

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2021**

**Present:** Councillor J Miller (Chair)  
Councillors E Carr, J Collingwood, M Goyns,  
J Huntington, B Miller, L Stewart, C Stogdale

**Apologies:** Councillor L White

**Also Present:** County Councillor C Varty

**1** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 September 2021 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

**4 POLICE**

There was no Police report.

**5 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor J Miller provided an update on local and county wide issues.

- Front Street - Litter and rubbish reported especially around the takeaways.
- Signs outside St Godric's school reported.
- Blocked gully at Black Lane.
- Streetlights out at the rear of East View.
- Regeneration Meeting - Meeting held with the County Councils private landlords' team to discuss the Front Street, particularly properties that had been in an unacceptable condition for years. Meeting held with the towns and villages funding team and a meeting with the appropriate Head of Service had been requested.
- Durham City Youth Project – Refer to minute number 9(5)
- Meeting with Police - Main offenders of youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) were now on ASB Orders and were not coming into the village. ASB was still happening but not to the extent it was. Police would be asking the County Council's private landlords' team for a multi-agency meeting to discuss the concerns and instruct people to carry out specific tasks, otherwise the police would step in and put a closure order on the property.

Police were asked about the lack of a monthly report to the Parish Council. They had advised that from 1 November 2021 the Police would circulate a monthly leaflet detailing what had been happening and what work had been undertaken in the village.

The police had confirmed that despite being previously advised that the installation of CCTV on the flats on the Front Street was a possibility the County Council would not be installing any CCTV at this location as they did not have the funds or manpower to operate them.

Police had confirmed they would be attending the annual Remembrance Sunday event on 14 November 2021.

- Meeting held with PCC Joy Allen to discuss the appointment of a safer communities champion. PCC would appoint 6 people for 6 areas which included Wheatley Hill/Wingate. The full-time position would be funded by the PCC for a trial period of 1 year and employed by Durham Agency Against Crime.
- County Councillor Surgery - 9 November 2021 10am to 12 noon at the Greenhills Centre.
- Report on the future of the DLI was available on the County Councils website. Councillor Varty advised that the DLI had been running at a loss for a long time.
- Report on Durham County Council's Headquarters was available on the County Council's website.
- Negotiations ongoing related to a Devolution Deal for County Durham and possibility of a directly elected Mayor.
- Petition to improve local bus services.

Councillor Goyns reported that the problems related to cars double parking at the entrance to Johnson Estate had improved since the last meeting. The Chair advised that the area had been added to the list to have the yellow lines extended but it would be next year.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 6 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) Over 20's - All Saints Christmas Fayre

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Over 20's to purchase selection boxes for school children visiting Santa at the All Saints Christmas fayre. It was suggested that a donation be made but the Clerk was asked to determine how many children would be attending.

RESOLVED that a donation be made once the number of children attending was known.

### (2) Letters of Thanks

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

Wheatley Hill Community Association  
Wheatley House Moving forward

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) Mr S Ivey

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr Ivey which raised the issues of anti-social behaviour and crime. It also outlined suggestions to improve the local area and

communities, raise people's confidence and bring people together. Members were advised that the Chair had responded to Mr Ivey outlining what the Parish Council were doing in Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Wheatley Hill Mothers Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Wheatley Hill Mothers Club to attend a brass band night on 10 November 2021 to commemorate Remembrance Day.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING

Application - DM/21/03476/FPA – Extension to existing coffee shop to create storeroom at Green Lane Nurseries, Green Lane for Green Lane Nursery.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

8 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.

9 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

(i) Annual Rents 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that annual rent letters had been issued.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Plots 11, 12, 17 and 19

The Clerk reported that a site meeting was needed with the tenant of plots 11, 12, 17 and 19 to discuss the improvements required on all the plots.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) Plot 18

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the tenant of plot 18 was instructed to clear the plot of weeds or the tenancy would be terminated. Members were advised that the plot had been cut back.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iv) Plot 14

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting plot 14 was offered to applicant 9/2020 who no longer lived in Wheatley Hill. The plot was subsequently offered to applicant 10/2020 who had accepted the tenancy.

RESOLVED that plot 14 be allocated to applicant number 10/2020.

(2) Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk reported on the arrangements made to date for this year's annual Remembrance Day service to be held on Sunday 14 November 2021.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Lamp Post Poppies

The Clerk reported that approval was sought to purchase 50 lamp post poppies from the Royal British Legion.

Members were advised that the lamppost poppies cost £3, and it was proposed to erect them on the lampposts between All Saints Church and the Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to purchase 50 lamp post poppies from the Royal British Legion at a cost of £150.

(4) Changing facilities – Football Field

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting approval was granted for the purchase of a 40 x 10 foot portable changing room facility to be located at the football field.

The unit would be purchased from Mac Containers and following discussions with them they had suggested that a smaller unit would be a better option given the location of where the unit was to be sited.

Members were advised that a smaller unit measuring 32 x 10 foot could be purchased at a cost of £15,620 plus VAT. The 40 x 10 unit was £25,318 plus VAT. Delivery of the unit would be an additional £895 and the Parish Council would also need to employ a company to assist with siting the container which Mac Containers would advise on.

The Clerk reported that an application for £21,180.79 Section 106 funding had been submitted to Durham County Council. The Parish Council also required planning permission for the container and an application had been submitted to Durham County Council at a cost of £145.

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

(5) Durham City Youth Project

The Clerk reported that Durham City Youth Project (DCYP) were seeking funding to deliver weekly youth sessions in Wheatley Hill. One session would be a traditional youth club for juniors, aged 8-11 years and one would be an outreach session for seniors, aged 13-19 years.

The junior session would be held once a week between 4pm and 6pm and would give children the opportunity to engage in a range of activities, including sports, arts and crafts, cooking and educational workshops. It would provide a safe space to meet and make friends, build confidence and self-esteem and reduce risky behaviour. The sessions were free and provided sports, games and activities to those who would not normally be able to afford them and as a result increased health and wellbeing.

The senior session would be delivered outdoors between 6pm and 8pm. Youth workers would build relationships with young people hanging around the streets and engage them

in relevant activities, this could be playing sports, providing support and advice, workshops around drug and alcohol awareness and sex and relationship education. Both groups would also have the opportunity to engage in holiday activities.

Experienced and qualified youth workers would be employed to deliver the activities. DCYP used a monitoring system to safely store young people's data. It could produce reports to demonstrate if the aims and objectives were being met. It would also provide data on the number of young people they were working with and which village they were from.

Members were advised that the cost of the project for 1 year was £7,646, this included £6,161 staff costs and £1,485 room hire and was based on 2 sessions a week, one indoors for juniors and one outdoors for seniors.

The Greenhills Centre had given approval for the junior session to be held in the café on a Thursday between 4pm and 5.30pm for a 7 week trial period 4 November to 16 December 2021. As the Parish Council had contributed £15,000 towards the provision of activities at the Greenhills Centre they were asked to absorb the cost for room hire. The Greenhills had agreed to waive the cost of room hire for the 7 week trial period but this would be reviewed following the trial period.

The Greenhills had advised that if the trial proved successful, they would look at what they could offer in terms of room availability, but room hire charges would apply at £15 per hour for the café and £20 per hour for other rooms. Moving to 2 sessions a week and including the seniors would be dependent on the outcome of the trial period, room space being available and the level of anti-social behaviour at the centre.

Members discussed the need for youth provision in the village and suggested that the Parish Council give a commitment to fund the youth project for an initial period of 6 months, including the 7 week trial period at the Greenhills. If the 7 week trial period did not work out at the Greenhills an alternative venue would be required for the remaining 19 weeks of the 6 month period. Various venues that would be suitable were discussed.

The Chair advised that a meeting was scheduled to be held with DCYP on 19 October 2021. The Clerk suggested that DCYP be asked to provide the cost for the initial 7 week trial period at the Greenhills Centre and that this be paid. They would then be asked to provide a cost for the remaining 19 weeks which would be held at the Greenhills Centre or an alternative venue.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council give a commitment to fund the DCYP for 6 months with an initial 7 week trial period at the Greenhills.

**(6) Cemetery Information Booklet**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Councils Cemetery Information booklet had been updated.

Whites printers had provided a quotation of £155 to print 100 copies of the new booklet.

**RESOLVED** that the quotation from Whites be accepted.

**(7) Dodds Close - Fencing**

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had received a request from a resident not to install the new fencing to the front of their property as they parked on the grass to pick up relatives for hospital appointments.

Following discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council the County Council were advised that the fencing should be installed as detailed in the original plan. Leaving

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a gap in the fence would allow access for bikes and quads. There was also concern that if a gap was left for one resident there may be further requests.

As the land was owned and managed by Durham County Council the final decision would be made by them, but the Parish Council would prefer no gaps to be left in the fencing.

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

### 10 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 30 September 2021.

CHEQUE NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Direct Debit	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	45.51	2.27	47.78
Direct Debit	e-on Next	Electric - Heritage Centre	57.94	2.90	60.84
Internet Banking	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	120.77	24.15	144.92
Internet Banking	MKM	Cemetery Supplies	38.70	7.74	46.44
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Planning Application for Changing Room	140.33	4.67	145.00
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	129.99	25.37	155.36
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Reimbursements	131.40	11.11	142.51
Internet Banking	Co-Op Funeral Care	Gravedigging	80.00		80.00
Internet Banking	Great North Air Ambulance	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - October 2021	4,626.41		4,626.41
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - October 2021	2,808.69		2,808.69
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - October 2021	15.40	3.08	18.48
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	26.97	5.40	32.37
Invoice 53	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	11.55		11.55
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00
Internet Banking	Durham City Youth Project	Junior and Senior Youth Sessions	829.00		829.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,222.66</b>	<b>86.69</b>	<b>9,309.35</b>

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

### 11 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

### 12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### (1) Request for Roundabout on the A181

Members queried if there had been any progress regarding the request for a roundabout on the A181 at the entrance to Wheatley Hill. The location was an accident blackspot, and it was considered that a roundabout would help ease the traffic problems and road safety issues.

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**RESOLVED** that the Chair request an update from Durham County Council.

**(2) Rubbish - Old Post Office**

Members reported rubbish left at the old post office.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

**(3) Refuse Collections**

Members reported that the bins at the Aged Miners bungalows were not being emptied because the bin motor could not gain access due to the number of cars parked in the vicinity.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

**(4) Land on Quilstyle Road**

Members reported that the land between the co-op and the Club had been churned up.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

..... Signed

.....Dated