

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 11 JULY 2016

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 13 June 2016, 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/STREET WARDENS

Members were advised that since the last meeting 104 incidents had been reported which included the following:-

Anti-social behaviour - 20

Theft of/from and criminal damage to vehicles - 2

Burglary - 2

Criminal damage - 4

Violence against person - 4

Members were advised that year to date there had been no change in the figures related to anti-social behaviour and crime overall was down 19%.

Members made reference to the continuing problems associated with youths congregating and causing a nuisance on the Front Street. The Clerk reported that at the last meeting the Police advised they were aware of the situation and a number of the youths involved had been identified and appropriate action taken.

The Chair referred to problems associated with youths congregating around the health centre. The area had recently been landscaped and fenced and CCTV cameras would hopefully be erected.

Members reported that the recently installed planters on the Front Street had been vandalised. The shrubs and plants had been pulled out and the soil removed.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

Learning Library

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting further information had been received from the Learning Library, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Variation to Premises Licence – Wheatley Hill Filling Station

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council which gave details of an application for a variation to the premises licence at Wheatley Hill Filling Station.

Members were advised that the garage currently had a licence to sell alcohol Monday to Sunday between the hours of 6am and 10pm. The application was for a variation to sell alcohol 24 hours Monday to Sunday.

Members discussed the application and made the following comments;

- The current licence allowed sufficient time to purchase alcohol and the application to sell 24 hours a day was not required. Customers visiting the garage during the night, to purchase alcohol, would cause disturbance to residents living on Durham Road.
- There was an on-going problem related to youths congregating and drinking alcohol in the village. An extension to the licence would possibly exacerbate the situation and create further problems related to nuisance and anti-social behaviour.
- Residents living on Durham Road regularly complained about the amount of litter and rubbish generated by the garage. There was concern that an extension to the licence could make the situation worse.

RESOLVED that the concerns expressed by Members be forwarded to Durham County Council.

(3) The Last Shift

The Clerk reported that the last meeting of The Last Shift was held on 27 June 2016.

The Clerk took Members through the minutes of the meeting and advised that the next meeting would be held on 25 July 2016 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

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

(4) Mini Police Project

The Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill Community Association had advised that the Mini Police would be launched in Wheatley Hill on 19 September 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING

(i) APPLICATIONS

DM/16/01820/FPA – First floor side and rear extension at Rosscairn, Durham Road, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3LJ for Mr J Carr

(ii) APPROVALS

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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 at the health centre.

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 a stable block

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for a stable block from Mrs L Bradwell of 9 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that Mrs Bradwell be accepted onto the waiting list for a stable block.

(iii) Allotment 6

The Clerk reported that the tenant of allotment 6 had advised that a number of people had approached him and claimed to have paid rent for allotment 6.

The Clerk had assured the tenant that he was the legal tenant of the plot.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) ROSPA Inspection 2016

The Clerk reported the receipt of the annual ROSPA inspection carried out at the football pitch at Quilstyle Road.

Members were advised that as the report had just been received the Clerk would undertake any actions required and report back to the next meeting.

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

(3) Annual Insurance Premium 2016/2017

The Clerk reported that the annual insurance premium for 2016/2017 had been received from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £5,770.04.

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Members were advised that in 2015 the Parish Council entered into a three year agreement with Zurich and received a reduced premium. The previous year's premium was £5,532.78, an increase of £237.26.

RESOLVED that the quotation for £5,770.04 be accepted.

(4) School Governor – St Godric's RC School

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Durham County Council had requested the Parish Council to appoint a representative to serve as a school governor at St Godric's RC School.

Following the last meeting Councillor Miller submitted an application to the County Council and had been advised that the school were looking for someone who had an educational or business background. To date Councillor Miller had not heard from the County Council.

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

(5) Staffing Issues

The Clerk reported that Mr D Lamb left the employment of the Parish Council on 8 July 2016.

Members expressed their sadness that Mr Lamb had left following many years of valued service. It was suggested that a leaving gift of £100.00 be made from the Chair's account together with a card and a bouquet of flowers.

Members discussed the vacant post of Groundsperson and suggested that the Clerk and Chair meet with Mr Davies to discuss the requirements of the Parish Council and if necessary a Special Meeting of the Parish Council be held before the August recess.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the Clerk write to Mr Lamb thanking him for his dedicated service,
- (ii) a leaving gift of £100.00 together with a bouquet of flowers and a card be given from the Chairs Account.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105190	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	94.48	18.90	113.38
105191	M Nicholls	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105192	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105193	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	5770.04		5770.04
105194	J Thompson	Reimbursements	15.70		15.70
105195	Learning Library	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00
105196	J Davies	Reimbursements	110.53	16.11	126.64

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105197	D Lamb		Leaving Gift		100.00		100.00
105198	British Gas		Gas - Heritage Centre		198.71	9.93	208.64
105199	JAC's Accountancy Limited		Payroll Services - July 2016		14.00	2.80	16.80
105200	npower		Electric - Heritage Centre		120.48	6.02	126.50
Internet Banking	Payroll		Wages - July 2016		3405.46		3405.46
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC		PAYE/Pension - July 2016		1983.41		1983.41
Direct Debit	British Telecom		Telephone/Internet		34.13	6.83	40.96
					TOTAL	11946.94	60.59 12007.53

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Residential Development - Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill

Councillor B Maddison made reference to the proposed residential development at Wingate lane and expressed concern in relation to how construction vehicles would access the site from the A181.

It was suggested that construction vehicles should be prevented from accessing the site via Cemetery Road and should be directed to the roundabout on the A181 to enter the site from the bottom of Wingate Lane.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be asked to restrict all construction vehicles using Cemetery Road to access the residential development at Wingate Lane.

..... Signed

..... Dated