

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 12 JUNE 2023**

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

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors J Collingwood and L White.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Stewart declared an interest in item 7(1)(a).

Councillor Carr declared an interest in item 7(1)(b).

**3 The Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Annual Assembly of Electors held on 15 May 2023 copies 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 MATTERS**

There was no Police report.

Members reported quad bikes parked up in the service station on the A181. This was a regular occurrence and the Police had been advised of their presence. Off road bikes, together with a black van had also been racing through the village.

**RESOLVED** that the issues raised be reported to the Police.

**6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor J Miller provided a report on the following parish and countywide issues.

- Pot holes reported at the last meeting were reported to Durham County Council.
- Councillor Miller met with the Chief Executive of Durham County Council for an update on the Targeted Development Plan, which was going to Planning, Councillor Miller had requested a copy of the site plan, which was still awaited.
- Councillor Miller had asked for the flats on the front street to be re-located. This was currently being investigated.
- Councillor Miller attended a meeting with the agents for the service station on the A181 to discuss concerns raised in relation to the planning application for the service station. Councillor Miller had requested further information on the application, which he had called into committee on the understanding that if the information received satisfied the concerns raised, it would be withdrawn.
- To date, there had been no response to the letter sent to Ministers in Parliament about bus cuts.

- There were proposed changes to the Arriva 22 service which included.
  - a bus every half hour from Durham to Peterlee
  - 1 bus per hour to run as the 228 service
  - 1 bus per hour to run as the 22 service
  - a reduction from 2 buses per hour to 1 per hour
  - service was 7 minutes longer due to calling at Easington Colliery
  - last bus would be reduced
- Road sweepers had been requested several times.
- The footpath at Watson Close would be repaired within 3 months.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

### (1) Requests for Financial Assistance

#### (a) Wheatley Hill Primary School

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Wheatley Hill Primary School for financial assistance towards a community event to encourage children to get active.

RESOLVED that a donation of £200 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

#### (b) All Saints Church – Family Trip to South Shields

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from All Saints Church for financial assistance towards a family trip to South Shields

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

### (2) Letters of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal and Wheatley Hill Working Men's Club

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) 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 2023/2024 football season.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2023/2024 football season.

### (4) Police and Crime Commissioner Briefing

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend an online briefing by the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Chief of Staff on the Government's new Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (5) Sponsorship – Carbusonic Limited

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Carbusonic Limited, a local company based in Wheatley Hill providing professional cleaning and restoration products.

Carbusonic had offered to sponsor 2 flower tubs at the entrance to the village. In return they had requested that details of their business be advertised on the flower tubs.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Carbusonic to discuss further.

## 8 PLANNING APPLICATION

DM/23/01492/VOC – Variation of condition(s) 2 (compliance with approved drawings) pursuant to DM/21/02141/FPA - erection of permanent equestrian workers dwelling – amended design for Mr Harvey, Westley Stables, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 9 CLERKS REPORT

### (1) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2023

The Clerk reported that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year ending 31 March 2023 had been submitted.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (2) Wheatley Hill Community Association

The Clerk reported that at a Special Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 May 2023 Members agreed to pay the gas and electric bills at the Greenhills Centre for a period of 3 months to a maximum amount of £6,000.

Members were advised that the centre had received a gas bill for £1,715.94 which had been paid by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) Summer Bedding/Hanging Baskets

The Clerk reported that hanging baskets had been erected at the Aged Miners Bungalows and the summer bedding plants had been received from Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (4) Durham City Youth Project

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had been working in partnership with Durham City Youth Project (DCYP) to deliver weekly youth sessions in Wheatley Hill since October 2021.

Youth provision in the village was a priority, and the Parish Council had contributed funding for DCYP to deliver two youth sessions in the village, one for juniors, and an outreach session for seniors, for 1 year. The sessions were popular and well attended.

Members were advised that DCYP had been successful in securing funding to continue delivering the youth sessions in Wheatley Hill for a further year. The cost to provide the sessions was £16,189 and they had secured funding amounting to £13,000 leaving a shortfall of £3,189. Funding had

been secured from Ballanger, Masonic Trust, Wesley Trust and Children in Need.

Members were asked to consider funding the shortfall of £3,189 to allow the youth sessions to continue from April 2023 to March 2024.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council contribute £3,189 towards the provision of youth sessions in Wheatley Hill to be delivered by DCYP from April 2023 to March 2024.

## 10 MEMBER ISSUES

### (1) Wingate Lane

Members reported that the bottom of Wingate Lane, to the rear of the Service Station on the A181 required a clean-up. There was a lot of wood debris on both sides of the road where trees had been sawn up.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

### (2) Potholes

Members reported potholes at the entrance to East View.

**RESOLVED** that the potholes be reported to Durham County Council.

### (3) 30 MPH Sign – Woodlands Avenue

Members reported that the 30 MPH sign at the entrance to Wheatley Hill, on the left hand side was leaning over.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

### (4) Community Speedwatch

Members reported speeding traffic at Quetlaw Road and Luke Terrace. The Chair suggested that the Police be requested to undertake a community speedwatch.

**RESOLVED** that the Police be asked to undertake a community speedwatch.

### (5) Village Mural - Durham Spray Paints

Members referred to the mural that had been painted by Durham Spray Paints on the gable end of the fish shop, Perfect Fry. The Chair advised that the mural reflected the mining heritage of Wheatley Hill and its diversity.

It was suggested that a letter be forwarded to Perfect Fry thanking them for allowing the mural to be painted on their property.

**RESOLVED** that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Perfect Fry.

### (6) Damaged Road

Members reported that the road between the Co-op food store and Vincent's corner was breaking up and in a poor state of repair.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

**11 PAYMENTS**

| PAYMENT          | PAYABLE TO                          | DETAIL                             | COST         | VAT              | TOTAL        |                  |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Direct Debit     | British Gas                         | Gas - Heritage Centre              | 71.08        | 3.55             | 74.63        |                  |
| Direct Debit     | E-on Next                           | Electric - Heritage Centre         | 60.06        | 3.00             | 63.06        |                  |
| Internet Banking | Horns Garden Centre                 | Cemetery Supplies                  | 20.15        | 4.03             | 24.18        |                  |
| Internet Banking | J Davies                            | Reimbursements                     | 329.86       | 65.96            | 395.82       |                  |
| Internet Banking | Durham County Council               | Annual Trade Waste - Cemetery      | 1,586.52     |                  | 1,586.52     |                  |
| Internet Banking | Anglian Water Business              | Water - Allotments                 | 174.26       |                  | 174.26       |                  |
| Internet Banking | Wheatley Hill Community Association | Gas bill for Community Centre      | 1,715.94     |                  | 1,715.94     |                  |
| Internet Banking | Wheatley Hill Community Association | Electric bill for Community Centre | 2,486.31     |                  | 2,486.31     |                  |
| Internet Banking | J Thompson                          | Telephone Allowance                | 25.00        |                  | 25.00        |                  |
| Internet Banking | Wheatley Hill Primary School        | Section 137 Donation               | 200.00       |                  | 200.00       |                  |
| Internet Banking | All Saints Church                   | Section 137 Donation               | 50.00        |                  | 50.00        |                  |
| Internet Banking | Durham City Centre Youth Project    | Funding for youth session          | 3,189.00     |                  | 3,189.00     |                  |
| Internet Banking | Payroll                             | Wages - June 2023                  | 5,045.25     |                  | 5,045.25     |                  |
| Internet Banking | HMRC/DCC                            | PAYE/Pension - June 2023           | 3,136.17     |                  | 3,136.17     |                  |
| Internet Banking | JAC's Accountancy Limited           | Payroll Services - June 2023       | 30.00        | 6.00             | 36.00        |                  |
| Direct Debit     | British Telecom                     | Telephone/Internet                 | 17.08        | 3.41             | 20.49        |                  |
| Invoice 73       | Co-Op Bank                          | Service and Commission Charges     | 15.05        |                  | 15.05        |                  |
|                  |                                     |                                    | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>18,151.73</b> | <b>85.95</b> | <b>18,237.68</b> |

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 30 June 2023.

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

**12 RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated