

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

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Huntington and L White.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Stogdale declared an interest in item 7.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 June 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 11 June and 11 July there had been 78 incidents reported which included 4 reports of anti-social behaviour, 2 reports of theft, 2 criminal damage and 3 burglaries.

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.

- The Durham Miner's Gala was held 9 July 2022 and was attended by over 200,000 people. The Parish Council supports the Wheatley Hill Banner Group and Mr G Tempest was stepping down as coordinator. The 3 County Councillors had agreed to fund a new Banner.
- Police – The new inspector for Wheatley Hill was Phil Carter.
- Community Centre – Discussions were ongoing with the Greenhills Centre to support them prior to the appointment of a new centre manager.
- Issues related to rubbish in gardens had been referred to the Street Wardens.
- Arriva Bus Service – Further information related to the Arriva bus service from Wheatley Hill to Peterlee had been passed to Durham County Council's Strategic Traffic Team.
- There had been an increase in the number of fires across the division.
- Approval had been given to install CCTV at the flats on the Front Street. Durham County Council were working to install the cameras as soon as possible.
- Discussions were ongoing between Durham County Council and developers to provide housing in the village.
- Issues related to the barbed wire fencing at the bottom of the village had been referred to the County Council's enforcement team.
- The owner of the land opposite Marley Fields had been asked to cut the area back.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

Request for Financial Assistance – Wheatley Hill Disabled Club

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Disabled Club.

RESOLVED that a donation of £220.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

8 PLANNING

(1) Applications

(a) DM/22/01413/FPA – Change of use of land to equestrian use and erection of a stable block at Warden Lodge, Durham Road, Wheatley Hill

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) DM/22/01924/FPA – Change of use of vacant land to form new car park at land to the south of Wheatley Hill Primary School

RESOLVED that the Parish Council submit a letter of support for the application to Durham County Council.

(c) DM/22/01098/VOC – Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission DM/19/03759/FPA for 23 dwellings at land at Meadow View, Wheatley Hill

The Chair advised that DAMHA had applied to erect a fence at Nicholls Close to deter problems related to the ongoing anti- social behaviour, which was worrying the elderly residents and it would also stop people cutting through the Close and causing a nuisance.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council submit a letter of support for the application to Durham County Council.

(2) Approval

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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 - Break-ins

At the last meeting the Clerk reported several break-ins at the allotments. Tenants were advised to report individual break-ins to the Police. The Police had advised that they received 1 report related to a break-in at the allotments.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Parking – Wheatley Hill Primary School

At the last meeting the Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident expressing concern at people parking directly at the entrance to road junctions and directly opposite the junctions near Wheatley Hill Primary school. Cars were parking on the zig zag no stopping areas as well as the footpaths.

The resident had requested a site meeting with a representative from the Parish Council and the Police and the meeting took place on 20 June 2022. The meeting was attended by Councillors B Miller and L Stewart and a representative from the Police.

Councillor Stewart provided a verbal report on the meeting. Members were advised that negotiations related to the sale of land opposite the school from Believe Housing to Wheatley Hill Primary School were on-going. The school had submitted a planning application to Durham County Council for the change of use of the land opposite the school into a car park. The Parish Council had agreed to submit a letter of support for the application on the basis that additional parking spaces would help to alleviate some of the congestion outside and around the school.

At the site meeting the Police had agreed to visit the school to see what could be done to help improve the parking situation. The Police were asked for an update and had advised that unfortunately, due to staff changes, they had been unable to visit the school, but the matter was now being dealt with by the new PCSO for Wheatley Hill. The Parish Council would continue to monitor the situation.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Defibrillator

(a) All Saints Church

The Clerk reported that there had been no progress related to the installation of a defibrillator at All Saints Church.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Changing Rooms

The Clerk reported that an application for funding had been made to the County Councillors Small Grants Fund for a portable defibrillator and indoor cabinet at the changing rooms.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Awareness Training

The Clerk reported that the North East Ambulance Service had offered the Parish Council an awareness training session and confirmation of a date was awaited.

A maximum of 25 people could attend the training and it was suggested that 5 places be offered to the Parish Council, 10 to community organisations/groups and local business' in the village and 10 to residents.

Members were advised that the training was free of charge but a donation to the North East Ambulance charity would help cover the cost of the session. It was suggested that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and a donation of £100 be made to the North East Ambulance charity from the Section 137 Budget.

(4) Standing Orders

The Clerk reported that Standing Orders had been amended to take account of changes to procurement thresholds.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Greenhills Centre

The Clerk reported that a meeting was scheduled to be held on 22 July 2022 to discuss the situation and future of the Greenhills Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Apprentice Groundsperson

The Clerk reported that discussions with East Durham College (EDC) related to the Parish Council taking on an apprentice Groundsperson were on-going. A meeting was scheduled with a representative from the college to assess the Parish Council's facilities on 14 July 2022.

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

(7) Updates from Last Meeting

(a) Steering Group

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were contacted to ask if meetings of the Steering Group would be re-established.

They had advised that at present there were no plans to re-establish the Steering Group. They suggested that it might be better if it was organised by the Parish Council with the County Council attending and providing regular updates.

Members discussed the need for the Steering Group and suggested that if the Parish Council was to lead on this then the format/name of the meeting could be reviewed to better reflect the issues causing concern.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(b) Arriva Bus Service

Following the last meeting the problems related to the Arriva bus service from Wheatley Hill to Peterlee constantly being late was referred to Durham County Council.

The Strategic Traffic Team had advised that to fully investigate the problem and work on a solution with the bus company they required further information related to the journey departure/arrival points and times.

Members provided the Chair with the required information which would be passed to the Strategic Traffic Team.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(c) Trees – Black Lane

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were contacted about the overgrown trees on Black Lane which were encroaching onto the power cables. The County Council had advised that they were aware of this issue, and the work was scheduled to be carried out during the Autumn or early Winter.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Wheatley Hill Banner

The Chair reported that in 2019 the Parish Council gave a commitment to financially support the Wheatley Hill Banner Group. Due to Covid the Gala was cancelled in 2020 and then again in 2021 and no financial assistance was required.

Members were advised that escalating costs was making it financially difficult to parade the banner at the Gala and Members were asked to consider giving a commitment to financially assist the Banner group in 2023.

Members agreed to give a commitment to financially support the Banner group and suggested that when they were able to know the cost of parading the Banner at the Gala that they submit an application for Section 137 funding.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

11 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Pizza Nova

Members reported that the owner of Pizza Nova had been seen cleaning out food containers and throwing the contents onto the adjacent grassed area. There was concern that the contents of the containers should be disposed of correctly and not thrown onto the grass.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) West House

Members reported that the foundations at West House were completely overrun with weeds and the whole area needed cutting back.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(3) Cemetery Paths

Members reported that some of the Cemetery paths were in a poor state of repair and needed re-surfacing.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

(4) Caravan Park – A181

Members asked for an update on enforcement action at the caravan park located on the A181.

The Chair reported that this had previously been referred to planning enforcement but to date no action appeared to have been taken.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted,

(5) Lengthsman

Members queried if there was a Lengthsman working in Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

12 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 30 June 2022.

| PAYMENT | PAYABLE TO | DETAIL | COST | VAT | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Direct Debit | British Gas | Gas - Heritage Centre | 20.85 | 1.04 | 21.89 |
| Direct Debit | e-on Next | Electric - Heritage Centre | 49.99 | 2.50 | 52.49 |
| Internet Banking | Durham County Council | Trade Waste | 681.72 | | 681.72 |
| Internet Banking | Durham County Council | Trade Waste | 543.78 | | 543.78 |
| Internet Banking | Durham County Council | Summer/Winter Bedding | 1,453.44 | 290.69 | 1,744.13 |
| Internet Banking | WEL Medical Ltd | Defibrillator and Indoor Cabinet | 859.45 | 171.89 | 1,031.34 |
| Internet Banking | J Thompson | Reimbursements | 41.00 | 6.02 | 47.02 |
| Internet Banking | J Thompson | Telephone Allowance | 25.00 | | 25.00 |
| Internet Banking | Wheatley Hill Disabled Club | Section 137 Donation | 220.00 | | 220.00 |
| Internet Banking | Payroll | Wages - July 2022 | 4,818.87 | | 4,818.87 |
| Internet Banking | HMRC/DCC | PAYE/Pension - July 2022 | 2,827.23 | | 2,827.23 |
| Internet Banking | JAC's Accountancy Limited | Payroll Services - July 2022 | 30.00 | 6.00 | 36.00 |
| Direct Debit | British Telecom | Telephone/Internet | 29.47 | 5.90 | 35.37 |
| Invoice 62 | Co-Op Bank | Service and Commission Charges | 14.45 | | 14.45 |
| | | TOTAL | 11,615.25 | 484.04 | 12,099.29 |

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

13 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated