

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

18th May 2016

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Carr,
Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Graham,
Councillor Todd, Councillor Townsend, Councillor Elgie
Emma Mennouni (Community Services Officer)
County Councillor Olwyn Gunn

WELCOME

Councillor Tinsley welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. As we are now in the new office at 67 High Street, he informed those present of the housekeeping rules and fire exits within the new premises.

He said it was customary for the Chair of the Parish Council to Chair the Annual Parish meeting however as it is not a Council meeting, it can be called by local parishioners.

The Parish meeting is the opportunity for local groups to share information and update other organisations on their progress throughout the year.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Todd.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND OF PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON THE 13th MAY 2015

Councillor Tinsley asked for consideration of the last Annual Parish Meeting minutes that had been previously approved at the 3rd June 2015 meeting to enable the transaction of business.

Resolved: that the minutes are a true record as written, circulated and agreed on the 3rd June 2015.

Proposed Councillor Cogdon

Seconded Councillor Carr

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Tinsley said;

It is with pleasure I present the 2015/16 Annual Report.

At GWTC we are continuing to work to make improvements and address the challenges that we face as a Town. This has been our third year as a Council

Signed by the Chairman

Dated 1st June 2016

10th May 2017

and we increasingly work with partners to drive projects in areas ranging from environmental improvements, heritage initiatives and community safety. All of our project are driven by a commitment to improve Greater Willington as a place to live and work for all the community.

Over the past year we have been involved in a huge number of projects, many of which you will see the benefit from in the final year of this Council.

We have been successful in gaining funding to provide a new CCTV system for the town, which will help the police in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour.

We will be working to redevelop the playground on the Town Green and have committed funding to this project which we will be working to provide with Durham County Council.

We have led a project to improve the South Dene and reinstate the circular walk.

We have remembered our history with a project to erect a 'Miners Beacon Brazier' above the Town, which also played the central role in the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations.

We are seeking people's views on the provision of a new Town Square in Willington and GWTC have moved to a new office in the former Market Hotel Pub on the High Street, which will provide a new community facility for Willington and enable us to play an active role in the regeneration of the Main Street by returning this former pub to active use.

We continue to manage the town's allotments and thank Councillor Arthur Graham for his work with this. We have invested to make major improvements to Springfield Allotments and virtually all of the Town Council's allotments are now let.

This year has seen new community projects including the pantomime Aladdin, which we organised at the Working Men's Club and was a huge hit with parents and children alike. Our children's Christmas card competition, Halloween events, our hosting of the Remembrance Sunday events and the Christmas Carol service.

Most of these events are only possible because of working in partnership with other organisations. The Town Council work closely with County Councillors to fund many of these projects and other financial support has been secured from Durham County Council and Ron Hogg the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Town Council benefits from my sharing the role of both Town Mayor and County Councillor for this area along with Cllr Olwyn Gunn whom I work closely. We are able to coordinate funding to ensure that we get the most out of every penny that there is available to spend in this area.

Signed by the Chairman

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We continue to support many organisations and groups in Willington ranging from our sports clubs, playgroups, churches, charities, schools, social clubs and associations. We provide funding through our Community and Civic funds that is increasingly important in these difficult financial times. Funding provided via these programmes are detailed in the annual report

As a Town Council we have done a lot over the past year. I thank everybody for their help and support over the past year and ask for this again in the future.

On behalf of all Council members, I would like to say a huge thank you to two very special people. First, Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer. Emma has worked tirelessly over the past year and is a credit to this organisation. This has been all the more important due to the absence for long periods of Helen Cogdon our Town Clerk due to ill health. Thank you Helen for all your help and hard work before your illness and thank you for fighting it so hard to beat it.

I would also like to thank fellow Councillors for their commitment to the success of the Town Council and the time and energy they have invested in support of the G.W.T.C area.

5. COMMUNITY FORUM

County Councillor Olwyn Gunn said it has been a pleasure to work with the Town Council on many of the projects that Greater Willington Town Council has delivered.

6. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Town Council 1st June 2016 at 6.30pm
Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2017 at 6.00pm
Annual General Meeting 10th May 2017 at 6.30pm

Meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Signed by the Chairman

Dated 1st June 2016

10th May 2017