

# THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2017

**Present:** Councillor M Nicholls (Chair)  
Councillors Mrs E Carr, Mrs M Goyns, J Miller,  
Mrs M Nicholls, Mrs L Stewart and Mrs C Stogdale

**Apologies:** Councillors E Goyns and B Maddison

**1 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 12 December 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 POLICE**

The Clerk advised that PCSO K Hyde had submitted her apologies and provided the following report.

Anti-social behaviour – 8  
Burglary – 4  
Criminal damage – 8  
Theft from motor vehicle – 1

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

## **4 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Request for Financial Assistance – Wheatley Hill Workmen’s Social Club and Institute**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Wheatley Hill Workmen’s Social Club and Institute.

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

**(2) Letters of Thanks**

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

- (i) North Eastern Prison After Care Society**
- (ii) Greenhills Centre – Christmas Cheer Packs**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Wheatley Hill Community Association (WHCA) following the Parish Councils financial support for the Christmas cheer packs project.

Members were advised that the project had been hugely successful as evidenced by the gratitude expressed by recipients of the packs both verbally and in writing through thank you cards. Thank you cards received from residents were circulated for Members information.

A detailed list of all recipients was provided and in summary WHCA delivered 150 packs to residents in their homes, 39 to Abbots Court and 10 to Valdigarth. In addition 9 Luncheon Club members, who lived outside the village, were provided with packs funded by WHCA.

It was explained there was 3 packs still awaiting collection from residents and 1 spare pack from a couple who asked that it be given to someone in more need than them. If not collected by the original recipient these packs could be re-allocated if Members wished to nominate anyone else.

As previously reported there was a small sum of funding left over and this was used to provide 10 free Christmas meals to residents who did not already receive the meals on wheels service. The meals were delivered on 20 December 2016 and were well received.

The Clerk advised that WHCA had gained a new meals on wheels customer from one of the cheer pack recipients. The customer had not previously known about the service and had signed up to receive meals 7 days a week.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Royal Garden Party 2017

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising they had been allocated 4 places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 23 May 2017.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Stewart be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on behalf of Wheatley Hill Parish Council.

(4) Youth Action Group – Community Speed Watch Events

The Clerk reported that the Wheatley Hill and Thornley Youth Action Group held a community speed watch on 7 January 2017. A similar event would be held on 18 February 2017. The Action Group had invited the Wheatley Hill “Mini Police” to assist and everyone was asked to meet at the Greenhills Centre at 10.30am.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 PLANNING

APPROVAL - DM/16/03064/FPA – Erection of 4 residential dwellings at 3-6 Front Street, Wheatley Hill, Durham DH6 3NJ for Mr W Adams

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 DELEGATES REPORTS

The Chair provided Members with an update on various issues which included the following;

- Problems related to the Front Street – Empty properties/Absentee Landlords
- Health Centre
- Residents meeting
- Horses

Members were reminded that all incidents related to dog fouling, fly tipping, quad bikes, litter or horses should be reported to the Neighbourhood Wardens and/or the Police to ensure a true picture of the problem was logged and recorded.

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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(ii) Allotment Number 6**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting allotment 6 was offered to Mrs Taylor of 13 Gable Terrace. Mrs Taylor had advised she was no longer interested and her name was removed from the waiting list.

The allotment was subsequently offered to Mr Griffiths of 10 Patton Walk. Mr Griffiths had yet to confirm his acceptance of the plot.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(iii) Outstanding Rent – Stable Block 22**

The Clerk reported the Mr Thompson and Mr Newton had paid the outstanding £5 rent on stable block 22.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(2) The Last Shift**

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members were advised that a site meeting was held in the Cemetery, with representative from The Last Shift, on 15 November 2016 to discuss the location of the statue.

Members were advised that the preferred location of The Last Shift was in the centre of the crossroads at the bottom of the central avenue in the Cemetery. If the location was agreed additional groundworks would be required to ensure there was sufficient room for grass cutting machinery to safely pass the statue.

Members discussed this location and felt it was possibly not the most appropriate location for the statue in the Cemetery.

A further meeting was therefore held on 9 January 2017 with Mrs M Hedley, Mrs D Peacock and Mr G Tempest, representatives from The Last Shift Committee. Unfortunately agreement could not be reached on a location for the statue and discussions broke down.

## Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 9 January 2017

Members discussed at length the meeting held with representatives and expressed their disappointment at the tone of the meeting which led to the break down in discussions.

It was suggested that a further meeting be held with The Last Shift Committee and the following options be put forward in a final effort to reach an agreement to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**Option 1 - erect the statue somewhere other than the Cemetery.**

- Pit Wheel – Parish Council had reservations about this site but in the circumstances they would enter into a legal agreement with Durham County Council to allow the project to proceed. They would also insure the statue at this location with the proviso that the situation would be kept under review due to the potential for vandalism to the statue at this isolated location.
- Wheatley House – Parish Council would insure the statue at this location.

**Option 2 – erect the statue in one of the following locations in the Cemetery**

- Right hand side of the central avenue – middle of the Cordylines
- Side of the Heritage Centre
- Memorial Garden

If it was decided to locate the statue in the Cemetery then the location would be subject to the necessary surveys.

**RESOLVED** that a further meeting with The Last Shift Committee be held on 12 January 2017 at 5.30pm in Wheatley House.

### (3) Village Newsletter

The Clerk reported that a copy of the village newsletter was delivered to every household in Wheatley Hill on 16 December 2016.

The invoice for £405 from Whites printers had been received and Mr Telford, who delivered the newsletter, was paid £200 as agreed at the December 2016 meeting.

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

### (4) Estimates of Expenditure 2017/2018

The Clerk provided details of the draft expenditure required by the Parish Council for the forthcoming financial year 2017/2018, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The draft expenditure was based on a 1% increase on the 2016/2017 precept figure and provided an overall budget of £121,261.00. This was made up of a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £21,345.00 and an additional £99,916.00 precept.

The Clerk took Members through the detailed budget and following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2017/2018 was £121,261.00.

**Wheatley Hill Parish Council – 9 January 2017**

**9 PAYMENTS**

**RESOLVED** that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL	
105259	Whites	Parish Newsletter	405.00		405.00	
105260	M Nicholls	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
105261	J Thompson	Telephone Allowance	25.00		25.00	
105262	J Thompson	Reimbursements	39.07	4.00	43.07	
105263	Wheatley Hill Workmen's Social Club and Institute	Section 137 Donation	300.00		300.00	
105264	British Gas	Gas - Heritage Centre	365.87	18.29	384.16	
105265	npower	Electric - Heritage Centre	167.38	8.37	175.75	
105266	JAC's Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - January 2017	14.00	2.80	16.80	
Internet Banking	Payroll	Wages - January 2017	3834.06		3834.06	
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC	PAYE/Pension - January 2017	2048.61		2048.61	
Direct Debit	British Telecom	Telephone/Internet	34.03	6.80	40.83	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7258.02</b>	<b>40.26</b>	<b>7298.28</b>

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Clerk advised there was nothing to report.

**11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) Missing Drain Cover**

Councillor Stogdale reported a missing drain cover near Black Lane. Councillor Stewart advised that the missing drain cover was reported a number of months ago and Northumbrian Water had undertaken a temporary repair but it was missing again.

**RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be advised of the missing drain cover.

**(2) Fly Tipping - Gas Cylinders**

Councillor Stogdale reported 2 fly tipped gas cylinders in the bushes at Meadow View, near the health clinic.

**RESOLVED** that the gas cylinders be reported.

..... Signed

..... Dated