

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016

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

Apologies: Councillors Mrs E Carr, E Goyns and Mrs M Nicholls

- 1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 14 November 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

Minute 11 (1) Johnson Estate - Indiscriminate Parking

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported that the indiscriminate parking taking place in the vicinity of Johnson Estate was also a problem at East View.

- 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

- 3 POLICE**

There was no Police present at the meeting.

- 4 CORRESPONDENCE**

- (1) Request for Financial Assistance - North Eastern Prison After Care Society**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the North Eastern Prison After Care Society.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

- (2) Letters of Thanks**

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

“Over 20’s” Club
Great North Air Ambulance
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

- (3) War Memorial –Wheatley Hill Cemetery**

At the last meeting 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 had made a preliminary assessment of the war memorial and made their recommendation to the Secretary of State as to whether it should be listed. The Parish Council would be notified of the decision in due course.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING

APPROVAL

DM/16/02996/FPA – Shop front with dropped kerb and external plant at the Co-operative Food, Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill DH6 3RF for W D Harley.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

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

- Problems related to the Front Street – Empty properties/Absentee Landlords
- Health Centre – CCTV camera to be installed
- Entrance to Community Centre – Rubbish/litter - clean up requested

Members were reminded that all incidents related to dog fouling, quad bikes and horses should be reported to the Police and/or Neighbourhood Wardens to ensure a true picture of the problem could be logged and recorded.

Councillor Mrs Goyns reported that she had attended the Community Centre to assist with the winter cheer packs.

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

Following the last meeting allotment 6 was offered to Mr Tyers of 20 Burns Street. Members were advised that as Mr Tyers failed to respond to the offer the plot was offered to Mrs Bradwell who refused it on the basis she needed a stable block.

RESOLVED that allotment 6 be offered to Mrs H Taylor of 13 Gable Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

(iii) Request for an allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an allotment from Ms M Piper, 16

Jack Lawson Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that Ms Piper be accepted onto the waiting list.

(iv) Outstanding Rent – Stable block 22

The Clerk reported the Mr Thompson/Mr Newton had paid £60 rent for stable block 22 and it should have been £65. A letter advising of the £5 shortfall had been sent to Mr Thompson and Mr Newton.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) The Last Shift

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

Members were advised that the preferred location of The Last Shift was in the centre of the crossroads at the bottom of the central avenue in the Cemetery. The location would ensure the statue could be seen from the main road. If the location was agreed additional groundworks would be required to ensure there was sufficient room for grass cutting machinery to safely pass the statue.

Members discussed this location and felt it was not the most appropriate location for the statue in the cemetery.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact The last Shift and request a further meeting to discuss the location of the statue.

(3) Village Newsletter

The Clerk reported that the village newsletter was with the printers and would be ready for delivery by the end of the week.

Quotations had been sought from local printers and the cost to print 1400 copies of the newsletter was £405.00.

Various options had been investigated for delivery and Mr A Telford would be delivering the newsletter. It was suggested that a payment of £200 be made for delivery.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and Mr A Telford be paid £200 to deliver the village newsletter.

(4) Estimates of Expenditure 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that updated figures, related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme LCTRS grant and tax base, had been received from Durham County Council.

The LCTRS grant for 2017/2018 was now £21.345 which was a reduction of £7,045 from the previous year and the tax base had gone from 635.4 to 654.3.

The Clerk outlined the various options and provided a range of figures for Members consideration.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 12 December 2016

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. A 1% increase on the precept would give a figure of £99,916 which together with the grant of £21,345 would give an overall budget of £121,261.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a draft budget for 2017/2018 based on a 1% increase in the precept for Members consideration at the January meeting.

(5) Wheatley Hill Community Association – Meals on Wheels

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk which requested Members to consider providing financial support towards the Meals on Wheels service provided by Wheatley Hill Community Association, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Clerk reported that over the last four financial years the Parish Council had provided financial support towards the Meals on Wheels service provided by the Association.

The Centre incurred the following annual transport and staff costs related to the provision of the Meals on Wheels service.

- Transport - £3,970
- Paid Staff – Meals on Wheels delivery - £3,900

The centre currently provided 22 meals in Wheatley Hill, 4 in Thornley, 7 in Wingate, 3 in Peterlee, 1 in Shotton and 2 in Castle Eden.

The Clerk took Members through the report and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that: -

- (i) a financial donation of £7,870 be made from the Section 137 Budget to Wheatley Hill Community Association to assist with the costs related to the provision of the Meals on Wheels service,
- (ii) the Parish Council continue with grass cutting at the children's play area during the summer months.

(6) Christmas Cheer Packs

The Clerk provided an update on the residents who had received a winter cheer pack.

Members were advised that there had been wonderful feedback from residents. Thank you cards had been received and many residents were overwhelmed to have received a pack. The Clerk advised that there were still sufficient funds to provide more packs and if Members wished to nominate anyone else there was still time.

H Jamieson had advised that it was envisaged that £200 would be left from the funding provided by the Parish Council and had proposed this could be used to provide a free Christmas meal to some of the recipients of the packs who did not already receive the meals on wheels service.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 12 December 2016

Members were also advised that a visit had also been made to Abbots Court with the local police and the “Mini Police”

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and any remaining funding be used to provide free Christmas meals to residents.

(7) Ex-Gratia Christmas Payments

The Chair suggested that an ex-gratia Christmas payment of £200 be made to J Davies and J Thompson and a payment of £100 be made to B Higgins.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for an ex-gratia payment of £200 to J Davies and J Thompson and £100 to B Higgins from the Chair’s Account.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
105245	Durham County Council	Summer/Winter Bedding	6461.13	1292.23	7753.36	
105246	Horns Garden Centre	Cemetery - Flowers	71.25	14.25	85.50	
105247	Northumbrian Water	Water - Allotments	198.26		198.26	
105248	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
105249	Horns Garden Centre	Christmas Tree	83.33	16.67	100.00	
105250	J Thompson	Reimbursements	29.02	4.16	33.18	
105251	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	562.62	112.53	675.15	
105252	North Eastern Prison After Care Society	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00	
105253	J Davies	Ex Gratia Christmas Payment	200.00		200.00	
105254	B Higgins	Ex Gratia Christmas Payment	100.00		100.00	
105255	J Thompson	Ex Gratia Christmas Payment	200.00		200.00	
105256	J Davies	Reimbursements	18.48	2.37	20.85	
105257	Mr A Telford	Delivery of Newsletter	200.00		200.00	
105258	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - December 2016	14.00	2.80	16.80	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - December 2016	3834.06		3834.06	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - December 2016	2048.61		2048.61	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	34.57	6.91	41.48	
			TOTAL	14180.33	1451.92	15632.25

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 12 December 2016

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Hanging Baskets

Members reported that the summer hanging baskets had not been removed.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be requested to remove the hanging baskets.

(2) Wooded Area at Crows House Farm

Councillor Mrs Stewart reported that the fire brigade had been called out on a number of occasions to deal with wheeled bins being set on fire in the wooded area next to Crows House Farm, Wheatley Hill.

Youths were congregating in the area and dragging the bins into the woods/beck and setting them on fire.

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

The Chair thanked everyone for their support over the last year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

..... Signed

..... Dated