

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 13 JUNE 2016

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs L Stewart

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING** held on 9 May 2016 together with those of the ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS held on 9 May 2016, 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/STREET WARDENS

The Chair welcomed PCSO's N Bowman and S Kinghorn to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 111 incidents which included 1 theft from a motor vehicle, 1 burglary, 3 reports of criminal damage, 3 reports of violence against a person and 27 reports of anti-social behaviour.

The Officer advised that over the last month the Police had seized a number of parked cars that had no insurance or registered owner. These vehicles were often used by criminals or used to commit crimes.

The Chair made reference to the continuing problems associated with youths congregating on the Front Street and causing a nuisance. The Officer advised that the Police were aware of the situation and a number of the youths had been identified. Action taken by the Police included speaking to the youths with their parents present, anti-social behaviour letters and a visit to the Police Station. If there was no improvement in the behaviour of the youths identified the Police could issue a Community Protection Warning.

Members were updated on problems associated with youths congregating around the health centre. The area was due to be landscaped and CCTV cameras would hopefully be erected in the vicinity.

The Chair queried if any progress had been made in relation to the number of vehicles parked up throughout the village. The Officer advised that the Police had identified approximately 20 vehicles in and around Bevan Crescent but they were frequently moved around the village.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Learning Library

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Learning Library.

RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred.

(ii) All Saints Church

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from All Saints Church.

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

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill History Club
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Invitations

The Clerk reported the receipt of invitations from the following organisations.

Wheatley Hill Mothers Club
The Last Shift - Fundraising Group
Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of County Durham

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) The Last Shift – Fundraising Group

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence in relation to the proposal to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Wheatley Hill pit by commissioning a piece of public artwork for the village.

The Last Shift was raising money to fund the project and to date had raised £7,800.00. The last fundraising event held on 11 June had raised an additional £1,682.39. It was proposed that the statue would be located alongside the Pit Wheel Memorial, opposite the former colliery site.

The group had almost reached its target of raising £10,000.00 which would allow them to apply for match funding to meet the overall cost of £23,000. Prior to this they needed to provide evidence of land owner's consent, planning and building control approval and insurance cover.

The land owner and planning authority was Durham County Council and the group had requested the Parish Council to act as Trustees on their behalf and "adopt" the statue.

The Parish Council were therefore being asked to formally negotiate with Durham County Council to lease the land adjacent to the Pit Wheel to the Parish Council. All costs associated with this would be provided by the group. The Parish Council were also being asked to provide insurance cover for the statue.

The group felt that with the on-going support of the Parish Council they would be in a position to approach Durham County Council to determine what approvals were needed and at the same time approach funding bodies for match funding.

Members were advised that the next meeting of the group would be held on 27 June 2016 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

The Clerk outlined the Parish Council's position in relation to land ownership, lease agreements and insurance. Following a lengthy discussion on the issues it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Mrs Hedley to discuss this further and report back to the next meeting.

(5) East Durham Association of Parish and own Councils

The Clerk reported that a meeting of the East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils would be held on 14 June 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Shotton Colts Football Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Shotton Colts Football Club requesting permission to use the Parish Councils small football pitch for the 2016/2017 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2016/2017 season.

5 PLANNING

(i) APPLICATIONS

DM/16/01453/FPA - 2 no private dwelling houses at land to west of the Bungalow, Moor View, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NQ for Mr W Adams

DM/16/01731/FPA – Erection of a cattle housing shed at Wingate Grange Farm, Green Lane, Wingate TS28 5LX for W Chrystal and Partners

(ii) APPROVALS

DM/16/00578/FPA – Conversion of existing garage into habitable room and single storey extension to rear at 50 Woodlands Avenue, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3LG for Ms T Carr

DM/16/01296/FPA – Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to rear and replacement roof to existing conservatory at 6 Wayside, Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill, Durham DG6 3LZ for Mr D Wilkinson

(iii) **PLANNING COMMITTEE APPLICATION**

DM/16/00858/FPA – 12 residential apartments at 3–6 Front Street, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NJ

The Chair reported that this application was to be considered by the Planning Committee on 14 June 2016 with a recommendation that it be approved.

Members had previously considered this application and expressed concern in relation to the demand for apartments in the village. There was already problems related to empty properties and absentee landlords in the village and it was considered bungalows would be more appropriate than apartments. The Chair advised that he would be attending the Planning Committee and with Members approval, would speak on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to speak on behalf of the Parish Council at the Planning Committee on 14 June 2016.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on various issues around the village which included the problems associated with youths congregating on the Front Street and causing a nuisance and the number of vehicles parked up throughout the village.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 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.

8 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting List

The Clerk provided Members with details of the current waiting list for allotments and stable blocks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Request for an allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an allotment from Mr G Coatsworth of 7 Handel Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that Mr Coatsworth be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Mini Police Project

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 6 June 2016 with a representative from Durham Constabulary to discuss the Mini Police project.

Members were advised that the project was a fun and interactive volunteering opportunity for primary school children aged 9-11 years old. The aim of the initiative was to build a good relationship between children and the Police. Children's interaction with the Police at a young age had a lasting effect on how they viewed the force and engaged with them as adults. There was a need for the Police to ensure that every child they came into contact with developed confidence and trust in them as a public service.

The Clerk provided details of the presentation that was given by the Police at the meeting on 6 June 2016. Particular reference was made to how the initiative operated and was funded. Members were advised that the Police had made an application for funding to the Area Action Partnership (AAP) to roll out the initiative in the Peterlee force area. However it was not known when a decision would be made in relation to this.

Wheatley Hill Primary School had attended the meeting and indicated they would like to participate in the initiative as had Wheatley Hill Community Association. It was explained that to purchase the mini police uniforms for the primary school would cost in the region of £800.00.

Whilst it was possible that the funding application to the AAP would be successful there was no guarantee that Wheatley Hill Primary School would be chosen to participate. It was therefore suggested that the Parish Council assist the school with this project and purchase the Mini Police uniforms.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agree, in principle, to purchase the Mini Police uniforms for Wheatley Hill Primary School at a cost of approximately £800.00 from the Section 137 Budget.

(3) Staffing Issues

The Clerk reported that Mr D Lamb had sadly tendered his resignation and would be leaving the employment of the Parish Council on 8 July 2016.

Members expressed their sadness that Mr Lamb was leaving the Parish Council after many years of valued service.

RESOLVED that the Clerk pass on Members thanks to Mr Lamb and their best wishes for the future.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

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CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
105179	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services P11D	5.00	1.00	6.00	
105180	J Dent	Skip Hire	200.00	40.00	240.00	
105181	Peterlee Gas	Annual Gas Service	140.00		140.00	
105182	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	41.24	8.25	49.49	
105183	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
105184	Carrs Billington	New Machinery	509.17	101.83	611.00	
105185	J Thompson	Reimbursements	22.60		22.60	
105186	All Saints Church	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00	
105187	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - June 2016	14.00	2.80	16.80	
105188	Playsafety Limited	Football Pitch Inspection	66.50	13.30	79.80	
105189	J Davies	Reimbursements	85.43	17.09	102.52	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - June 2016	3999.60		3999.60	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - June 2016	2502.52		2502.52	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	33.80	6.76	40.56	
			TOTAL	7944.86	191.03	8135.89

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) School Governor - St Godric's RC School

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had asked the Parish Council to consider appointing a representative to serve as a school governor at St Godric's RC School.

RESOLVED that the Clerk forward Councillor Miller's details to Durham County Council.

(ii) A181 Road

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported that the slip road coming off the A181 into Wheatley Hill was in a dangerous condition. The road surface was loose and full of pot holes and was in need of re-surfacing.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated