

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2018

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

Apologies: Councillor Mrs M Nicholls

Also Present: County Councillor P Brookes
Mr L Thompson, Miss T Horn and Mr M Convery

- 1** THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 8 January 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair welcomed Mr L Thompson, Miss T Horn and Mr M Convery to the meeting.

Mr Thompson advised he was present at the meeting to discuss with Members a planning application for the refurbishment and change of use of the former Cricket Club Pavilion, Wheatley Hill to provide holiday letting accommodation which was refused by Durham County Council in December 2017.

Mr Convery outlined the proposals contained within the application and the reasons for the County Councils refusal.

Members were advised that Mr Thompson intended to re-submit the planning application and was seeking the Parish Councils support for the re-submission.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council support the proposals for the refurbishment and change of use of the former Cricket Club Pavilion.

3 POLICE

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 91 incidents which included the following;

Anti-social behaviour – 10
Theft of/from and criminal damage to a vehicle - 1
Burglary - 3
Criminal damage – 6

Members were advised that the total number of incidents had reduced by 16%. Anti-social behaviour was down 29%, burglary was down 2% and criminal damage was down 5%.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

The Chair welcomed County Councillor P Brookes to the meeting.

Councillor Brookes provided Members with an update on the following;

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- Development of the Aykley Heads site and the relocation of a new purpose built headquarters for Durham County Council in the city centre. A new history centre/archive would be located at St Oswalds
- Front Street – A walkabout was scheduled to be held on 20 February 2018
- Single Use Plastic's – Durham County Councils Overview and Scrutiny had been tasked with looking to phase out the use of single use plastics
- 6 February 2018 was the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letters of Thanks

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

2nd Wheatley Hill Scouts
Wheatley Hill Community Association

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Royal Garden Party 2018

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that Gainford and Belmont Parish Councils had been allocated places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 5 June 2018.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Wheatley Hill Steering Group

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of Wheatley Hill Steering Group would be held on 22 February 2018.

RESOLVED that Councillor B Miller be authorised to attend the Wheatley Hill Steering Group on 22 February 2018.

(4) Loft Ladder - Heritage Centre

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from the Heritage Society to install a loft ladder and secure flooring in the Heritage Centre to access the space above the kitchen area.

Members were advised that the additional loft space would provide extra storage for items that were infrequently used and as such were not accessed on a regular basis.

The Heritage Society would seek quotations and cover all costs associated with the alterations.

RESOLVED that the Heritage Society be granted approval for the installation of a loft ladder and secure flooring in the Heritage Centre.

6 PLANNING

Application - DM/17/00159/FPA – Temporary equestrian workers caravan at land to the south west of Crows House, Wheatley Hill DH6 3QL for Mr Harvey

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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Allocations

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Mr Dixon was offered and declined the tenancy of allotment 15.

Members referred to the waiting list and suggested that Mrs C Williams of 34 South View, Wheatley Hill be offered allotment 15.

RESOLVED that allotment 15 be offered to Mrs C Williams of 34 South View, Wheatley Hill.

(iii) Allotment Number 14

The Clerk provided an update on allotment number 14 and advised that quotations were still awaited for the removal of the flytipped rubbish on the plot.

Following the last meeting the Clerk contacted Mr A Telford to discuss the tenancy of the plot once it was cleared. Members were advised that Mr Telford had provisionally accepted the tenancy.

It was suggested that once the plot was cleared and allocated that no rent be charged for this year and assistance be offered to secure the plot.

RESOLVED that allotment 14 be provisionally allocated to Mr A Telford and further developments be awaited.

(iv) Allotment Site Visit

RESOLVED that a site visit be held on 26 February 2018 at 3pm.

(2) Summer/Winter Bedding Contract 2018/19

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £194.40 for the supply of 9 hanging baskets.

The Clerk reported that quotations had been sought from local suppliers which ranged from £13.00 to £25.00 depending on the size of the basket.

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It was suggested that the hanging baskets be purchased in the summer from a local supplier.

RESOLVED that the Head Groundsperson be authorised to purchase 9 hanging baskets up to the value of £20.00 per basket.

(3) Cemetery Wall

The Clerk advised that quotations were being sought for the repairs to the Cemetery wall.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) The Last Shift

The Clerk reported that Mr G Tempest had submitted his apologies and provided an update for Members.

Members were advised that a second payment of £3,000.00 had been received from the Last Shift making the total amount payable by the Last Shift to the Parish Council to £20,000.00.

An invoice for the second stage payment of £4,800.00 for the sculpture had been received.

Mr Tempest had advised that a grant of £4,400.00 from County Councillors J Grant, L Hovvells and P Brookes had been approved and would provide for all the additional elements of the project, including the original cost of the foundation, plinth and surround. However, due to the addition of the steel plinth an additional structural survey was commissioned and the results of this survey were not available when the grant application was made which had resulted in a shortfall.

The revised specification of the strengthened foundation had led to a revised cost which resulted in an increase from £2,600.00 to £3,423.00, an increase of £823.00 plus VAT.

There was also an additional cost of £64.00 for 16 steel anchor links which had been made by Mr R Lonsdale and would be added to the cost of the statue. This amount would be paid for by the Last Shift.

In summary the final costs would be £20,000.00 for the sculpture, £64.00 for the reinforcing links and £1,223.00 was the total cost of Plinth.

This gave a total Invoice of £21,287.00 plus VAT. The Last Shift had paid £20,000.00 and would be contributing a further £564.00 for the original cost of the plinth plus the reinforced steel links. This gave a total cost to the Parish Council of £20,723.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that the shortfall of £723.00 be paid by the Parish Council.

(5) Future Meeting Dates

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Parish Council scheduled to be held on 12 March 2018 would be held on 5 March 2018.

RESOLVED that the schedule of meetings for 2018 be confirmed as follows;

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 5 February 2018

9 April
 14 May
 11 June
 9 July
 Recess – August
 10 September
 8 October
 12 November
 3 December

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105399	Durham County Council	Summer/Winter Bedding	5,345.95	1,069.19	6,415.14
105400	Two Red Rubber Things	Stage payment for sculpture of miner	4,000.00	800.00	4,800.00
105401	J Miller	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105402	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105403	J Thompson	Reimbursements	30.05	4.67	34.72
105404	J Davies	Reimbursements	104.03	12.80	116.83
105405	Co-op Funeralcare	Gravedigging Fees	80.00		80.00
105406	Mr N Robson	Gravedigging Fees	80.00		80.00
105407	Co-op Funeralcare	Gravedigging Fees	80.00		80.00
105408	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - February 2018	11.00	2.20	13.20
105409	J Dent	Skip Hire	215.00	43.00	258.00
105410	MKM	Fencing	232.83	46.56	279.39
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - February 2018	3020.47		3020.47
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - February 2018	2037.30		2037.30
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	45.32	9.06	54.38
Invoice 9	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	8.75		8.75
			TOTAL	15,340.70	1,987.48
					17,328.18

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Potholes

Members reported potholes at various locations throughout the village including the path outside the Co-op Store, Quilstyle Road, the road between 1 South View and 37 East View and the road from the rear of East View to Johnson Estate.

RESOLVED that the potholes be reported to Durham County Council.

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(2) Missing Litter Bin

Members reported that the litter bin on the lamppost outside 19 South View was missing.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(3) Rubbish

Members reported litter and rubbish strewn throughout the village and to the rear of the garage on Durham Road.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

..... Dated