

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2019**

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

Apologies: Councillors E Goyns and J Miller

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 3 December 2018 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

There was no Police present at the meeting.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no County Councillor present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) St Godric's School

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from St Godric's Primary School.

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

(ii) Alice House Hospice

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Alice House Hospice.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) Letters of Thanks/Christmas Cards

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks and Christmas cards.

Wheatley Hill Community Nursery
Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club
Phil Wilson MP
Greenhills Centre
Mrs P Carr
Mr J Davies
Mr K Walton

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) **Wheatley Hill History Club**

The Clerk reported that Wheatley Hill History Club together with Lonely Tower Film and Media were holding a presentation of We All Served, a multi-media presentation about Wheatley Hill at the time of WW1. The presentation would be followed by a showing of Beyond Praise the Thomas Kenny VC film. The presentation would be held on 23 January 2019 in Wheatley Hill Workingmen's Club at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) **Wingate Lane Post Office – Temporary Closure**

The Clerk reported that Wingate Lane Post Office closed on 7 December 2018 and the Post Office were investigating options to reinstate a service in the village.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) **Land at Ashmore Terrace**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising of their intention to dispose of land at Ashmore Terrace Car Park. The land was required for access to the adjoining numbered street sites.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) **Redhills – “The Pitman's Parliament”**

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Durham Miners' Association to attend a series of open day events for sponsors of The Pitman's Parliament, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) **Wheatley Hill Steering Group**

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Wheatley Hill Steering Group would be held on 17 January 2019 at 1pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(i) **APPLICATIONS**

DM/18/03659/FPA – Two story extension to rear at 15 Sandwich Terrace, Wheatley Hill

DM/18/03601/VOC – Variation of condition 2 of ref: DM/15/01088/FPA to allow an increase in the size of the clubhouse at Greenhills Farm Cottage, Wheatley Hill

(ii) **APPROVALS**

DM/18/02187/FPA – Erection of fence to front, side and rear of existing dwelling at 23 South View, Wheatley Hill

DM/18/02672/FPA – Conversion of 2 semi-detached bungalows into 1 detached property including first floor extension, two storey extension to front and rear, dormer windows, triple garage and change of use of open space into residential curtilage with

enclosure at 7 Ryan Terrace, Wheatley Hill

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 HEAD GROUNDPERSONS REPORT

The Clerk reported 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) Waiting List

The Clerk reported the receipt of an application for an allotment.

RESOLVED that application 1/2019 be accepted onto the waiting list.

(b) Allotments 4, 13 and 14

The Clerk reported that the fencing at allotments 13 and 14 was almost complete.

Members were advised that allotment 13 was provisionally allocated and there had been a request from the tenant of allotment 15 to take on the tenancy of allotment 4.

It was suggested that no further allocations be made until the fencing was complete.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Fly Tipping

The Clerk reported details of an incident at the allotments. The Police and Neighbourhood Wardens were advised and were investigating.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Greenhills Centre – Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Parish Council received a request from the Greenhills Centre to assist and support the Christmas activities at the centre. The activities included a tea dance, Christmas meals for the Luncheon Club, Meals on Wheels clients and CREE, Christmas afternoon tea and children and family Christmas events.

The Chair and Clerk subsequently met with H Jamieson, Operations Manager to discuss the request and the cost to deliver the planned activities. H Jamieson explained they were finding it increasingly difficult to plan activities due to their reliance on external funding, grants and donations to fund events.

In order to provide the centre with an element of stability the Chair and Vice Chair in consultation with the Clerk, agreed to provide £1,000.00 towards the Christmas activities at the centre. In addition to allow the centre to plan and book school

holiday activities for the Spring Half Term it was agreed that a further financial contribution of £1,000.00 be provided.

RESOLVED that the action taken by the Chair and Vice Chair, in consultation with the Clerk to provide the Greenhills Centre with a contribution of £1,000.00 towards the Christmas activities and £1,000.00 towards the Spring Half Term school holiday activities, be endorsed.

(3) Greenhills Centre - School Holiday Activities 2019/2020

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk which requested Members to consider providing financial support to fund the annual school holiday activities at the Greenhills Centre, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Clerk took Members through the report and advised that to fund the following school holiday activities provided by Wheatley Hill Community Association at the Greenhills Centre would cost approximately £15,000.00.

Easter – 5 – 23 April 2019

Summer half term – 24 May – 3 June 2019

Summer – 19 July – 3 September 2019

Autumn half term – 25 October – 4 November 2019

Christmas – 20 December 2019 – 6 January 2020

Spring half term – 14 – 24 February 2020

RESOLVED that £15,000.00 be allocated in the 2019/2020 budget to fund the annual school holiday activities delivered by Wheatley Hill Community Association at the Greenhills Centre.

(4) 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 at the Greenhills Centre, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that Wheatley Hill Community Association incurred the following annual costs related to the provision of the Meals on Wheels service.

- Transport - £4,727.00
- Paid Staff – Meals on Wheels delivery - £4,269.00

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

- (i) a donation of £8,996 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.

(5) Budget 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been provided with figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the

financial year 2019/2020.

Members had agreed a 0.45% increase to the precept and the Clerk had prepared a detailed budget based on this, a copy of which was circulated to each Member.

The Clerk took Members through the budget and advised that the Parish Council required £133,058.00 for the 2019/2020 financial year. It was suggested that the Parish Council use £12,000.00 of reserves to provide a precept of £101,373.00 which together with the grant of £19,685.00 gave a figure of £121,058.00.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Parish Council set a budget of £133,058.00 for the 2019/2020 financial year
- (ii) approval be granted to use £12,000.00 of reserves to give a precept request of £101,373.00
- (iii) Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2019/2020 was £101,373.00 in addition to a grant of £19,685.00 giving a total of £121,058.00.

(6) Summer/Winter Bedding

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been asked to grant permission to attach a flower trough to the village signs at the entrance to the village at Marley Fields. Members were advised that to date no response had been received.

At the last meeting Members were advised that Wheatley House had asked the Parish Council to supply them with 2 hanging baskets. Members suggested that instead of hanging baskets they could re-locate the planters from the Front Street to Wheatley House. The Clerk discussed the options with Mrs Briddick and Wheatley House had requested the planters.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council and request a quotation to re-locate the planters from the Front Street to Wheatley House and supply the flowers.

(7) Grit Bins

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for an additional grit bin at Greenwood Close.

The Clerk had forwarded the request to Durham County Council and asked about the possibility of the Parish Council funding the purchase of additional grit bins for the village.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

(8) Future Meeting Dates

The Clerk reported that the next meetings of the Parish Council would be held on 18 February and 4 March 2019.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105522	MKM	Fencing Supplies	976.63	195.33	1,171.96
105523	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	8.32	1.66	9.98
105524	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Bags	113.90	22.78	136.68
105525	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	519.00	25.95	544.95
105526	npower	Electric - Heritage Centre	214.78	10.74	225.52
105527	Whites	Cemetery Books	148.31	29.66	177.97
105528	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105529	St Godric's RCVA Primary	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105530	J Dent	Skip Hire	230.00	46.00	276.00
105531	J Thompson	Reimbursements	20.63	1.34	21.97
105532	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - January 2019	23.00	4.60	27.60
105533	Northern Gas & Heating Limited	Boiler Repair	40.00	8.00	48.00
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - January 2019	4278.73		4278.73
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - January 2019	2685.34		2685.34
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	45.89	9.18	55.07
Invoice 20	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	12.80		12.80
TOTAL			9,642.33	355.24	9,997.57

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

There was nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Marley Fields

Councillor Miller reported mud on the road from the new estate at Marley Fields heading towards the roundabout.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council for a clean-up.

(2) Off-Road/Quad Bikes

Members reported continuing problems related to off-road and quad bikes throughout the village, particularly the damage they caused to the grassed areas and the nuisance and danger they posed to residents.

Councillor White reported recent problems at the Primary School related to off-road bikes riding at speed outside the school. The bikes were regularly present at the school particularly at pick-up time when the children were leaving, around 3pm, and it was

scaring the children. Teachers and parents were worried it was only a matter of time before there was an accident between a child and an off-road or quad bike or a fatality.

Councillor White advised that the school reported every incident to the Police. The school had also suggested that the area of waste land at the school, formerly Peterlee Cottages, could be levelled and made into a car park to provide additional car parking for the school. Additional parking would not stop the off-road bikes, but it would help alleviate the traffic congestion at drop-off and pick-up times. The Clerk advised that the land possibly belonged to County Durham Housing Group and the request would be forwarded to them for consideration.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the on-going problems related to off-road and quad bikes be reported to the Police
- (ii) the request for the land at the school to be turned into a car park be forwarded to County Durham Housing Group.

(3) Rubbish/Litter

Members reported litter and rubbish collecting in the fence at the end of Moor View and to the rear of Church Street.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(4) Patton Walk

Councillor Stogdale reported a request from a resident for an additional street light in the cut between 14/15 Patton Walk.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(5) Street Light

Councillor Stogdale reported a faulty street light.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

..... Dated