

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2016

Present: Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)
Councillors E Goyns, Mrs M Goyns, B Maddison,
J Miller and Mrs C Stogdale

Apologies: Councillors Mrs E Carr, Mrs M Nicholls and Mrs L Stewart

1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 11 January 2016 a copy 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 COMMUNITY POLICING/STREET WARDENS

The Chair welcomed PCSO D Weston to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 89 incidents reported.

There had been 23 reports of anti-social behaviour, 11 of which related to youths throwing snowballs. There had been 8 off-road bike reports and the officer advised that resources were limited. The off-road bike team covered the whole of the county area and in order to take any action the Police required positive identification of the culprits

There had also been 2 reports of youths causing a nuisance, 2 reports of personal anti-social behaviour, 2 vehicles reported driving recklessly and at high speed, 2 burglaries, 2 vehicle crimes and 1 report of criminal damage.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) The Children's Foundation

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Children's Foundation.

RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred.

(ii) Wheatley Hill Community Nursery

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Community Nursery.

RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Royal Garden Party 2016

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that Middridge Parish Council and Bishop Auckland Town Council had been allocated places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 24 May 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Village Artwork – The Last Shift

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held on 25 January 2016 to discuss proposals to mark the 50th anniversary of the closure of Wheatley Hill pit by commissioning a piece of public artwork for the village.

The Clerk took Members through the minutes of the meeting and advised of the groups' intention to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to speak about the project.

Members were advised that the next meeting would be held on 29 February 2016 at 6pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING

There were no planning matters.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided an update on the following:-

- **Durham County Council – Further savings of £100M were required by 2018 which could impact on services.**
- **First Street – Problems related to a car parking space and the impact it was having on a nearby residential property. Discussions were being held and it had been suggested that a “no left hand turn” sign be erected. Members discussed the situation and expressed concern that parking problems at both East and South View also needed to be addressed.**
- **Wordsworth Avenue – Regular residents meetings were being held and whilst there was still outstanding issues the number of residents attending had significantly dropped. The next meeting was scheduled to be held at the end of March and flyers promoting a litter pick would also ask residents if they felt the need for the meetings to continue.**
- **South View – Issues related to a high hedge and damaged guttering on a residential property that was causing damp.**

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/Stable Blocks

(i) Waiting List

The Clerk provided Members with details of the current waiting list for allotments and stable blocks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Stable Block 19

The Clerk reported that the tenant of stable block 19 had advised that he had been unable to use the plot as it was being illegally occupied. It had been alleged that the previous tenant had been sub-letting the plot to a resident living in Thornley.

Members expressed concern that the previous tenant was still the tenant of another allotment and stable block and could be doing the same with these plots.

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the tenant, who it was alleged had been subletting, be advised that the current tenancies could be terminated if the allegation was proven and the Clerk advise the Police of the situation.

(2) National Living Wage

The Clerk reported that from 1 April 2016 the Government would introduce the National Living Wage and all employees aged 25 and over would be paid at least £7.20 per hour.

Members were advised that this would apply to employees on Spinal Column Point's 6, 7 and 8. This therefore had an impact on one employee working for the Parish Council. JAC's Accountancy had been advised and the increase would be implemented from 1 April 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Play Facilities

The Clerk reported that a meeting was held with Mr B Anderson, Outdoor Sport and Leisure Officer, Durham County Council on 26 January 2016 to discuss the provision of fixed play equipment in Wheatley Hill.

Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 8 February 2016

Members were advised that the County Council was satisfied there was sufficient play provision in Wheatley Hill. The meeting was held at the Greenhills Centre and discussion took place regarding the Children’s play area and the MUGA pitch at the centre. Mr Anderson had stated that it was possible that funding could be made available to assist in these areas.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
105125	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	162.00	32.40	194.40	
105126	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
105127	J Thompson	Reimbursements	12.96		12.96	
105128	Wheatley Hill Community Nursery	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00	
105129	Horns Garden Centre	Cemetery Supplies	91.66	18.34	110.00	
105130	CDS Security & Fire	Alarm Call Out/Parts	99.00	19.80	118.80	
105131	JAC's Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services - February 2016	13.25	2.65	15.90	
105132	J Davies	Reimbursements	69.04	8.51	77.55	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - February 2016	3932.44		3932.44	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - February 2016	2283.47		2283.47	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	40.22	8.04	48.26	
			TOTAL	7029.04	89.74	7118.78

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

..... Dated