

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD REMOTELY ON 9 NOVEMBER 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 12 October 2020 together with those of the Special Meeting held 26 October 2020 copies 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 since the last meeting 120 incidents had been reported which included 17 anti-social behaviour, 4 burglaries, 7 criminal damage and 6 vehicle crimes. Year to date anti-social behaviour had increased by 11% and crime was down 7%.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

There was no County Councillors present at the meeting.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) 2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group

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

RESOLVED that a donation of £360 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(b) Durham Cathedral

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Durham Cathedral.

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

(2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill Community Association
Great North Air Ambulance

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Former Council Depot Site

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Believe Housing which gave details of improvement works to be undertake at the former council depot site.

Members were advised that the site had been levelled and the old concrete and damaged fencing had been removed. Further improvements included new fencing, and tree and bulb planting.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Woodland Trust

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been advised that the Woodland Trust were creating a new woodland adjacent to Wheatley Hill and Thornley.

A draft design of the woodland had been produced and was circulated to Members for consideration.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

Approval - DM/20/02236/FPA – Detached private garage at 5 Sandwick Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

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) Application for an Allotment

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

RESOLVED that application 10/2020 be accepted onto the waiting list for an allotment.

(b) Allotments 6 and 10

The Clerk reported that allotments 6 and 10 were vacant.

RESOLVED that allotments 6 and 10 be allocated from the waiting list and offered to

applicants 5/2020 and 7/2020.

(2) Wheatley Hill Community Association – Christmas Meal

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Community Association (WHCA).

Members were advised that WHCA were providing a free Christmas meal on 22 December 2020. Wheatley Hill Primary School, All Saints Church and the Co-op would be assisting with the delivery of the meals.

WHCA intended to deliver approximately 175 meals at a cost of £1,312.50 based on £7.50 a head. The meal would include a sweet/biscuit pack at a cost of £175 based on £1 a head. In addition to the meals they intended to deliver 30 family food parcels at a cost of £300 based on £10 per parcel.

The total cost of the meals and food parcels was £1,787.50. It was pointed out that whilst meals would be delivered to families in Wheatley Hill there were recipients who lived outside the village.

Members discussed the proposal at length and agreed to fund the meals and food parcels to be delivered to residents living in Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to fund the free Christmas meals and family food parcels for residents living in Wheatley Hill with the costs to be confirmed by WHCA.

(3) Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and following the announcement of a national lockdown from 5 November 2020 the annual Remembrance Day service at Wheatley Hill Cemetery had been cancelled.

Wheatley Hill Cemetery was open on Sunday 8 November 2020 for anyone wishing to lay a wreath. Residents, organisations and groups wishing to lay a wreath were advised they could do so at any time before Remembrance Sunday or at any time leading up to 11 November 2020.

The Chair of the Parish Council had laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at 11am on Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Winter Bedding

The Clerk reported that due to staff shortages Durham County Council had assisted with the planting of the winter bedding.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Dog bags

The Clerk reported that 10,000 economy dog bags had been purchased at a cost of £137.28 inclusive of VAT and delivery.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 9 November 2020

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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
105688	RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	17.00		17.00	
Internet Banking	2nd Wheatley Hill Scout Group	Section 137 Donation	360.00		360.00	
Internet Banking	Durham Cathedral	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00	
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Reimbursements	45.87	2.93	48.80	
Internet Banking	JRB Enterprise Ltd	Dog Bags	114.40	22.88	137.28	
Internet Banking	Councillors M Goyns & L Stewart	Attendance Allowance	434.56		434.56	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - November 2020	3,616.60		3,616.60	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - November 2020	1,996.76		1,996.76	
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2020	35.20	7.04	42.24	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	47.81	9.56	57.37	
Direct Debit	O2	Chairs Mobile Telephone	26.31	5.26	31.57	
Invoice 42	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	12.60		12.60	
			TOTAL	6,782.11	47.67	6,829.78

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

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

There was nothing to report.

11 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 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