

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors E Carr and E Goyns

**1** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 October 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**

There was no Police present at the meeting. The Police Neighbourhood Newsletter for September was circulated to Members.

**4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillor J Grant provided an update on the following issues;-

- Dropped curb and footpath at the Co-op store
- Weardale Park
- Pavement at East View
- Wheatley Hill Steering Group - 7 November 2019

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

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Requests for Financial Assistance**

**(i) Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal.

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

**(ii) North East Prison After Care Society**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the North East Prison After Care Society (nepacs).

**RESOLVED** that no donation be made.

**(iii) Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club.

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

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Mr G Tempest  
Wheatley Hill “Over 20’s Club”  
2nd Wheatley Hill Scouts  
Great North Air Ambulance

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Royal Garden Party 2020

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising of the Royal Garden Party 2020.

RESOLVED that Councillor L White be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on behalf of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

6 PLANNING

(1) Application

DM/19/02982/FPA – Change of use of land for the siting of 10no. caravan homes at Plot 1 south of Weardale Park, Wheatley Hill DH6 3PT

Members discussed the above application at length and expressed the following concerns.

**Residential Amenity** – The proposed development would have a detrimental effect on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties, particularly those adjacent and directly overlooking the site. If approved neighbouring properties would suffer additional noise nuisance, disturbance, loss of privacy and nuisance.

**Adverse Visual Impact** – The proposed development would have an adverse impact on the landscape and locality. There would also be an adverse impact on the open countryside.

**Highway Safety** – Access to the site was via a track which ran adjacent to the side and rear of Weardale Park. All traffic requiring access to the site would need to use this track which was unsuitable and not capable of accommodating any increase in traffic numbers.

**Increased traffic** – If the application was approved it would lead to an increase in the number of vehicles using the track to the side and rear of Weardale Park. This would lead to an increase in traffic and result in disturbance to neighbouring properties.

**Welfare of Residents living in the Caravans** – There was concern for the health and welfare of the residents who would live in the caravans. It was unclear what amenities would be provided on site. There was also concern related to the number of gas bottles that would be required for use by the caravans which could be a potential safety issue.

RESOLVED that the concerns of the Parish Council in relation to the above planning application be forwarded to Durham County Council with a request that the application be refused.

(2) Approval

DM/19/02210/FPA – Two storey extension to front and side at 1 Gowland Terrace, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3QW

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 for 2019/2020 were issued at the end of September and to date 2 rents remained unpaid, details of which were outlined.

Members were advised that both tenants had been issued with a reminder and advised that if the rent was not paid by 11 November 2019 the tenancy would be terminated.

It was suggested that plots 7 and 14 be allocated to applicants 4/2019 and 5/2019 from the waiting list.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the tenancies of allotments 7 and 14 be terminated with immediate effect for non-payment of rent.
- (ii) Allotments 7 and 14 be allocated to applicants 4/2019 and 5/2019 from the waiting list.

**(B) Allotment 15**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the tenant of allotment 15 had confirmed he no longer wished to retain the tenancy. The tenancy was offered to applicant 3/2019 from the waiting list who had accepted and paid the rent.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(2) Community Christmas Celebration Event - 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.

An update on the community event to be held on 30 November 2019 was provided. Members were advised that 50 carol sheets had been purchased at a cost of £25 plus delivery. Two Christmas trees had been ordered and would be erected prior to the 30 November 2019.

Members were advised that a meeting would be held at the Community Centre on 28 November 2019 at 10am to finalise arrangements for the event and everyone was welcome to attend.

Members were also invited to attend the Luncheon Club Christmas Party to be held on 17 December 2019 at the Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(3) Parking – Wheatley Hill Primary School**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting a meeting was held with Mr Scarr, Head Teacher at Wheatley Hill Primary School to discuss proposals to extend the school car park to provide additional car parking spaces and move the schools play provision to the rear of the school. Mr Scarr had requested a financial contribution from the Parish Council to assist with the proposed works.

County Councillor L Hovvells, had pledged £5,000 to help create a community sensory garden area and Mr Scarr would look to match fund any monies provided by Councillor Hovvells and the Parish Council.

Mr Scarr had been asked to provide written information in relation to the proposed works which included detailed drawings, contractor information, costs, timescales etc. However, as no further information had been received Members were unable to consider the matter of a financial contribution.

RESOLVED that Mr Scarr be advised that the Parish Council required detailed written information of the proposals to allow a decision to be made regarding funding.

**(4) Community Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a grant of £500 towards the cost of the purchase of a public access defibrillator.

The Parish Council had previously agreed to purchase two defibrillators, one to be located at the Greenhills Centre and an external one to be housed in a cabinet in the Cemetery.

The North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) had provided details of the three packages available together with a comparison between the different models and costs with or without an external cabinet.

The Clerk advised that funding was only available towards the cost of the publicly accessible defibrillator at the Cemetery, they were unable to offer anything towards the cost of the unit to be placed inside the Greenhills Centre.

Following a comparison of the various models it was suggested that the Parish Council purchase 2 Wel Medical iPad SP1 models and 1 external cabinet.

The Clerk advised that the defibrillators, once installed, would be registered with the NEAS to ensure that in the event of an emergency, callers would be notified that there was a defibrillator nearby and given the code to access the cabinet. Free awareness training would also be provided by the Community First Responder team and the more people involved in the session, the better.

Following a comparison of the various models and costs it was suggested that the Parish Council purchase a Wel Medical iPad SP1 model to be located inside the Greenhills Centre and the same model be purchased and housed in an external cabinet in the Cemetery.

The Clerk advised that the cost of the defibrillator for the Greenhills Centre was £1,049 plus VAT and the unit to be housed at the Cemetery was £998 plus VAT following the deduction of the £500 grant awarded to the Parish Council.

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 11 November 2019

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council purchase 2 defibrillators at a total cost of 2,047 plus VAT.

### (5) Dog Bags

The Clerk reported that 10,000 economy dog poop bags had been purchased at a cost of £136.68 inclusive of VAT and delivery.

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

### (6) Heritage Centre – Keyholder

The Clerk reported that the Chair of the Parish Council was now an authorised keyholder for the Heritage Centre.

**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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
105637	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	23.32	4.66	27.98
105638	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	30.66	6.13	36.79
105639	RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	17.00		17.00
105640	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
105641	J Thompson	Reimbursements	47.64	5.14	52.78
105642	Wheatley Hill Constitutional Club	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
105643	Peterlee Gas - G Wilson	Boiler Service - Bungalow/Heritage Centre	140.00		140.00
105644	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Bags	113.90	22.78	136.68
105645	DESTROYED				
105646	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2019	38.50	7.70	46.20
105647	NEAS NHS Foundation Trust	Defibrillator and Cabinet	998.00	199.60	1,197.60
105648	NEAS NHS Foundation Trust	Defibrillator	1,049.00	209.80	1,258.80
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	47.04	8.57	55.61
Internet Banking	Councillors Mrs M Goyns and Mrs L Stewart	Attendance Allowance	434.56		434.56
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - November 2019	4,453.34		4,453.34
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - November 2019	2,843.71		2,843.71
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	45.83	9.16	54.99
Direct Debit	O2	Chairs Mobile Telephone	25.62	5.12	30.74
Invoice 30	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	8.85		8.85
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,370.99</b>	<b>467.87</b>	<b>10,838.86</b>

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

**Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 11 November 2019**

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

There was nothing to report.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) 1st Wheatley Hill Rainbows and Brownies**

Councillor White reported the receipt of an invitation for Members to attend a 1st Wheatley Hill Rainbows and Brownies event to be held on 19 November 2019 at the Scouts Hut.

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

..... Signed

..... Dated