

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

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

Apologies: Councillor E Goyns

The Chair reported that Mr R Hogg, the Police Crime and Victims Commissioner was unwell and had stepped down from his post. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair wished Mr Hogg and his family best wishes at this difficult time.

1 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 September 2019 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

Members were advised that 112 incidents had been reported to the Police which included 11 reports of anti-social behaviour, 8 thefts and 6 vehicle crimes.

Members were advised that crime and anti-social behavior was down 32% and 27% from last month.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Councillor J Grant submitted her apologies and provided an update on the following issues:-

- Weardale Park
- Footpath/parking at the Co-op store
- Dennis and Percy Street

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Great North Air Ambulance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(ii) County of Durham School Benevolent Fund

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(iii) 1st Wheatley Hill Brownies

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the 1st Wheatley Hill Brownies.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(iv) 2nd Wheatley Hill Scouts

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the 2nd Wheatley Hill Scouts.

RESOLVED that a donation of £200 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(v) Wheatley Hill “Over 20’s Club”

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill “Over 20’s Club”.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Working Men’s Football Team following a financial donation from the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Wheatley Hill Steering Group

The Clerk reported that the next meeting of the Wheatley Hill Steering Group would be held on 7 November 2019 at 1pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

Applications

The Chair welcomed Mr and Mrs Horn from the Durham Microlight Centre, Greenhills Farm Cottage, Wheatley Hill.

Mrs Horn advised that they were present at the meeting to discuss with Members a proposed planning application to build 2 detached dormer bungalows on land to the front of Greenhills Farm Cottage.

Mrs Horn advised Members that Durham County Council had stated they would not support the application as it was considered to be development within the open countryside, was in an unsustainable location and without adequate justification being contrary to guidance contained in the national planning policy framework.

Mrs Horn outlined the background in relation to the planning application and explained

that they had been instructed by their planning agent to seek the support of the Parish Council to strengthen their application.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council was a statutory consultee on all planning applications from within the village. The Clerk reported that to date the Parish Council had not been consulted on the application being referred to. Mrs Horn stated that she was unclear of the status of the application and would need to clarify this with their agent.

Members discussed the proposed application and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council provide Mr and Mrs Horn with a letter of support for the proposed planning application.

Approvals

DM/19/01795/FPA – Erection of 3 foot fence to eastern side of existing driveway and partial re-surfacing of driveway at 2 Sandwich Terrace, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LN for Mr R Ord

DM/19/02245/FPA – To erect new 2.5 storey dwelling and detached double garage with associated landscaping on site of former dwelling at Black Lane Bungalow, Black Lane, Wheatley Hill DH6 3PJ for Mrs M Watson

DM/19/01848/AD – Erection of site sales board and direction sign adjacent to the A181 roundabout and Wingate Lane at land to the east of roundabout at junction of A181 and Wingate Lane, Wheatley Hill for Dere Street Homes

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

(a) Annual Rents 2019/2020

The Clerk reported that annual rent letters had been issued at the end of September.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Allotment 15

The Clerk provided Members with an update on allotment 15.

It was suggested that if the tenant of allotment 15 no longer wished to retain the tenancy that it be offered to applicant 3/2019 from the waiting list.

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

(c) Stable Block 22

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request to alter the boundary fence of plot 22.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the alteration to the boundary fence at plot 22.

(d) Applications

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

RESOLVED that application 6/2019 be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(2) Annual Audit

The Clerk reported that Mazars LLP had completed the annual audit for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Members were advised that Mazars had reviewed Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and in their opinion the information was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Clerk reported that the following matter had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council but did not affect the auditors' opinion.

The fixed assets outlined in box 9 were valued on a different basis in 2018/2019 to 2017/2018. The 2017/2018 figures should have been restated to ensure valuations were on a consistent basis. As the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was returned for amendment Mazars had made an addition charge of £40.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Carols around the Christmas Tree - Greenhills Centre

The Clerk reported on the activities planned at the Greenhills Centre using the funding provided by the Parish Council and provided a financial breakdown of the spend to date together with a schedule of activities booked to date.

An update on the Carols around the Christmas tree event to be held on 30 November 2019 was provided and the Clerk reported that Trimdon Brass Band had confirmed their attendance.

Members were advised that carol sheets could be purchased at a cost of £12.50 per 25 copies and it was suggested that 50 copies be purchased at a cost of £25 plus delivery.

Last year the Parish Council provided village Christmas trees at the Heritage Centre and Community Centre. It was suggested that a third larger tree be located at the Community Centre for the tree lighting and carols around the Christmas Tree event on 30 November 2019.

Members were advised that the following meetings had been scheduled to be held at the Community Centre to discuss and plan future events at the Greenhills Centre and everyone was welcome to attend.

22 October 2019 – 2pm
8 November 2019 – 2pm
28 November 2019 – 10am

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Parking – Wheatley Hill Primary School

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr Scarr the Head Teacher at Wheatley Hill Primary School.

Members were advised that Mr Scarr had been granted permission to extend the school car park to provide additional car parking spaces which would reduce the number of cars parked on the street outside the school.

In order to extend the car park, the school would lose a significant proportion of the school yard. It was proposed to move the play provision onto the field at the back of the school. This would involve installing paths, hard ground and activities for pupils.

The Clerk had been advised that Councillor L Hovvels had pledged £5,000 to create a community sensory garden area.

Mr Scarr had requested a financial contribution from the Parish Council to support the school. Members were advised that the school had stated they would match fund any monies provided by Councillor Hovvels and the Parish Council to ensure the success of this joint project.

It was suggested that a meeting be sought with Mr Scarr to determine the details of the project and the costs involved.

RESOLVED that a meeting be sought with Mr Scarr to discuss the proposals in further detail.

(5) Website Accessibility Regulations

The Clerk reported that new regulations, which came into force on 23 September 2019, stated that all public sector websites must meet accessibility standards and the Parish Council must publish an accessibility statement.

Members were advised that the Parish Councils website must comply with the regulations by 23 September 2020.

The Clerk reported that she had attended a training course provided by Durham County Council. Work had started to ensure the Parish Council complied with the new regulations by the deadline which included checking the website for accessibility problems, publishing an accessibility statement and making sure all new features and content was accessible.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Meet Your Councillor – 19 September 2019

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council held a “Meet Your Councillor” event on Thursday 19 September 2019 at the Community Centre. All Members of the Parish Council were in attendance but unfortunately no residents attended the event.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures of all income and expenditure as at 30 September 2019

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 14 October 2019

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105623	Anglian Water Business	Water - Allotments	18.14		18.14
105624	npower	Electric - Heritage Centre	187.82	9.39	197.21
105625	Peterlee Fire Company Ltd	Fire Extinguisher Service	17.66	3.53	21.19
105626	MKM	Cemetery Supplies	35.21	7.04	42.25
105627	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105628	J Thompson	Reimbursements	27.51		27.51
105629	Great North Air Ambulance	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
105630	County of Durham School Benevolent Fund	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00
105631	1st Wheatley Hill Brownies	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105632	2nd Wheatley Hill Scouts Group	Section 137 Donation	200.00		200.00
105633	"Over 20's Club"	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00
105634	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	220.03	11.00	231.03
105635	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - October 2019	15.40	3.08	18.48
105636	Embrace the Middle East	Carol Sheets	28.29	0.66	28.95
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	189.60	30.91	220.51
Internet Banking	J Davies	Heating Allowance - 2nd Instalment	100.00		100.00
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - October 2019	4,453.14		4,453.14
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - October 2019	2,795.71		2,795.71
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	45.83	9.16	54.99
Direct Debit	O2	Chairs Mobile Telephone	25.62	5.12	30.74
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner	Date Protection Registration	35.00		35.00
Invoice 29	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	9.45		9.45
		TOTAL	9,161.27	79.89	9,241.16

RESOLVED that the information given be received and the payments approved.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

There was nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Horses

Members reported horses in the field adjacent the fishing pond which appeared to be without food or water.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) Marley Fields

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

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 14 October 2019

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

(3) Household Recycling Centre

Members reported that the road either side of the entrance to the Household recycling centre was flooded on both sides.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(4) Brass Band

Members were advised that the Brass Band would be playing at the Workingmen's Club on 6 November 2019.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

..... Signed

..... Dated