

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 13 JUNE 2022**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L White and County Councillors L Hovells and C Varty.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Annual Assembly of Electors held on 9 May 2022 together with the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 28 April 2022 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 The Minutes of the Personnel Sub Committee meetings held on 16 May and 30 May 2022 copies of which had been circulated to each member, were approved.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

6 POLICE

The Police reported that between 1 May and 1 June 2022 there had been 1 report of anti-social behaviour (ASB), 2 reports of criminal damage and 1 burglary.

The Police advised that during May they had actively been engaged with the community as well as youths that may have been involved in ASB. The Police had spent time at the flats on the Front Street gathering intelligence. To date there had been few issues with youths around the flats and things appeared to have settled down.

Members were advised that ASB had reduced and between May and June there had been no reports of ASB. Issues related to youths was still a concern for residents and the Police would continue to engage with the community in relation to this, as well as taking action against those believed to be responsible for the ASB.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

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

- The celebrations and lighting of the beacon for the Queens Platinum Jubilee went well and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Ten events to celebrate the Jubilee were held throughout the Division and County Councillors had attend all of them. They had also funded a number of the events.
- Concerns related to the hedge opposite Marley Fields had been referred to Highways with a request that they contact the owner and ask them to cut it back.

- Following a meeting with Durham County Council and the Police it was agreed to install CCTV at the flats on the Front Street and work would start in the next couple of weeks.
- A Target Development Plan had been agreed for the Front Street and included CCTV, allegates and targeted equipment to improve the area.
- A site meeting was held with Durham County Council's Highways to discuss concerns related to the speed hump and chicane on Cemetery Road. The County Council had advised that if the speed hump and chicane were removed, they would have to be replaced with alternative measures. The options were to leave the speed hump and chicane as they were or remove and replace them with speed humps down the length of Cemetery Road. The County Council were costing the options.
- The Chair had opened the community café at Abbotts Court. The café was open to the public and designed to support vulnerable people and families. The café was open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and was a great asset for the village.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) 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 2022/2023 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2022/2023 football season.

(2) Parking – Wheatley Hill Primary School

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident expressing concern at people parking directly at the entrances to road junctions and directly opposite the junctions near Wheatley Hill Primary school. Cars were also parking on the zig zag no stopping areas as well as the footpaths. The resident had requested a meeting with a representative from the Parish Council and the Police.

The Clerk advised that a site meeting at Wheatley Hill Primary school had been arranged for 20 June 2022 at 3pm and would be attended by a representative from the Parish Council and the Police. The Neighbourhood Wardens were also invited but were unable to attend.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that a PACT meeting would be held on 16 June 2022 at Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Co-operative Bank Charges

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from The Co-operative Bank advising of an increase in charges on the accounts held by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Financial Donation

The Clerk reported the receipt of a £10 donation from a resident towards the Queens

Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Patient Participation Panel

The Chair reported that meetings of the Patient Participation Panel would be re-established.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PLANNING APPEAL

DM/19/03819/FPA - Appeal Reference APP/X1355/W/22/3297977 for the construction of two detached dormer dwellings (revised application) for Mr and Mrs Horn, Greenhills Farm Cottage, Wheatley Hill.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had received notification that the applicant had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against the Local Planning Authority's decision to refuse planning permission.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 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.

11 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) Break-ins

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been made aware of break-ins at the allotments. The Clerk had reported the matter to the Police and tenants were advised that individual break-ins would need to be reported to the Police.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Queens Platinum Jubilee – 2 June 2022

The Chair reported that the Platinum Jubilee celebrations held on 2 June 2022 had been a success and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Members were advised that the Parish Council had successfully applied to the County Councillors for a donation of £200 towards the cost of the celebrations.

Members were advised that the total cost of the event was £933.60 which included £490 for the gas beacon, £133.60 for the gas for the beacon and £310 for the children's sweet

cart, popcorn and drinks provided by Ludworth Community Association. An invoice from Trimdon Brass Band for their attendance at the event was still awaited.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Heritage Centre – Business Rates

The Clerk had previously reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising that there had been a change in the rateable value of the Heritage Centre. Durham County Council had been advised by the Valuation Office Agency that the Heritage Centre was now classed as a museum and subject to business rates.

The Clerk had submitted a claim under the business rates appeal process known as check, challenge, appeal and was awaiting the outcome.

The Clerk had also submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Valuation Office Agency asking for information related to the change in the rating list. The Valuation Office had confirmed that although they held information within the scope of the request, they were unable to disclose it. Section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA stated they could not provide the information because another Act prevented disclosure. In this instance Section 23(1) of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 prevented disclosure.

The Clerk had discussed the situation with Durham County Council and agreed that the outstanding rates would need to be paid prior to the outcome of the check, challenge, appeal.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and £2,829.53 be paid to Durham County Council.

(4) Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that Rev Grieve had been approached about installing an external defibrillator at All Saints Church. Rev Grieve had advised that the parochial church council and the diocese of Durham would need to be consulted and ecclesiastical legal planning permission would also be required.

Members were advised that The Rotary Club of Durham Elvet had provide a quotation of £1,398 for an external defibrillator and cabinet to be installed at All Saints Church.

The Rotary Club were also asked to provide a quotation for a portable defibrillator and internal cabinet to be located at the changing rooms and a quotation of £1,031.34 had been received.

The Chair advised that the County Councillors were able to provide funding for the portable defibrillator to be located at the changing rooms. It was suggested that the Clerk apply for a small grant of £999 from the Members Budget.

The Clerk reported that the NEAS had advised that they were re-establishing their awareness training and would contact the Parish Council to arrange a suitable date for the training to go ahead.

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

(5) Summer Bedding/Hanging Baskets

The Clerk reported that the hanging baskets had been erected at the aged miner's bungalows and the summer bedding plants had been received from Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Groundsperson

The Clerk reported that E Leigh had been appointed to the post of Groundsperson and had commenced employment with the Parish Council on 6 June 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Apprentice Groundsperson

The Clerk reported that East Durham College (EDC) had been asked for information related to the Parish Council taking on an apprentice Groundsperson, details of which were outlined to Members.

Following discussion, it was suggested that further information be sought from EDC.

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

(8) Community Centre

The Clerk reported that H Jamieson would be leaving the Greenhills Centre at the end of June 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

12 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Wheatley Hill Steering Group

Members asked if meetings of the Wheatley Hill Steering Group would be re-established.

RESOLVED that the Clerk make enquiries regarding the re-establishment of the Steering Group.

(2) Arriva Bus Service

Members reported issues related to the Arriva bus service from Wheatley Hill to Peterlee.

A resident had advised that due to the Arriva bus service constantly being late and making them late for work they were at risk of losing their job. The poor service was impacting on people's ability to get to work and in the current climate people could not afford to lose their jobs due to a poor bus service.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(3) Trees

Members reported that the trees on Black Lane, to the rear of the industrial Estate on the Front Street, were overgrown and the branches and canopy were encroaching onto the power cables.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

13 PAYMENTS

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

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 13 June 2022

PAYMENT	PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
Direct Debit	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	25.91	1.29	27.20	
Direct Debit	e-on Next	Electric - Heritage Centre	54.94	2.75	57.69	
Internet Banking	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	215.48	43.10	258.58	
Internet Banking	CDS Security & Fire	Alarm Callout	85.00	17.00	102.00	
Internet Banking	MKM Building Supplies	Cemetery Supplies	96.04	19.21	115.25	
Internet Banking	ROSPA Play Safety	Annual Inspection of Football Field	70.00	14.00	84.00	
Internet Banking	Horns Garden Centre	Hanging Baskets - Compost - Grass seed Weedkiller	491.28	98.26	589.54	
Internet Banking	Anglian Water Business Ltd	Water - Allotments	61.04		61.04	
Internet Banking	Durham City Youth Project	Delivery of Youth Provision in Wheatley Hill	2,937.00		2,937.00	
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Pet and Grain Store	Gas for Queens Jubilee Beacon	111.33	22.27	133.60	
Internet Banking	Ludworth Community Association	Manned sweet cart/sweets/popcorn/drinks	310.00		310.00	
Internet Banking	Durham County Council	Business Rates - Heritage Centre	2,829.53		2,829.53	
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
Internet Banking	J Davies	Reimbursements	193.24	37.14	230.38	
Internet Banking	J Thompson	Reimbursements	51.57	5.42	56.99	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - June 2022	4,486.45		4,486.45	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - June 2022	2,877.39		2,877.39	
Internet Banking	HMRC	P11D Payment	296.44		296.44	
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - June 2022	30.00	6.00	36.00	
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - P11D	5.00	1.00	6.00	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	29.47	5.90	35.37	
Invoice 61	Co-Op Bank	Service and Commission Charges	13.30		13.30	
			TOTAL	15,295.41	273.34	15,568.75

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

14 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated