

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD REMOTELY ON 8 JUNE 2020**

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

**Apologies:** Councillors E Carr, B Miller, C Stogdale

Prior to the commencement of business, the Clerk advised that this meeting was being held remotely via ZOOM in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

**1** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 11 May 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public joined the meeting.

**3 POLICE**

Members were advised that since the last meeting 89 incidents had been reported which included 4 anti-social behaviour, 1 burglary, 1 theft and 1 vehicle crime.

Details of several incidents related to cannabis farms in Wheatley Hill were provided together with feedback on issues, previously raised by Members, which had been brought to the attention of the Police.

Year to date anti-social behaviour and crime were down 50% and 25% respectively.

The Clerk reported that the new beat officer was PC J Craig. The Police Neighbourhood Newsletter for June was received.

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

**4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There was no County Councillor report.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Request for Financial Assistance - Citizens Advice County Durham**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Citizens Advice County Durham.

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

**(2) Letters of Thanks**

The Clerk reported the receipt of thanks from the following.

Councillor E Carr  
H Jamieson

Wheatley Hill Covid-19 Group  
Rev J Grieve

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Shotton Colts Football Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Shotton Colts Football Club to use the Parish Councils small football pitch for the 2020/2021 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2020/2021 football season.

6 PLANNING

Application - DM/20/01074/FPA – Retention of detached outbuilding (retrospective) at allotment gardens east of Sandwick Terrace, Durham Road, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LJ for Mr D Wilkinson

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) Covid-19 - Update

The Clerk provided an update on the following matters associated with Covid-19.

(a) Cemetery

The Clerk reported that burials of cremated remains had resumed 1 June 2020. Work on memorials, memorial plaques and additional inscriptions would resume 1 July 2020.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Heritage Centre

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been approached by the Heritage Society regarding the possible re-opening of the Heritage Centre.

Members were advised that following discussion with the Head Groundsperson it was suggested that an alarm keypad be installed in the Cemetery office. This would allow Cemetery staff access to the office without the need to use the main entrance to the Heritage Centre. This would provide a physical separation between staff and volunteers and allow the Heritage Centre to re-open safely.

Members were advised that CDS Security had provided a quotation of £351.28 inclusive of VAT to supply and install the additional keypad.

RESOLVED that the quotation from CDS Security to supply and install an alarm keypad at a cost of £351.28 inclusive of VAT be accepted.

(2) Allotments

The Clerk reported that the fencing at allotments 8, 9 and 10 was complete and suggested that the plots be allocated to applicants from the waiting list.

RESOLVED that plots 8, 9 and 10 be allocated to applicants from the waiting list.

(3) Wheatley Hill Community Association

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been advised that due to Covid-19 restrictions the Greenhills Centre was closed.

The Parish Council had allocated £15,000 in the 2020/2021 budget to fund the provision of recreational activities, to be delivered by Wheatley Hill Community Association (WHCA) at the Greenhills Centre, on behalf of the Parish Council. As WHCA were unable to deliver the planned activities it was agreed that the funding be deferred.

Members were advised that during the May half term WHCA had offered activity packs in place of the regular school holiday programme. Believe Housing provided £500 to fund 100 craft packs and 100 science-based activity packs as well as a family fruit bag, was provided by reprofiling £750 funding from the Peoples Health Trust.

Members were advised that WHCA would be unable to offer a regular summer holiday programme of activities and there was doubt in relation to the October and Christmas school holidays. The centre had secured funding to cover the first 3 weeks of the summer school holidays and the Parish Council were asked to consider funding the following.

- Summer Holidays - 3 weeks at a cost of £2,250 – to provide either an arts/science pack @ £5 per head and a family fruit bag @ £2.50 per head (£7.50 per head x 100)
- October Half Term – 1 week at a cost of £1,000 – to provide a spooky activity pack, with treats and a Pumpkin (£10 per head x 100)
- December/Christmas – 1 week at a cost of £1,000 – to provide assorted Christmas crafts and a selection box (£10 per head x 100)

Members discussed the Covid-19 restrictions and agreed to fund the summer holiday packs. It was suggested that a decision regarding the October and Christmas holidays be deferred.

Members queried if the packs were only available to Wheatley Hill residents or to the wider community. There was concern that all the packs could potentially be distributed to residents living outside Wheatley Hill. It was suggested that the Clerk contact WHCA regarding the distribution of the packs and enquire if priority could be given to residents living in Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to fund the summer holiday packs at a cost of £2,250 and the Clerk contact WHCA regarding the distribution of the packs.

(4) Hanging Baskets

The Clerk reported that due to the Covid-19 restrictions the Parish Council was unable to provide hanging baskets for the aged miners bungalows.

**Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 8 June 2020**

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

**(5) Pit Pony – A181 Roundabout**

At the last meeting the Clerk reported that an attempt had been made to steal the pit pony located on the A181 roundabout.

Members were advised that the Clerk had contacted Mrs P Hill, who was involved with the Mid Durham Projects Group, who had supplied and installed the horse in 2012 to enquire if the group would be in a position to repair and re-site the horse.

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

**9 PAYMENTS**

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure as at 31 May 2020.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Internet Banking	Citizens Advice County Durham	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
Internet Banking	G & K Colledge	Re-purchase of Burial Plot	50.00		50.00
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Community Assoc	Recreational Activities	2,250.00		2,250.00
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Community Assoc	New Hot Water Boiler	1,200.00		1,200.00
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
Internet Banking	Councillor J Miller	Reimbursement - Foodbank Supplies	51.78		51.78
Internet Banking	J Dent	Skip Hire	230.00	46.00	276.00
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	234.49	46.88	281.37
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - P11D	10.00	2.00	12.00
Internet Banking	HMRC	P11D Payment	278.78		278.78
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - June 2020	4,478.62		4,478.62
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - June 2020	2,799.99		2,799.99
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - June 2020	15.40	3.08	18.48
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	45.83	9.16	54.99
Direct Debit	O2	Chairs Mobile Telephone	26.31	5.26	31.57
Invoice 37	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	15.40		15.40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11,811.60</b>	<b>112.38</b>	<b>11,923.98</b>

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and the payments be approved.

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

There was nothing to report.

..... Signed

..... Dated