

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 11 APRIL 2022**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Goyns.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 March 2022 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

5 POLICE

The Police reported that between 1 March and 1 April 2022 there had been 6 reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and 1 report of criminal damage.

The Police advised that the area around Alexandra Terrace continued to be a hotspot for ASB. Work was ongoing with multiple agencies to minimise the issues, particularly those around the flats on the Front Street.

A PACT meeting was scheduled to be held on 21 April 2022 at the Greenhills Centre. The meeting would be advertised on Facebook and the Police would advise local businesses.

The Police had visited Wheatley Hill and St Godrics Primary Schools to give a presentation on anti-bullying. Feedback had been good, and they would continue visiting the primary schools to build relationships with the young people.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor J Miller provided an update on the following parish and county wide issues.

- Front Street Flats – Durham County Council had advised that there had been several fires in the back yard which had impacted on residents. The County Council had been asked to reconsider installing CCTV.
- Safer Streets Funding - A meeting was scheduled to be held on 14 April 2020 with the PCC Joy Allen to discuss including Wheatley Hill in the next bid for funding.
- Meadow View – A site visit had been requested to discuss concerns related to the fencing and lighting at the new bungalows.
- Speeding on Wingate Lane – The Police had been asked to undertake a community speed-watch. To date this had not taken place as there had been issues with the equipment.

- Meeting with Police Inspector – A meeting with County Councillors and the Police was scheduled to be held on 12 April 2022. County Councillor Hovvels was attending the meeting and if anyone had any issues they would like raised these could be forwarded to Councillor Hovvels.
- County Councillors had been allocated an additional £300 funding to spend on events celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
- Levelling-up – A meeting was scheduled to be held with Durham County Council to discuss a levelling-up bid for the Sedgefield constituency. Members would be kept up to date with progress.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Community Association.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted,

(ii) Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Workmens Social Club to buy Easter Eggs for children attending the Easter Fayre.

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

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DM/22/00668/FPA – Remodelling and extension to existing fire station at County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Fire Station, Wingate Lane South, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3NA for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

DM/22/00859/FPA – 4 detached bungalows and access at land to the rear of All Saints Church, Church Street, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3PT for Mr Quinn

DM/22/00930/FPA – Retention of ATM at 9 Granville Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3JQ for Cardtronics UK Ltd, trading as CASHZONE

DM/22/00933/AD – Retention of non-illuminated signage surrounding ATM at 9 Granville Terrace, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3JQ for Cardtronics UK Ltd, trading as CASHZONE

DM/22/00865/FPA – Erection of 5 no three bedroom dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping at site of former 3 to 5 Front Street, Wheatley Hill, DH6 3NJ for Mr Quinn.

Whilst Members did not object to the above application it was felt that 5 properties was too many and constituted over development of the site. It was suggested that a development of 4 properties would be a more appropriate number given the size of the land.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be asked to consider reducing the number of properties on the site to 4.

9 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.

10 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Allotments

(a) Fencing

The Clerk provided an update on the fencing at plots 17 and 19.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Access to Football Field

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request, from a tenant, to restrict all access to the football field. Complaints had been received about residents allowing their dogs to foul on the field and not picking up after them. There had also been an incident involving several dogs that were off the lead and had knocked over a child.

Following discussion, it was suggested that Durham County Council be asked to provide additional signage and an additional bin to encourage people to pick up after their dogs.

The Neighbourhood Wardens would also be asked to patrol the area in the hope of catching those not picking up after their dogs.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Internal Audit 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit would be undertaken on 22 April 2022 by Mr G Fletcher.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2022

The Clerk reported that the external audit date had been set for 30 June 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Trade Waste Contract 2022/2023

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had advised that the annual trade waste contract for 2022/2023 would be increased by 3%. The contract for the previous financial year was £662.22 so it would increase by £19.87 to £682.09.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

(5) Heritage Centre – Gas

The Clerk reported that a new contract had been agreed with British Gas for the heating in the Heritage Centre. The daily standing charge had been reduced from £1.43 to 74p and the cost per KW had reduced from 17p to 12p.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Machine Fuel

The Clerk reported that from 1 April 2022 the Parish Council could no longer use red diesel in any of its machinery and would have to use white diesel. Any red diesel already in a tank could be used up if it was legally put into the vehicle before 1 April 2022. Any stored red diesel would need to be disposed of after 1 April 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Hanging Baskets – Aged Miners Bungalows

The Clerk reported that Horns Garden Centre had provided a quotation of £270 to re-fill 9 hanging baskets.

It was suggested that 2 baskets be provided at Wheatley Hill Workmens Social Club at a cost of £40 per basket.

RESOLVED that Horns Garden Centre be instructed to re-fill 9 hanging baskets at a cost of £270 and provide a further 2 baskets at a cost of £80.

(8) Community Centre - New Play Park

The Clerk reported that work had started on the new play park at the Greenhills Centre. It was anticipated that the work would be complete by the end of April 2022.

It had been suggested that the play park be named in memory of Morris Nicholls and his family had been approached and asked if this was something they would be happy with.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Peter Lee Sign

The Clerk advised that the new sign had been erected at the grave of Peter Lee in the Cemetery. Members were advised that the cost of the sign was £525 plus £105 VAT.

The Parish Council had previously agreed to contribute £300 towards the cost of the sign and it was suggested that the Parish Council pay the entire cost of the sign.

RESOLVED that the Heritage Society be advised that the Parish Council would pay for the sign.

(10) Queens Platinum Jubilee

The Clerk provided an update on the arrangements for lighting a beacon to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

A meeting to discuss arrangements was scheduled to be held on 26 April 2022 and everyone was welcome to attend.

RESOLVED that a meeting be held on 26 April 2022 to discuss ideas for the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

11 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Manhole Covers and Grates

Members reported that several manhole covers had been removed and grates lifted.

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RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

12 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 31 March 2022.

CHEQUE NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Direct Debit	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	379.44	18.97	398.41
Direct Debit	e-on Next	Electric - Heritage Centre	66.49	3.32	69.81
Internet Banking	Co-Op Funeralcare	Gravedigging Services	80.00		80.00
Internet Banking	David Rose Plumbing and Heating	Plumbing Repair - Cemetery Bungalow	93.00		93.00
Internet Banking	Anglian Water Business	Water Rates - Cemetery Bungalow/ Heritage Centre/Cemetery	1,448.73		1,448.73
Internet Banking	Durham County County	Council Tax - Cemetery Bungalow	2,004.37		2,004.37
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursement - Mobile Telephone	36.80		36.80
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursement - Mileage	36.00		36.00
Internet Banking	J Davies	Heating Allowance - 1st Instalment	100.00		100.00
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Community Association	Recreational activities and Events	10,000.00		10,000.00
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Workmens Social Club	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Reimbursements	41.61	6.69	48.30
Internet Banking	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	416.09		416.09
Internet Banking	NEREO	Advisory Services	354.00		354.00
Internet Banking	Horns	Cemetery Supplies	59.63	11.93	71.56
Internet Banking	Scott Bros Ltd	Skip Hire - Allotments	233.33	46.67	280.00
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	115.78	23.16	138.94
Internet Banking	Zurich Municipal	Insurance - Changing Rooms	68.76		68.76
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - April 2022	4,617.43		4,617.43
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - April 2022	3,028.67		3,028.67
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Annual Pension Report	30.00	6.00	36.00
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2022	30.00	6.00	36.00
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	29.88	5.97	35.85
Invoice 59	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	12.25		12.25
		TOTAL	23,407.26	128.71	23,535.97

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

13 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that confidential information would be disclosed.

15 Wheatley Hill Community Association

The Chair reported on discussions that were currently being held between Wheatley Hill Community Association and Wheatley Hill Primary School.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

..... Signed

.....Dated