

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
12th October 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Berry, Councillor Elgie
Councillor Hales, Councillor Read,
Councillor Smith, Councillor Tinsley
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk (TC) (minutes)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from County Councillor Gunn and Emma McCann.
The Clerk said that due to work and study commitments Councillor Caroline Spirit had reluctantly submitted her resignation.
Councillor Henfrey thanked Councillor Spirit for her work on behalf of the Town Council and extended every best wish for the future.

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.

Members are reminded to update their Declaration of personal and prejudicial interest register as and when required, and as soon as is reasonably possible.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents agenda items requested through the Clerk

None Received

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 14 SEPTEMBER 2021 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th September 2021 as written and circulated were approved as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Smith

4.i TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING 21 SEPTEMBER 2021 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st September 2021 as written and circulated were approved as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Smith

5. TO APPROVE THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Berry said the actions agreed at the last meeting are being implemented.

6 . TO CONSIDERED PROJECT ACTIVITY IN THE PARISH PLAN

The Clerk said,

- **Remembrance Sunday, Sculpture and Poppy Net**

The wreathes and poppies have been delivered to the office. Public representatives will be able to collect wreathes from the 1st November 2021. The Service will be on the 14 November 2021 at 3.00pm, Willington Cenotaph. Road Closure from 2.30 pm till the parade is completed.

The Poppy Net has been collected from Judith Guthrie. The Town Council presented Judith with flowers as a thank you for all her hard work. The Council needs to agree how to display the poppy net.

Graham Hopper has created a Tommy to give to the parish community. It will be unveiled at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and then fixed permanently in place.

- **Home and Away**

The Town Council has submitted a Covid Recovery AAP Application for £9,000.

- **Willing To Bloom**

Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group has submitted a Covid Recovery AAP Application for £12,213.

- **Work with Northern Heartlands**

Jill Cole is submitting a Lottery Heritage Bid to continue working in Willington. The Clerk has written a letter of support for the bid and received a nice thank you from Jill.

Northern Heartlands will work with us to develop the Jubilee Weekend whether the lottery bid is successful or not.

She has asked for 8k match funding.

Members have agreed at the last meeting to provide Northern Heartlands with 4k each financial year.

Bruno Peek who organises the national beacon lighting programme has asked that Dui Regnare is played at 9.09pm (an updated version of what was played at the Queens Coronation) and that the beacons are lit at 9.15 pm.

Councillor Smith said the Council needs to timetable the Jubilee Steering Group future meetings.

- **Covid Memorial**

The Clerk had considered introducing a Henge. However Councillor Henfrey had suggested developing Cemetery Chapel as a Covid memorial space.

The Clerk has tried to secure the building previously under The Big Ask and had been offered it at market value.

She has submitted another Expression of Interest form to D.C.C saying that depending on the condition report it will be developed into a memorial space or an artistic ruin or folly.

6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND UPDATE ON PLANNING DECISIONS

Members agreed to look at Equestrian Lodge, Sunnybrow online.

It was noted that The Black Horse planning application was approved.

There were no further concerns expressed.

7. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk said;

The Council entered into September 2021 with a starting balance of £127,231.15.

There was £15,585.56 spent and £499.10 received leaving an available resource on budget of £112,144.69.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey
Seconded Councillor Smith

8. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT

The Clerk said the budget for 2021/22 is £117453.00. Expenditure to date is £45,938.06. Leaving an available resource on budget of £71,514.94.

There has been £12,928 spent on office refurbishment costs.

She has been meeting with a builder to look at removing the air conditioning and coolers. Also to repoint the wall to stop the invasion of damp.

A first floor radiator needs replacing at £198.00 This was agreed.

Councillor Read said he had asked staff for a copy of the business plan to describe the office refurbishment, and nothing had been forthcoming. He had been asked to come into the office to discuss matters.

He questioned the internal plan of the building, the provision of a twelve desk office space and the positioning of the fire escape.

The Clerk said the building had been purchased for 25k the intention being that this is the equivalent of being rent free in five years and then having an asset that can be reinvested into the community if the Council ends.

The refurbishment costs have been kept as low as possible and are primarily cosmetic.

The provision of twelve desks on the planning application is purely illustrative to signify office rather than residential space.

There is a second staircase that will not involve egress through the kitchen. Advice had been taken from Durham Fire and Rescue Officer.

Councillor Tinsley said the Council had always planned to work within the existing fabric of the building.

Consideration was given to Councillor Reads proposals to do more internal changes.

Councillor Henfrey said there had been a number of meetings to discuss the best way to improve the accommodation and he was happy with the decisions that have been made.

He proposed the Council continues with the plans agreed so far.

Members agreed that they preferred to keep costs to a minimum.

9. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

• Great North East Air Ambulance Service– Fund Our Fleet

The Clerk said the Council usually awards GNEAS £50.00 Civic Fund award each year.

Councillor Read said considering the excellent service they offer he felt the Council should give more. It was agreed to offer sponsorship.

Resolved 1. To sponsor GNEAS FOR £200.00.

Proposed Councillor Read

Seconded Councillor Smith

11. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

12. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Tinsley said D.C.C full council meets next week.

The budget for Council Tax and the cut in the uplift for Universal Credit will be discussed.

He is continuing to look at the car parking provision and carrying out his own case work.

13. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS REPORT

Councillor Smith said the 7 October 2021 meeting with Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner had been positive. A walk around is planned for November and the Clerk will be working on putting a project together to provide resident with security equipment. Commissioner Allen will provide some match funding.

Councillor Read said he would like to commend the Police Officer.

The Clerk said Emma Leighton D.C.C Neighbourhood Warden had advised that a section 45 letter can be issued to residents to stop leaving side waste. However on bag is acceptable.

Councillor Tinsley said the Masterplan is moving forward he is working with the contact group. County Councillors, staff and the three towns group have been working on the Levelling Up Bid. There will be consultation on this in November.

Councillor Read said he thought that the Council should look to achieve Green Flag Status for the Town Green. The Clerk will explore the feasibility of this suggestion with D.C.C.

Councillor Read said the website is out of date. All the meeting minutes are absent, the office opening hours need updating. The Neighbourhood Plan decision statement is missing.

The Clerk said she agreed that the more recent minutes should be published and she will get them signed. The meetings held over lock down were Extra Ordinary Meetings and therefore would not be put on the website.

She will update to say the office is open. She would question the Neighbourhood Plan information as she had received a thank you for putting it on from the officer involved. Agreed to make contact with Mark Etherington.

The Clerk said the Halloween event is usually in the office but she has arranged it in the Working Mens Club this year on the 28th October 2021, 5.30 – 7.30. There will be a Magic Show, fun and games and fancy dress and pumpkin competitions. Any help members can give would be appreciated.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

14th December 2021 at 6pm