

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
11th April 2023

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Berry, Councillor Savage, Councillor Smith, Councillor Elgie
Councillor McArdle, Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Jackson, Councillor Jordan
Emma McCann (DTC)
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk (TC) (minutes)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor D Hales, Councillor C Hales, County Councillor Gunn

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.

None received.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 14th MARCH 2023
MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Page 5. The Clerk confirmed that Euphorbia had not been used in the planters.

Any matters arising will be given through officer reports.

The minutes as written and circulated were signed and taken as a true record.

Proposed. Councillor Berry

Seconded. Councillor Elgie

**5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND UPDATE ON PLANNING
DECISIONS**

New Planning Applications

- DM/23/00674/PA - Land South East Of Whitworth Lane Brancepeth - Prior approval application for the erection of 1 No. agricultural building

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RR9DYWGD0BK00>

- DM/23/00695/NMA - Stockley View, Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw - Non-material amendment to approval DM/22/01695/FPA, for the conversion of agricultural building to dwelling, to allow the installation of a window to the north elevation to serve the stairwell

For Information Only: Approved 11/04/2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RRBEAXGDJ8U00&activeTab=summary>

Previous Planning Application Decisions

No approved applications since the last meeting.

Previous Planning Applications Waiting Decisions

- DM/19/02002/OUT – Site of Former Kensington Hall Hotel, Kensington Terrace, Willington – Housing development of 9 no. dwellings (Outline – All Matters Reserved Other Than Access) (Amended 21/04/2021)
- DM/21/04140/RM - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive, Willington - Reserved matters application (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the erection of 88 no. dwellings pursuant to outline planning permission DM/17/00244/OUT (up to 200 dwellings with all matters reserved except access)
- DRC/22/00261 - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive, Willington - Discharge of Conditions 5 (Construction Management Plan and Method Statement), 6 - (coal mining legacy), 8 (off-site highways), 10 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment), 14 (contaminated land) and 16 (archaeology) pursuant to planning permission DM/18/03443/OUT (erection of up to 200 dwellings).
- DM/22/03106/FPA - Plots 1-3 Oakenshaw Allotments, New Row, Oakenshaw - Erection of pigeon loft, raised lawn area with steps, roof over log shed and pergola (retrospective)
- DM/22/03708/NMA - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive, Willington - Non-material amendment to condition 16 (archaeology) pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT
- DM/22/03678/VOC - 52 Armstrong Drive, Willington - Variation of Condition 2 (Plans) in relation to planning permission DM/21/01808/FPA for resize first floor side window, reduce number of first floor rear windows, additional ground floor side windows and alterations to bi-fold door
- DM/23/00295/DRC - Land To The North Of Hawthorn Drive And West Of Hill Meadows, Willington - Discharge of condition 10 (Ball Stop Fencing) pursuant to permission DM/20/01960/VOC
- DM/23/00585/FPA - 3 Woodlands Close, Oakenshaw - Single storey side and rear extension
- DM/23/00437/FPA - 82A High Street, Willington - Change of use of first and second floor residential flat to hair and beauty salon (Sui Generis)
- DM/23/00443/FPA - Oak House, 21A Acorn Drive, Oakenshaw - Conversion of outbuilding to home office

6. TO RECEIVE THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Berry said;

Allotment Invoices and supporting paperwork was sent to tenants in May Rents are still being collected. People are encouraged to pay by bank transfer. Thank you to Emma for her hard work it's a busy time of year for staff.

Fairly Quiet as it is the start of the growing season.

Actions are continuing at Oakenshaw with gates signage, locks & keys, muddy track, cockerels and Planning application discussions

Springfields has deteriorated due to the number of voids. Efforts are being made to address this.

Park Top is still in recovery from Tenancy issues. The burnt-out plot is not to be relet. New Fencing is proposed for the cockerel site where glass appears to be an issue.

Councillor Henfrey reported a Cockerel at Springfield

The report was noted.

7. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

i)Project Updates.

The Clerk said;

Warm Spaces

The Clerk gained authority from County Durham foundation to spend the remainder 2022/23 grant on a refrigerator, portable wheelchair ramps and a baby changing station. They have been ordered and delivered.

A further £210 has been spent on craft materials and equipment.

The application for the £500 Top Up grant has been successful this will be used to continue craft and other activities.

Well Being for Life have also agreed to delivered a range of taster courses on a Tuesday at 1.30pm.

Easter

The DTC organised an Easter competition with Councillor Hales that was displayed in the Shop Windows. There were fourteen entries. The children had fun finding the answers.

The winning entries were

1. Zoe H
2. Leon S
3. Evie May R

Coronation

Ideas are;

Portrait of Charles and Camilla for Schools.

Coronation activity packs.

Coronation Craft Session with children 2nd May 2023.

Dress your Teddy Bear at the Coronation picnic 7th May 12.00 till 2.00pm. Bring your own blankets.

GWTC to decide if we provide food.

New Coronation flags for flag raising.

Council requested to allocate up to £2000.

Events Programme

Funday 29th July 2023

The Clerk is finalising an application to National Lottery Community Fund this will include £1300 towards Away Days. Fail safe applications will be submitted through CDCF.

Sag work has started.

Recommend that the Council allocates £1500 to the Away Days.

Festival 23/24 September 2023

Applications are going to Comic Relief, DCC Events Fund £5000, NB £2000 and others.

Meeting with Ben Tinkler 27.04.2023, 10 am to do a Fantasy Weekend project planning session.

Contacted the Band Agent who is emailing available bands and costs.

SAG work has started.

This was agreed.

ii) Environmental Improvements

Planting Update.

Thank you to Simon a new volunteer who has been a massive help with recent planting. The crocuses planted with St Thomas school at cinema green put on an amazing display flowering slightly later than the other areas as the most recently planted. bulbs An email was received from a visitor saying how the crocus display at Low Willington was gorgeous and made her smile when visiting Willington. She has taken photographs to show to her local council to do the same.

The Bluebell Carpet has been planted at the wildflower area.

Snowdrops have been interplanted between the lavender rows in the two beds on the green.

The Winter Flame bed has been installed thank you to D.C.C for digging out and Councillor Smith and Savage who planted with the Clerk and volunteers.

Wildflower Areas

Councillor Savage said;

It is intended to plant on the Pit Heap and town green fenceline.

Hanging Baskets

Thinford nursery are waiting for the hanging basket order.

Northumbria In Bloom Competition

A meeting has been arranged with Andrew Jackson, Northumbria In Bloom mentor on Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 10 am. This is to advise on what the judges will be looking for.

Our entry will be judged on the 25 April 2023 at 10 am.

Information has been forwarded that The Royal Horticultural Society has launched a new grant – RHS Connected Communities which is open to Britain in Bloom and Its Your Neighbourhood groups. Grants between £1000 and £5000 will be available to create or develop existing networks. They are looking for application from networks of three groups or more.

The Bird Houses are now in situ thank you to sponsors Hill top Motors, and residents.

Joe is going into property development starting with a Bug Hotel.

Councillor Henfrey asked what was happening with the installation of infrastructure on Burn Farm opposite car garage.

Councillor Tinsley said it was Northern Water.

Councillor Jackson said he had been approached to site a defibrillator at the Black Horse Tavern.

8. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

County Councillor Tinsley said;

He regrettably had to report on the said death of Beaty Bainbridge. Members agreed to forward their condolences.

The Open School Transport Service Information has been circulated by the Clerk.

Parking charges are now required after 2pm.

Dog fouling is causing problems, hotspots are being monitored.

9. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION (March 2023)

The Clerk said;

The Council entered into March with a starting balance of £21,931.35.

There was expenditure of £5,387.01 and £1,451.45 credit was received. Leaving an end balance of £17,95.79.

Proposed Councillor Elgie

Seconded Councillor Jackson

10. APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT (March 2023)

The Clerk said she had added additional grant money received into projects and £415 into petty cash. There has been expenditure £128,928.10 leaving an available resource on budget of – (£3,979.03).

The deficit was explained at the last meeting due to the Transcendit service and the unforeseen national pay award and rising costs overall.

The 2023/24 precept and grant has been received from DCC £116,499. Next year's annual budget is £121,499.

The 2023/24 staffing budget is sufficient. The office costs may overspend however Transcendit costs will reduce and members agreed at the last meeting to allocate two further instalments of 5k into the budget from council funds if required.

The year-end figures show current account £14,166.98
deposit account £74,420.08

The report was agreed.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor Smith

11. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

None Received.

12. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

None Received

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

16th May 2023 at 6pm.