

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

HELD ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017

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

**Apologies:** Councillor E Goyns

**1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 13 February 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 Clerk advised that PCSO K Hyde had submitted her apologies and provided the following report.

Anti-social behaviour - 17

Burglary - 4

Criminal damage - 3

Theft from motor vehicle - 4

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**4 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Request for Financial Assistance – The Friends of St Godric’s RC Primary School**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Friends of St Godric’s RC Primary School towards a children’s story garden.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £500.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

**(2) Durham Miners’ Gala – 8 July 2017**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Durham Miners’ Association requesting the Parish Council to support the 133rd Durham Miners’ Gala by placing an advert in the Gala Souvenir Brochure.

Members were advised that a message of support, up to a maximum of 25 words, cost £45.00.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council support the Durham Miners’ Gala and place a message of support in the Souvenir Brochure at a cost of £45.00.

**(3) Wheatley Hill War Memorial Cross – Listed Building Status**

The Clerk reported that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport had added Wheatley Hill War Memorial Cross to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the memorial was now listed at Grade II.

Members were advised that the List entry for the memorial had been published on the National Heritage List for England and was available for public access.

Durham County Council had also prepared the statutory notices required under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Public Space Protection Order

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council was introducing a new Public Space Protection Order. It was hoped that the new Order would reduce dog fouling and other related issues. The introduction of the Order would mean that from 1 June 2017 the following would become fineable offences in County Durham;

- allowing a dog to stray;
- failing to put a dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer;
- allowing dogs into fenced off designated play areas.

Members were advised that the existing offence for allowing a dog to foul without picking it up would continue under the Order.

Trained Durham County Council staff and Durham Constabulary staff would be authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for £100.00 (discounted to £60.00 if paid within 10 working days) for breach of the Order. Failure to pay the FPN would lead to prosecution with a maximum fine of £1,000.00. The Order would not apply to anyone who was registered blind or disabled or who used a trained assistance dog.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Training

The Clerk reported that following the May elections the County Durham and Cleveland County Training Partnership would provide Councillor and Chairmanship training sessions.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING

Application - DM/17/00745/AD - 2 No internally illuminated signs and 1 non-illuminated sign at The Co-operative Food, Quilstyle Road, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3RF for Food Programme Delivery Orchid Group.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

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

- Airdale House - issues related to ownership
- Problems related to the Front Street – Empty properties/Absentee Landlords
- Planning approval which granted up to 5 years to undertake the development
- Horses

- Alexandra Terrace
- Works at Vincent's corner

The Chair reported the receipt of a letter addressed to himself, the Chief Constable, the Chief Executive of Durham County Council and Mr Phil Wilson MP.

The letter from concerned residents made reference to the increase in criminal and hostile activity taking place in the village. The three page letter outlined residents' concerns in detail but was anonymous as residents were fearful of retaliation.

The Chair explained that he would be happy to meet with the residents concerned but was unable to respond to the letter as it was anonymous.

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 waiting list for allotments and stable blocks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

#### (ii) Allotment Number 15

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members were advised that Durham County Council had received complaints in relation to allotment number 15.

It was alleged that the tenant, Mr Barnett had passed on or sold the allotment and there was also a horse being kept on the plot.

The Clerk contacted Mr Barnett and advised that the activities taking place on the plot were illegal and in breach of the tenancy agreement.

Mr Barnett subsequently contacted the Clerk and apologised. He claimed he did not know he was not allowed to keep a horse on the plot and had been helping a friend over the winter months when it was too wet for him to do anything on the plot.

With regard to the burning of waste he acknowledged he was allowing a third party to use the plot and was unaware of what was going on. He was now in the process of tidying the plot.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (2) New Tractor

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 13 March 2017

At the last meeting Members were advised that the Parish Council's tractor was in need of replacement.

The Clerk advised that quotations for a new tractor had been received from Carrs Billington, Lloyds Limited and Russell Groundcare, details of which were outlined to Members.

Following discussion it was suggested that the following quotation from Russell Groundcare be accepted.

To supply 1 Kubota BX 2350 Tractor with turf tyres, R.O.P.S., road registration and road lighting - £ 8,200.00

To supply loader with bucket - £2,130.00

To supply Kubota TT1 1.25t tipping trailer - £1,650.00

To supply fitting kit for Lewis 110 backhoe - £900.00

Members were advised that the quotation amounted to £12,880.00 plus £2,576.00 VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Russell Groundcare in the amount of £12,880.00 plus £2,576.00 VAT be accepted.

### (3) Trade Waste Contract 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £612.00 for the annual trade waste contract for the Cemetery.

The annual increase of £18.00 amounted to a 3.03% increase on the previous year. The contract price was based on 3 bins on alternative weekly collections.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council in the amount of £612.00 be accepted.

### (4) The Last Shift

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that an invoice for £1,200.00 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 was not received.

The Clerk reported that a meeting was subsequently held with the Secretary and Treasurer of the Last Shift Committee to discuss their financial position. At the meeting evidence was provided of funds raised to date, applications for additional funding and bank statements. The Secretary advised that the Last Shift Committee were in a position to provide the Parish Council with an amount of £17,000.00 to allow the order for the statue to be placed. They were awaiting a decision on 2 funding applications which if successful would provide an additional £6,000.00. Local fund raising would also continue.

The cost of the statue was £20,000.00 plus £4,000.00 VAT. The Parish Council therefore required a sum of £20,000.00 from the Last Shift Committee. Whilst they had already raised £17,000.00 it was fully expected that along with the funding applications and local fund raising events the Committee were well placed to raise the additional £3,000.00.

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The Clerk advised that a cheque in the sum of £17,000.00 had been received from the Last Shift Committee.

Following discussion it was agreed that the order for the statue be placed and the invoice for £1,200.00 be paid to Mr R Lonsdale.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the cheque from the Last Shift Committee in the amount of £17,000.00 be accepted,
- (ii) the order for the statue be placed and the deposit of £1,200.00 be paid to Mr R Lonsdale

### (5) Website

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been advised that Durham County Council were to introduce an annual charge and Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Parish Councils website.

The County Council were to introduce an annual charge and the Parish Council would have the option to purchase a SLA. This would cost approximately £575.00 per year and would include hosting the website and full support for the year of the SLA and a banner image for the website.

Full details related to the SLA and costs were still to be received from the County Council.

The Clerk advised that investigations had been made into alternative website providers. Following discussion it was suggested that the Parish Council remain with the County Council and purchase the SLA.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and further information from Durham County Council be awaited.

### (6) Co-operative Bank Charges

The Clerk reported that the Co-operative Bank had advised of charges they were introducing to the Parish Council's bank accounts, details of which were outlined to Members.

The Clerk advised that investigations were being made into alternative bank accounts which did not charge fees.

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

### (9) PAYMENTS

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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105272	J Dent	Skip Hire	200.00	40.00	240.00
105273	Durham County Council	Pest Control - Moles - Football Pitch	263.29	52.66	315.95
105274	M Nicholls	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00

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105275	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105276	Northumbrian Water	Water - Allotments	133.40		133.40
105277	St Godric's RC Primary School	Section 137 Donation	500.00		500.00
105278	Durham Miners Gala	Message of Support	45.00		45.00
105279	Two Red Rubber Things	Order for statue of miner	1000.00	200.00	1200.00
105280	J Davies	Reimbursements	148.70	17.71	166.41
105281	J Thompson	Reimbursements	26.40		26.40
105282	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - March 2017	23.00	4.60	27.60
105283	Durham County Council	Machine Fuel	120.99	24.20	145.19
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - March 2017	4031.59		4031.59
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - March 2017	2136.04		2136.04
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	40.67	8.13	48.80
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8719.08</b>	<b>347.30</b>
					<b>9066.38</b>

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) Blocked Gully/Drain**

Councillor Stogdale reported that the gully/drain in the vicinity of the chicane near Weardale Park was blocked with rubbish, leaves and tree debris.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

**(2) Faulty Light**

Councillor Mrs Carr reported that street light number 199 at Wordsworth Avenue was out.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated