

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns, Mrs M Goyns and Mrs L Stewart

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 14 September 2015 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

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 Heritage Centre

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Heritage Centre.

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

(ii) All Saints Church – “Over 20’s” Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from All Saints Church – “Over 20’s” Club.

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

(iii) Christmas Letter from Santa Claus

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mrs L Paterson which gave details of a proposal to give the children in the village a letter from Santa Claus in the run up to Christmas.

Mrs Paterson, who worked in a local shop on the Front Street, was

proposing that each child who visited the shop would be asked to send a letter to Santa Claus. They would then receive a reply from Santa as well as a small gift and a selection box. Mrs Paterson hoped to include approximately 250 children from the village.

RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred.

(2) Letters of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks:-

Wheatley Hill History Club
East Durham Community Transport Limited
Wheatley House Moving Forward

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Village Artwork

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 28 September 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, including the proposed location of the statue.

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 26 October 2015 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Standards Training

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend a free Standards Training Session on 18 November 2015 at County Hall, Durham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Wheatley Hill Post Office

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Post Office advising of proposals to move the branch from its current location on Granville Terrace to Stephen's Off Licence at 26 Alexandra Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

The relocation was part of a major programme of modernisation taking place across the Post Office network. A six week public consultation on the new location commenced on 30 September 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding the maintenance of war graves.

Members were advised that the Parish Council had a long standing arrangement with the Commission and was paid £16.00 per annum for the maintenance of eight war graves located in the Cemetery.

The Commission had undertaken an inspection of the graves in the Cemetery and concluded that overall maintenance was good and they were therefore cancelling the current arrangement with immediate effect.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) East Durham Association of Parish & Town Councils

The Clerk reported that the Annual General Meeting and next Ordinary Meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils would be held on 13 October 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) County Durham Association of Local Councils

The Clerk reported that the Annual General Meeting of the County Durham Association of Local Councils would be held on 24 October 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Wheatley House Moving Forward

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Wheatley House Moving Forward for the Parish Council to cut the grass at Wheatley House from March to October each year.

RESOLVED that the request be approved and the Parish Council cut the grass at Wheatley House from March to October each year.

6 PLANNING

APPLICATIONS

DM/15/02837/AD – Display of non-illuminated fascia sign and relocation of existing projecting sign to front elevation at Wheatley Hill Pet and Corn Stores, 7-9 Front Street, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NJ for Wheatley Hill Pet and Corn Stores

DM/15/02976/FPA – Detailed planning application for the erection of 115 residential units (C3) including formation of access, car parking, boundary treatments, landscaping and open space at field to the south of Wayside, Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill for V B Turnbull Limited.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the following:-

- **Front Street** – improvements on and around the entrance to the industrial estate on the Front Street. Improvements included a planting scheme, tree pruning, replacement seating, new planters and new litter bins.
- **New Health Clinic** – Old surgery would be demolished in December 2015.

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

(i) Waiting List

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Stable Block 19

The Clerk reported that Mrs Kelsey had given up stable block 19.

RESOLVED that stable block 19 be offered to Mrs L Bradwell of 9 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3JT.

(iii) Allotment 7

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Mrs Kelsey to add Mr W Thompson of 42 Quetlaw Road, Wheatley Hill to the tenancy for allotment 7. Members were advised that Mr Thompson was not registered at the address supplied by Mrs Kelsey.

RESOLVED that the request to add Mr Thompson to the tenancy of allotment 7 be refused.

(2) Thomas Kenny - Victoria Cross Memorial Stone

The Clerk reported that the last meeting of the Thomas Kenny Group was held on 8 October 2015.

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Members were provided with an update on progress made for the unveiling of the Thomas Kenny VC Commemorative Stone on 4 November 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Dog Poop Bags

The Clerk reported that following consultation with the Chair the Parish Council had purchased 10,000 economy dog poop bags at a cost of £113.90 plus £22.28 VAT.

RESOLVED that the purchase of 10,000 dog poop bags at a cost of £136.18 be endorsed.

(4) National Minimum Wage

The Clerk reported that as part of the NJC for Local Government Services 2014/2016 two year pay award Spinal Column Point 5 was deleted on 1 October 2015.

Members were advised that staff on SCP 5 would automatically move to SCP 6.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 PAYMENTS AND ORDERS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105078	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Poop Scoop Bags	113.90	22.78	136.68
105079	Northumbrian Water	Water - Allotments	246.73		246.73
105080	Peterlee Fire Company Ltd	Fire Extinguisher Service	11.96	2.39	14.35
105081	Durham County Council	Machine Repair	40.50	8.10	48.60
105082	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105083	J Thompson	Reimbursements	34.98		34.98
105084	J Davies	Reimbursements - New Tyre	55.00		55.00
105085	Poppy Appeal	British Legion - Poppy Wreath	17.00		17.00
105086	Wheatley Hill Heritage Society	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105087	All Saints Church - Over "20s"	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105088	Mr A M Carr	Re-Purchase of Burial Plot G691	50.00		50.00
105089	npower	Electric - Heritage Centre	177.63	8.89	186.52
105090	JAC's Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services - October 2015	13.25	2.65	15.90

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Internet Banking	Payroll		Wages - October 2015			3930.64		3930.64
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC		PAYE/Pension - October 2015			2285.27		2285.27
105091	British Gas		Heritage Centre - Gas			241.99	12.09	254.08
Direct Debit	Information Commission		Data Protection Registration			35.00		35.00
Direct Debit	British Telecom		Telephone/Internet			31.66	6.33	37.99
105092	J Dent		Skip Hire			175.00	35.00	210.00
TOTAL						8085.51	98.23	8183.74

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bevan Crescent

Councillor **B Maddison** reported that tree roots were coming through the pavement at the front of **1-4 Bevan Crescent**.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated