESOLVED that flowers to be sent to Mrs Davies from the Parish Council and

the cost be met from the Chairs Budget.

..... Signed

..... Dated