

# GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

7<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Henfrey,  
Councillor Carr, Councillor Graham, Councillor Bennett,  
Councillor Todd, Councillor Etherington  
Helen Cogdon (Town Clerk)  
Emma Mennouni (Community Services Officer)

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### WELCOME

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received by Councillor Buckham and Councillor Smith. The Clerk updated members on Councillor Buckham recent correspondence regarding his health.

Based on the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85, The Clerk reminded members;

Local Government Act 1972, section 85(1) provides that a member will cease to be a member of the authority if:

- a) They fail to attend any meetings of the authority or any other meeting as a representative of the council
- b) they have been absent for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance
- c) their absence is not due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period.

The Clerk said following the resolution to approve Councillor Buckam's leave of absence agreed at the December meeting. Consideration now needs to be given before the expiry date at the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 meeting to extend the period for a further six months.

**Resolved 1.** To continue to support the Councillor whilst he is unwell.  
**2.** To extend Councillor Buckham's absences for a further six months on the grounds of ill health.

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

#### DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND OF PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

None received

## **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2013**

Councillor Tinsley asked for consideration of the last Annual Parish Meeting minutes that had been previously approved at the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 meeting to enable the transaction of business.

**Resolved:** that the minutes are a true record as written and circulated.

Proposed: Councillor Todd

Seconded: Councillor Graham

## **THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Tinsley said;

It is a pleasure to present the 2013/14 Annual Report.

The past year has been the first year of business for the new Town Council which was formed in 2013. We have continued the work of the first Town Council assisting in resolving neighbourhood issues and working in partnership with our community groups and associations who deliver events, activities and services for our community. It has also been our first year in our new council office at 91 High Street, Willington, where we are now established and provide an open door service to the local community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Councillors for their leadership on local initiatives. We have been involved in and contributed to a number of projects over the past year. To mention just a few, these include:

The Tidy Town Campaign

Local History Interpretation Board

New Toddlers Play Area

Refurbishment of Holland Hall Seat

New seating at Armoury Fields Play Area

Resurfacing of the North Dene path

Remembrance Sunday Event

High Street Christmas Lighting Display and Christmas Trees

Willington Wood Tree Planting

Willington Citizens Advice Bureau Sessions

Provision of new Council Office and Services

Management and Maintenance of three Allotment Sites

Project work in schools

High Street development work with businesses

On budget and including the Community Fund and Civic Fund awards we have invested £56,000 into local projects, services and parish improvements. This has assisted local groups and good causes and in many cases facilitated the

release of match funding which increased the overall value of the funds to the town.

GWTC are statutory consultees on planning applications and we consider all significant planning applications submitted in our area. We have made representations on a number of planning applications over the past year. Planning Committee members have also shown an active interest in changes introduced by the Localism Act 2011 that include Neighbourhood Planning and the new community right to bid, build and challenge. GWTC have lodged a Community Right to Bid application and await approval of this from Durham County Council.

The Planning Committee has also responded to D.C.C consultation requests to inform the County Durham Plan. A significant submission document making the case for Greater Willington was lodged with the County Council. This will be considered by the Planning Inspector at the Local Plan Inquiry later in the year.

The management of allotment is an important competence of the Town Council. We let ninety six allotment plots at Springfield, Oakenshaw and Park Top to people living in our area. We also own and lease the Rosedale and Victoria Allotment Site. This continues to be a key role for the Town Council providing an important facility for the Town.

On behalf of all Council members would like to say thank you to Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer and Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk who have worked hard, on behalf of Greater Willington and the Town Council. They have consistently maintained the legal and professional standards expected of a local authority.

There have been significant challenges over the past year. It is likely that in future the Town Council are going to be called upon to play an ever increasing role in supporting services in the community in areas that have traditionally been provided by other bodies. I feel that the Town Council are now well established and in a strong position to develop and meet these challenges.

It has been a privilege to represent residents and the Town Council over the past year and I hope you enjoy reading the Annual Report which details many of the activities the Town Council has funded or worked in partnership with others in our community.

Particularly I would like to mention the valuable role our community groups play in our area for example The Cricket Club, Willington Football Club, The Scouts and St John's Ambulance. These group activities help to make a positive difference and I would like to thank them for the time and energy they invest in our town voluntarily.

I would also like to mention Freda Key who has organised the Willington Luncheon Club for a number of years. County Councillor Olwyn Gunn has

nominated Freda for a Chairman's Medal for her services to the community. It was won on this occasion by Colin Hemmingway from Crook. Freda is to receive a certificate at the AAP award ceremony. I wish her many congratulations on her success.

Councillor Graham thanked Councillor Tinsley for his years service as Town Mayor and said he had enjoyed working with him.

**COMMUNITY FORUM**

No resident's issues were raised.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 6.30 pm

6<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 6.00 pm

Signed by the Chairman .....

Dated 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014

6<sup>th</sup> May 2015