

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018**

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns and C Stogdale

Also Present: County Councillor J Grant
Mr G Tempest

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

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Centenary Commemoration of World War 1

The Chair welcomed Mr G Tempest who was present at the meeting to discuss the wooden crosses which had been displayed in the Cemetery to commemorate the servicemen from Wheatley Hill who never returned from World War 1.

Members were advised that the crosses had a limited life and would be removed from the Cemetery by the end of the week. Mr Tempest had been approached by a number of families and he was happy for any family members to take the crosses.

It was suggested that the remaining crosses be incinerated and the ashes be buried in the Cemetery with a plaque to signify where they were.

RESOLVED that the remaining crosses be incinerated and the ashes be buried in the Cemetery with a plaque to signify where they were.

3 POLICE

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been **118** incidents which included the following;-

Anti-social Behaviour – 10

Theft - 5

Criminal Damage - 2

Burglary - 1

Members were advised that year to date crime was down **19%** and anti-social behaviour was down **30%**.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor J Grant advised that she had been in post a year and thanked everyone for the warm welcome she had received and provided Members with an update on the following;-

- Front Street – All the decorative vinyls were now in place. A “deep clean” of the streets and pavements would be undertaken when all the work was finished.

- Quad Bikes – on-going problems in the village.
- Methodist Church.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance - Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club

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

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

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Great North Air Ambulance
“Over 20’s” Club
History Club/Lonely Tower Film and Media

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Mothers Club Annual Christmas Concert on 28 November 2018.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Signage in the Cemetery

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from the Heritage Society to erect a “finger post” sign in the Cemetery.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the Heritage Society to erect a “finger post” sign in the Cemetery.

(5) Haswell and District Mencap Carol Service

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to the Haswell and District Mencap Carol Service on 22 December 2018 at Durham Cathedral.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Wheatley Hill Steering Group

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Wheatley Hill Steering Group would be held on 29 November 2018 at 1pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Parish Council Surgery

The Chair reported that a Parish Council Surgery was held on 9 October 2018 at the Greenhills Centre.

The Chair provided Members with a report on the Surgery and the issues that were raised by residents.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

Applications

DM/18/03005/FPA – Proposed change of use to caravan storage at Rock Farm, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NL

DM/18/02492/FPA – Erection of 71 no two-storey 2, 3 and 4 bedroom semi-detached dwellings and associated works at land to the north of Wingate Lane

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

(a) Annual Rents 2018/2019

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the annual rents and advised that allotments 4 and 7 were now vacant.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Allotments 13 and 14

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting allotments 13 and 14 were provisionally allocated to applicants 4/2018 and 5/2018.

Applicant 4/2018 had accepted the tenancy of allotment 13. Applicant 5/2018 had failed to respond to the offer and would be removed from the waiting list.

Members were advised that the cost of materials to fence plots 13 and 14 was £958.48. A post hole borer was also required and could be hired at a cost of £124.00 per week.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Allotment 7

The Clerk reported on the position related to allotment 7 and following discussion it was agreed that the tenancy be offered to applicant 7/2018.

RESOLVED that applicant 7/2018 be allocated allotment 7.

(2) Newsletter

The Clerk reported that work had commenced on a village newsletter that would be delivered to every household in Wheatley Hill in December, a draft copy of which was circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that quotations had been sought and the cost based on 1,400 copies of the newsletter was £425.00. To provide an A4 colour insert advising of the activities at the Community Centre would cost an additional £126.00.

The cost for delivery of the newsletter was £200.00.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Budget 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had advised that the provisional Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant for 2019/2020 was £18,309.00 and the tax base was 685.6. These figures would be confirmed at the end of November.

Members discussed the options and as the Parish Council was in a financially stable position it was suggested that options based on a standstill Band D charge, as well as a 0.5% and 1% increase be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk prepare options based on a standstill Band D charge, a 0.5% and a 1% increase for Members consideration at the next meeting.

(4) Summer/Winter Bedding

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had advised they were able to supply plants but were unable to maintain or water any beds, tubs or baskets.

Following a lengthy discussion it was suggested that;

- The beds at the Pit Wheel be reduced in size from 2M x 10M to 2M x 6M.
- A 3M round bed be installed at the entrance to the village.
- 2 x 1M square self-watering tubs with Wheatley Hill Parish Council etched on them be installed at the entrance to the village.
- All summer beds and tubs to be planted with non-stop begonias.
- Cemetery plants be supplied by Durham County Council.
- 9 hanging baskets, supplied by Horns, be provided for the Aged Miners Homes.

The Clerk advised that the following quotation had been received from the County Council.

- Supply and deliver 960 summer bedding plants for Pit Wheel beds, tubs and 3M bed £492.04.
- Supply and deliver 960 winter bedding plants for Pit Wheel beds, tubs and 3M bed £492.04.
- Supply and deliver Cemetery plants £330.75.
- Supply, fill with soil/compost and deliver 2 x 1M square self-watering tubs with Wheatley Hill Parish Council etched on them £1,082.90.

The total cost quoted by Durham County Council was £2,397.73 exclusive of VAT.

Members discussed at length the provision of flowers in the village and the options available to provide more. It was noted that with limited resources maintenance and watering of bedding plants was an issue.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 12 November 2018

It was suggested that a quotation be sought to provide a further 2 tubs at the entrance to the village coming from the roundabout at Marley Fields and a further tub at Vincent's Corner.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted and a further quote for 3 additional tubs be sought.

(5) Cemetery

The Clerk reported that following the Cemetery Sub Committee held on 27 September 2018 a meeting was held with Durham County Council to discuss the condition of the paths in the Cemetery.

The County Council had inspected the paths and would provide a quotation for their repair and/or re-surfacing.

With regard to the extension of the Cemetery the Clerk reported that ownership of the adjoining land had been confirmed and a letter of approach would be made to the owner asking about the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing some of the land for possible expansion.

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

9 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105499	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	7.50	1.50	9.00
105500	J Dent	Skip Hire	230.00	46.00	276.00
105501	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105502	J Thompson	Reimbursements	26.88		26.88
105503	Mrs E Carr	Reimbursement	20.00		20.00
105504	Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105505	J Davies	Reimbursements	253.41	14.98	268.39
105506	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2018	20.00	4.00	24.00
105507	Wilf Husband	topsoil	192.00	38.40	230.40
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - November 2018	4,278.53		4,278.53
Internet Banking	Councillors Mrs M Goyns and Mrs L Stewart	Attendance Allowance	434.56		434.56
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - November 2018	2,733.74		2,733.74
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	47.54	9.51	57.05
Invoice 18	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	10.10		10.10
		TOTAL	8,579.26	114.39	8,693.65

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

There was nothing to report.

11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that personal and confidential information would be disclosed.

12 STAFFING ISSUES

The Clerk provided Members with an update on staffing issues.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated