

# THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017

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

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs E Carr

**1** THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 9 January 2017 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** POLICE

The Chair welcomed Mr C Mason, Neighbourhood Warden to the meeting. Mr Mason provided Members with information related to the number of incidents reported since Christmas as well as figures for the whole of 2016.

The Clerk advised that PCSO K Hyde had submitted her apologies and provided the following report.

Anti-social behaviour - 15  
Burglary - 8  
Criminal damage - 7  
Theft from motor vehicle - 3

The Chair made reference to the continuing problem of quad bikes riding over and destroying grassed areas. The Officer advised they were aware of the problem and reiterated that all incidents should be reported by residents to ensure the full scale of the problem could be recorded.

Councillor M Goyns reported that she has recently had to stop her car to avoid hitting a speeding quad bike. The Officer advised that they had recently obtained a vehicle registration for a nuisance quad bike but when investigated the plate belonged to a car.

Discussion took place in relation to the number of incidents related to horses and the problem did not appear to have improved.

The Chair provided details of a recent complaint from a resident living in Granville Terrace. The resident claimed that over the last three months he had made numerous complaints to Durham County Council in relation to litter, fly tipping, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour but no action was ever taken.

Members were advised that following the complaint the Police and Durham County Council had become involved and work had been undertaken in relation to the complaints, details of which were outlined to Members. The Chair thanked the Neighbourhood Wardens, Police and Durham County Council for the work undertaken in relation to this matter.

Councillor Stogdale reported an attempted burglary to a number of garages to the rear of Gable Terrace and advised the matter had been reported to the Police.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**4 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Durham Cathedral - Request for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Durham Cathedral.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

**(2) Letters of Thanks**

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

(i) Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute

(ii) Christmas Cheer Packs – Mrs J Shutt and Mr A Lincoln

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(3) Royal Garden Party 2017**

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that Brandon and Byshottles and Witton Gilbert Parish Councils had been allocated places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 23 May 2017.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(4) Church Windows**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Heritage Society which sought approval to display 2 church windows in the Heritage Centre.

Members were advised that the Heritage Society had obtained funding to refurbish the church windows. A small refurbished window was already on display in the Heritage Centre and there was also one displayed in All Saints Church, Wheatley Hill.

If approval was granted the original architrave on the windows would be removed and retained. Members were assured this was a temporary installation and the original architrave could be reinstated and the windows removed at any time in the future.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to display two church windows in the Heritage Centre.

**5 PLANNING**

**(i) Applications**

DM/17/00340/FPA – Erection of 2 no flats, 3 no 2 bedroom dormer bungalows and associated external works (resubmission) at land adjoining Stephens Terrace and Moor View, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NJ for Mr J Carr

DM/17/0142/VOC - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to DM/15/02976/FPA to allow substitution of house type at field to the south of Wayside, Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LZ for VB Turnbull Ltd

(ii) Approvals

DM/16/03336/FPA – Erection of first floor extension to rear of existing dwelling at Low Crows House, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3QL for Mr J Welch

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided Members with an update on various issues relevant to 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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Allotment Number 6

The Clerk reported that allotment number 6 was accepted by Mr Griffiths of 10 Patton Walk, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted

(iii) Request for an Allotment

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an allotment from Mr A Telford of 53 Luke Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

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

(iv) Allotment Number 2

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had contacted the Parish Council in relation to allotment number 2. The County Council had advised that waste was regularly being burnt on the plot and numerous complaints had been received.

The Clerk advised that following discussions with the tenant of allotment number 2 it appeared the information received related to another plot. Investigations were underway to determine which plot the County Council had received the complaints about.

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

(2) New Tractor

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's Massey Ferguson tractor was in need of replacement. The Head Groundsperson was in the process of sourcing a suitable replacement and obtaining quotations.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Moles – Football Field

The Clerk reported that following numerous complaints related to moles on the football field Durham County Council were requested to provide a quotation to treat the area.

Members were advised that the County Council had undertaken an initial survey of the site and advised that to carry out 1 initial set up visit and 3 subsequent follow up visits would cost £315.95 inclusive of VAT.

Unfortunately as moles were difficult to trap the County Council could not guarantee the success of the treatment and the charges would apply in the event nothing was caught.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Durham County Council to undertake the treatment at a cost of £315.95 inclusive of VAT.

(4) The Last Shift

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members discussed the meeting held with representatives from the Last Shift Committee on 9 January 2017 and expressed their disappointment at the tone of the meeting which led to a break down in discussions.

At that meeting it was suggested that a further meeting be sought with the Last Shift Committee and the following options be put forward in a final effort to reach an agreement on the siting of the statue.

Option 1 - erect the statue somewhere other than the Cemetery

- Pit Wheel – Parish Council had reservations about this site but in the circumstances they would enter into a legal agreement with Durham County Council to allow the project to proceed. They would also insure the statue at this location with the proviso that the situation would be kept under review due to the potential for vandalism to the statue at this isolated location.

- Wheatley House – Parish Council would insure the statue at this location.

Option 2 – erect the statue in the Cemetery at one of the following locations

- Right hand side of the central avenue – middle of the Cordylines

- Side of the Heritage Centre

- Memorial Garden

Members were advised that a meeting was held with the Last Shift Committee on 12 January 2017 and agreement was reached to locate the statue on the right hand side of the central avenue, subject to a satisfactory survey.

Following the meeting a letter was received from the Secretary of the Last Shift Committee thanking the Parish Council for their commitment to the project, details of which were read out to Members.

Whilst the meeting was successful and agreement was reached Councillor Miller felt an apology should have been made by one of the representatives for their behaviour at the meeting on 9 January 2017. Councillor Miller subsequently submitted a letter to the Clerk and asked that it be forwarded to the Secretary of the Last Shift Committee to be read out at their next meeting. The Clerk advised that the letter was forwarded to the Secretary of the Last Shift Committee and as requested was read out at their meeting.

A letter from the representative concerned was subsequently received by the Chair of the Parish Council the content of which was read out for Members information.

The Clerk also reported that an invoice had been received from Mr R Lonsdale for the deposit for the statue. The Clerk advised that prior to the meeting the Last Shift Committee were requested to provide documentation as evidence of their financial position in terms of funds raised for the project but this had not been received.

**RESOLVED that;**

- (i) the letters circulated at the meeting be received,
- (ii) all future communication between the Parish Council and the Last Shift Committee be conducted through the Secretary and Treasurer of the Last Shift Committee,
- (ii) the Clerk request a meeting with the Secretary and Treasurer of the Last Shift committee to discuss the invoice received from Mr R Lonsdale.

**(5) Vacant Post -Groundsperson**

The Clerk reported that at a 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. The appointment was an interim measure until the Parish Council had the opportunity to assess the requirements of the Parish Council with regard to grounds staff.

The vacant post was a permanent position based on a 37 hour week on SCP 6. The position was pensionable and eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).

Members discussed the situation and agreed to appoint a Groundsperson on a permanent basis based on a 37 hour week on SCP 6.

Discussion ensued in relation to the post and the following timetable was suggested.

- Advertise Post - 14 to 27 February 2017

- Shortlist – Special meeting of the Parish Council 13 March 2017

- Interviews - 20 March 2017 – Community Centre

- Successful applicant to commence employment 3 April 2017 – subject to any notice period to their current employer

**Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 13 February 2017**

It was suggested that a sub-committee could be established to deal with the appointment if necessary.

**RESOLVED** that the post be advertised in line with the suggested timetable.

**9 PAYMENTS**

**RESOLVED** that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105267	Durham County Council	Lighting Repair - Pit Wheel	238.96	47.79	286.75
105268	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105269	J Thompson	Reimbursements	6.60		6.60
105270	Durham Cathedral	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00
105271	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - February 2017	14.00	2.80	16.80
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - February 2017	3880.39		3880.39
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - February 2017	2091.18		2091.18
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	42.43	8.48	50.91
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6348.56</b>	<b>59.07</b>
					<b>6407.63</b>

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

..... Dated