

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
7th November 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D Hales, Councillor Smith
Councillor Berry, Councillor C Hales, Councillor Savage
Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Jackson, Councillor Jordan
Councillor McArdle, Councillor Tinsley
Emma McCann (DTC) (Minutes)

Mr Kitching, Oakenshaw Allotments, was invited to the meeting to be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Allotment Award in recognition of all the hard work and dedication he has put into his allotment over the years. His wife, who is his co-worker on the allotment, accepted the award on his behalf.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Elgie. Councillors asked for their best wishes to be passed to Councillor Elgie.
Proposed Councillor Berry
Seconded Councillor Jackson

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in matters appearing on the agenda and the nature of their interest.
None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident agenda items requested through the Clerk.

A letter had been received from a resident in the parish representing Oakenshaw Community Association. The Association has funded the planting of the tubs this year covering the period up till the end of summer flowering in September 2025. Maintenance and watering is done by their own volunteering group.

They have respectfully asked if this planting could be included in the GWTC budget to the cost of £900 for planting from September 2025 to September 2026.

It was suggested that we defer this until we have discussions of the new budget for 2025-2026. This was agreed.

County Councillor Gunn explained that due to budget cuts, DCC have changed the flowers to perennial plants. She was unaware that Oakenshaw was part of this and would contact the Clean and Green Team.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th October 2024, as written, and circulated, were agreed as a true record.

Councillor D Hales signed the minutes.

Proposed Councillor Jackson

Seconded Councillor Savage

MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Councillor Tinsley has been in contact with DCC Officers regarding the public toilet. He is waiting for a response.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Planning Applications

- DM/24/02335/FPA – Oxenhope House, 2 Hunwick Lane, Sunnybrow - Demolition of existing garage and replacement with single storey rear and side wrap around extension. 2no. two storey gable extensions to the front and erection of detached double garage to front

[https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SIOHYIGDJ5300&activeTab=summary)

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Standard consultation expiry date: 7 November 2024

- DM/24/02732/FPA - 11 Richardson Court Willington - Erection of 1.3m high railing to the front of property

[https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKZAWYGD0LT00&activeTab=summary)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKZAWYGD0LT00&activeTab=summary](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKZAWYGD0LT00&activeTab=summary)

- DM/24/02725/TEL - Telecommunications Mast, Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington - Prior notification for the removal and replacement of the existing 18m monopole supporting 3 no. antennas with a new 20m 5G monopole supporting 6 no. new antennas and ancillary equipment. The installation of 1 no. new 0.3m dish and 1 no. new 0.6m dish. The removal and replacement of 1 no. cabinet with 3 no. new cabinets and associated ancillary equipment within an extended compound and works thereto.

[https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKUA1GGDJP400&activeTab=summary)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKUA1GGDJP400&activeTab=summary](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SKUA1GGDJP400&activeTab=summary)

- SCR/24/00017 - Land to The West of Holland Hall Farm Park Street Willington - Request for a Screening Opinion under Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 in respect of a proposed solar farm and co-located battery energy storage system

[https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SLG51WGD0BK00&activeTab=summary)

[applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SLG51WGD0BK00&activeTab=summary](https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SLG51WGD0BK00&activeTab=summary)

Previous Planning Application Decisions

- DM/23/02084/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 7 (drainage) and 9 (pedestrian, cycle, and bus infrastructure) pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT (as amended by DM/23/02103/NMA) in relation to Phase 1 Approved 14 October 2024

- DM/24/02147/DRC - Lowfield Farm Access Road from A690 Durham Road Willington - Discharge of Conditions 15 (contaminated land), 17 (archaeology) and 19 (travel plan) pursuant to planning permission DM/18/03443/OUT Approved 31 October 2024

Previous Planning Applications Waiting Decisions

- DM/23/02085/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 3 (internal highway network), 4 (materials), 5 (surface treatments) and 6 (landscaping scheme) pursuant to DM/21/04140/RM

- DM/24/00171/RM - Land to The East Of Ash Drive, Durham Road, Willington - Reserved matters application (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) within parts of Phases 1 and 2 for the erection of up to 112 No. dwellings with associated landscaping and engineering works pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT

- DM/24/01313/FPA - The Bungalow 26 Cumberland Terrace Willington Crook DL15 0PB - Retention of static caravan, 4 No. metal containers and metal column for CCTV

- DM/24/02150/FPA - 21 Prospect Terrace Willington – First floor and two storey front and side extension including single storey rear extension
- DM/24/02067/FPA - St Aidens House High Street Willington - Change of use of existing building (Use Class E(g)) to a dwellinghouse with ancillary workspace including external alterations
- DM/24/02145/FPA - The Grange and Learning Centre, Willington - Erection of single storey therapy pod (Use Class C2)
- DM/24/02482/FPA - 169 New Row, Page Bank - Construction of a new triple garage, driveway and 1.8m high closed board fence

6. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION (OCTOBER 2024)

The DTC reported,
 The Council began in October with a starting balance of £65,923.71.
 There was expenditure of £16,937.04 and credits of £75.00, leaving an end balance of £49,061.67.
 Proposed Councillor Berry
 Seconded Councillor Smith

7. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET REPORT AND APPROVE FINANCIAL DECISIONS OCTOBER 2023)

The DTC reminded members that the original budget for 2024-2025 is £123,642.59. This is made up of Precept, LCTRS and Allotment Rent Income.
 There is a Spend to Date as of the 31st October 2024 of £66,825.04. This leaves an Available Resource on Budget of £56,817.55.
 We have received other successful funding bids which have been included under the main budget. These are itemised.
 Proposed Councillor Smith
 Seconded Councillor Berry

8. RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Savage expressed thanks to Mr Logan and the Clean & Green Team at DCC for helping with the planting.
 Councillor Jackson explained the PACT Meeting was cancelled last month. The next meeting will be 19th December 2024.
 Councillor C Hales said there is not a lot to report on allotments this month but the issues relating to certain allotments are still ongoing.
 Councillor D Hales said the building works will commence on Monday 11th November 2024 starting with the damp proofing to both floors.

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

County Councillor Gunn reported that a meeting had been held with the corporate director regarding Coronation Terrace. A statement has been received and is now on Facebook as an update. There have been two further site visits since the last town council meeting and further damage has been noted due to the high winds. There is multiple insurance companies involved. The final sign off will be in the coming day. In a few weeks, the works will commence, and site clearance will be started. DCC are still managing and monitoring the situation and works.
 Councillor Tinsley began his report updating on the fire at the Spectrum last Sunday. A meeting had taken place the previous week where County Councillor Tinsley and County Councillor Gunn met with residents and listened to their concerns. Councillor Smith was in attendance. The main points from the meeting were that the site to be

secured and to liaise with the owners of the building. Councillor Tinsley has spoken with the owners about the site, and they are looking for ways to resolve this quickly. The site has been secured superficially. Costs have been discussed in relation to demolition and time scales of when works would commence.

County Councillor Gunn expressed thanks to the Fire Department, Police, residents who reported the fire, DCC for dealing with the gushing water issues, securing the big containers and for closing the small window.

The Neighbourhood Wardens are monitoring the site.

Councillor Tinsley reported the supermarket would start works commencing the beginning of December.

Also, both County Councillors have been working on some major projects within the town, Willington AFC, Open Door Methodist Church and DACC.

They are also working hard to get some road safety measures in place on the A690.

10. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

11. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Remembrance Sunday is this weekend 10th November 2024. We have asked residents and representatives to meet us at St Stephens Church from 2pm. They can go into the Church and light a candle of Remembrance. Everyone will assemble at 2.20pm for the procession to the War Memorial. We will leave at 2.30pm and the Service at the War Memorial will commence at 3pm. There will be no service at the Church this year.

Councillor Tinsley raised concerns that full council had not been consulted on the fundamental change to the order of events.

Councillor Smith acknowledged Councillor Tinsley's frustration but highlighted that herself and Councillor D Hales had been invited to a meeting by the Deputy Town Clerk and representatives of St Stephens Church. During the discussion, the clergy explained their reasoning for not holding a Service this year but asked if it was possible to be still part of the overall event and a procession. They asked if the procession could commence at St Stephen's Church leading to the War Memorial.

Councillor D Hales said that all comments will be taken on board. It wasn't the intention to upset anyone, and no offence was intended.

Councillor Tinsley requested, going forward, all changes must be presented to Full Council for considered.

Councillor McArdle thinks more faiths should be represented in light of the growing diversity of our community.

Commemoration Service will take place at the George Burdon McKean Memorial site on Monday 11th November 2024 starting at 10.50am. We would like three people to raise the flags. Councillor C Hales, Councillor McArdle and Councillor Berry offered, and this was agreed.

Neighbourhood Wardens will be in the Town Council office, on Tuesday 12th November 2024, 12pm till 2pm.

The Pantomime this year is Aladdin. It will be held at Willington WMC on Saturday 23rd November 2024 starting at 3pm. Tickets are £3 per person. Tickets go on sale next week and can be purchased from the Town Council office and the WMC. We will have Santa in his grotto giving out a gift to all children 11 years and under. Thank you to County Councillors Fraser Tinsley and Olwyn Gunn for their Neighbourhood Budget funding.

Civic Carol Service will be on Thursday 28th November 2024 at 6pm and Christmas Tree Switch On at 7pm. Further information will follow.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th December 2024 at 6pm.