

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Nicholls, Mrs L Stewart and
Mrs C Stogdale

- 1** THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 10 October 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair welcomed Mr and Mrs Fletcher of Weardale Park to the meeting.

Mrs Fletcher advised that the purpose of attending the meeting was to discuss the allotment site and access road to the rear of Weardale Park.

Members were advised that the allotment site had recently been sold and residents had been informed that the owner proposed to develop the site for residential housing. Residents were also querying who owned the access road which ran adjacent to the site.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had not been aware of the fact the site had been sold or been consulted on any planning application.

RESOLVED that enquiries be made to Durham County Council.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING/STREET WARDENS

The Clerk advised that PCSO K Hyde had submitted her apologies and provided the following report. Members were also advised that PC Ged Cooke had been appointed as the new beat officer for Wheatley Hill.

Anti-Social Behaviour - 25
Burglary - 2
Theft of Motor vehicle - 1

There was still problems related to horses being let loose in the village and to date 21 horses had been seized. The Clerk reported that meetings had been held with Durham County Council and the Police. It was suggested that both Durham County Council and the Police be requested to attend a meeting with the Parish Council to allow a full discussion on the matter.

Due to the on-going problems at Wordsworth Avenue the Police had designated it a "hot spot" policing area which would ensure a greater Police presence. The Police were working closely with other agencies and it was proposed to hold a walk about.

Reference was made to the continuing problem of quad bikes and horse and carts riding around the village causing a nuisance. The Clerk stressed the importance of reporting such incidents to ensure the true extent of the problem was logged with the Police.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council and the Police be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the problems related to horses in the village.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Great North Air Ambulance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(ii) Wheatley Hill Community Nursery

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Community Nursery.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(iii) Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club towards their annual Honorary Members Christmas Party.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(iv) "Over 20's" Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the "Over 20's" Club for help towards their Christmas party.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Haswell and District Mencap Society.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) War Memorial –Wheatley Hill Cemetery

The Clerk reported that Historic England was considering adding the war memorial, located in the Cemetery, to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest as part of their response to the centenary of the First World War.

Historic England acted as the Government's adviser on the historic environment and was responsible for listings. They would therefore assess Wheatley Hill war memorial to determine if it held special architectural or historic interest, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether it should be listed.

Listing would mark the memorials significance and celebrate its special

architectural and historic interest. It brought specific protection so that its special interest could be properly considered in managing its future.

Once the preliminary assessment had been undertaken the Parish Council would receive the consultation report and be invited to comment. All representations would be considered before a recommendation was made to the Secretary of State. The Parish Council would then be notified of the decision in due course.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club - Christmas Concert

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for Members to attend the annual Christmas Concert on 30 November 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Cemetery - Request to Plant a Tree

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Mrs D Williams to plant a memorial tree in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Mrs Williams to plant a memorial tree in the Cemetery subject to consultation with the Head Groundsperson.

5 PLANNING

There were no planning matters.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided Members with an update on various issues around the village which included the following;

- Horses – problems related to horses being let loose around the village
- Absentee Landlords – Front Street
- Incidents related to bonfire night
- Durham County Council – further cutbacks were required
- New 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) Allotment Number 6

The Clerk reported that allotment 6 was offered to Mr G Coatsworth of 7 Handel Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

Despite numerous attempts to contact Mr Coatsworth he had failed to confirm his acceptance of allotment 6. It was therefore suggested that the plot be re-allocated and Mr Coatsworth be removed from the waiting list.

Allotment 6 had previously been offered to and declined by Mr Tyers of 20 Burns Street. It was suggested that the plot again be offered to Mr Tyers in case his circumstances had changed. If Mr Tyers declined the plot it be offered to the next applicant on the waiting list

RESOLVED that allotment 6 be offered to Mr J Tyers of 20 Burns Street, Wheatley Hill.

(iii) Request for an allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an allotment from the following:

Mr R Dixon , 30 Dodds Close, Wheatley Hill
Ms M Piper, 16 Jack Lawson Terrace, Wheatley Hill

The Clerk advised that M Piper was not registered at the address given. As the new electoral register would be published early December it was suggested that consideration of this request be deferred.

RESOLVED that Mr Dodds be accepted onto the waiting list and the application from M Piper be deferred.

(2) The Last Shift

The Clerk reported that a site meeting would be held in the Cemetery, with representative from The Last Shift, on 15 November 2016 to discuss the location of the statue.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Request to Bury/Scatter Ashes on Peter Lee's Grave

At the last meeting the Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Mrs McIntyre, the daughter of Mrs Eltringham (nee Lee) who was the granddaughter of Peter Lee.

Mrs Eltringham had recently passed away and her daughter had requested permission to bury her ashes near Peter Lee's grave and erect a small plaque.

Due to the significance of Peter Lee's grave the Clerk contacted Mrs Coleman the last surviving granddaughter of Peter Lee for her thoughts on the request. Mrs Coleman had advised that the family did not want the grave disturbed. They would agree to the ashes being buried near or scattered on the grave but they did not want a plaque erected near the grave.

Following the response from Mrs Coleman the Clerk met with Mrs McIntyre and outlined the options available. Mrs McIntyre subsequently purchased a plot in the

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memorial garden.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Christmas Cheer Packs

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting the Parish Council agreed to fund the purchase of Christmas cheer packs for elderly and vulnerable residents in the village.

Members were advised that the list of recipients for a pack was being drawn up. It had been suggested that residents living at Abbots Court should also be included. It was proposed that instead of receiving an individual pack residents would receive a communal pack for the whole home. The pack would be delivered by the Wheatley Hill “Mini Police”

RESOLVED that Abbots Court Nursing Home be included on the list for a Christmas Cheer pack.

(5) Flower Beds – Wild Flowers

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were instructed to remove the 3 flower beds on the corner at the Pit Wheel and the bed at the top of Woodlands Avenue and replace with wild flowers.

Durham County Council had confirmed the removal of the beds. The cost to replace the beds at the Pit Wheel with 110sqm's of wild flowers was £352.00 and to replace the bed at Woodlands Avenue with 50sqm's of wildflowers was £160.00.

In addition the beds directly in front of the Pit Wheel had been reduced in size.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Village Newsletter

The Clerk reported that work had commenced on a village newsletter that would be delivered to every household in Wheatley Hill in December. Members were advised that the newsletter would be jointly produced by the Parish Council and Friends of Wheatley Hill.

In the past additional funding for the newsletter had been provided by County Councillors M Nicholls and L Hovvells from their Members Initiative Fund. However, on this occasion the newsletter would need to be fully funded by the Parish Council. Quotations were being sought from local printers and means of delivery were being investigated.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Estimates of Expenditure 2017/2018

The Clerk provided options with regard to the spending requirements of the Parish Council for 2017/18.

The Clerk outlined the various options and provided a range of figures for Members consideration. Durham County Council had advised that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2017/2018 was £23,476.00 which was

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a reduction of £4,914.00 from the previous year. However, the final grant and tax base figures would not be confirmed till the end of November.

Members discussed the options and suggested that as the Parish Council was in a financially stable position the minimum increase be made to the budget.

The Clerk suggested that a draft budget, based on a minimum increase, be prepared for Members consideration at the December meeting.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a draft budget for 2017/2018 for Members consideration at the December meeting.

(8) Staffing Issues

The Clerk reported that following the Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 July 2016 Mr B Higgins was appointed, on a casual basis, to the vacant position of Groundsperson and commenced his employment on 26 July 2016.

The casual appointment was an interim measure and Members would assess the position in relation to the vacant post at a later date. The appointment was initially for a period of 2 months and it was suggested that it continue until the January meeting when Members would review the situation.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the position be reviewed at the January meeting.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

| CHQ NO | PAYMENT TO | DETAIL | COST | VAT | TOTAL |
|------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| 105231 | Poppy Appeal | Poppy Wreath | 17.00 | | 17.00 |
| 105232 | P & P Windows | New Door - Cemetery Bungalow | 800.00 | | 800.00 |
| 105233 | M Nicholls | Telephone Allowance | 25.00 | | 25.00 |
| 105234 | J Thompson | Telephone Allowance | 25.00 | | 25.00 |
| 105235 | J Dent | Skip Hire | 200.00 | 40.00 | 240.00 |
| 105236 | Anthony Curry Electrics | Electrical Works - Heritage centre | 112.00 | 560.00 | 672.00 |
| 105237 | Great North Air Ambulance | Section 137 Donation | 100.00 | | 100.00 |
| 105238 | WheatleyHill Community Nursery | Section 137 Donation | 300.00 | | 300.00 |
| 105239 | Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club | Section 137 Donation | 300.00 | | 300.00 |
| 105240 | "Over 20's" Club | Section 137 Donation | 300.00 | | 300.00 |
| 105241 | Greenhills Centre | Section 137 Donation | 2500.00 | | 2500.00 |
| 105242 | J Davies | Reimbursements | 461.99 | 10.00 | 471.99 |
| 105243 | J Thompson | Reimbursements | 43.09 | 4.16 | 47.25 |
| 105244 | JAC's Accountancy Limited | Payroll Services - November 2016 | 20.00 | 4.00 | 24.00 |
| Internet Banking | Councillors Mrs M Goyns and Mrs L Stewart | Attendance Allowance | 434.56 | | 434.56 |

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|------------------|-----------------|--|------------------------------|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Internet Banking | Payroll | | Wages - November 2016 | | 3834.06 | | 3834.06 | |
| Internet Banking | HMRC/DCC | | PAYE/Pension - November 2016 | | 2096.81 | | 2096.81 | |
| Direct Debit | British Telecom | | Telephone/Internet | | 35.12 | 7.02 | 42.14 | |
| | | | | | TOTAL | 6463.64 | 15.18 | 6478.82 |

610 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Johnson Estate - Indiscriminate Parking

Councillor Miller made reference to the indiscriminate parking taking place in the vicinity of Johnson Estate. Members were advised that cars parked on both sides of the road at the entrance which made it difficult for traffic getting in and out of the estate.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Police and Durham County Council.

(2) 216 Village Link Bus Service

Councillor Maddison made reference to the new 216 bus service and advised that he had received a request from a resident for an additional bus stop in the Bevan Crescent area.

RESOLVED that the request be forwarded to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated