

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
14th February 2023

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Smith, Councillor Berry, Councillor Elgie,
Councillor Jordan, Councillor Savage, Councillor C Hales,
Councillor D Hales, Councillor McArdle, Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Jackson
County Councillor Gunn
Emma McCann (Deputy Town Clerk (DTC))
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk (TC) (minutes)

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
None received.

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 13th DECEMBER 2022 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**
Page 1. Councillor Jordan was in attendance.
Any other matters arising will be given through officer reports.
The minutes as written and circulated were taken as a true record.
Proposed Councillor Jackson
Seconded Councillor Smith

5. **TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND UPDATE ON PLANNING DECISIONS**
New Planning Applications
 - DM/22/03656/FPA - 2 Trinity Gardens, Willington - Erection of fence to rear

For Information Only: Approved Fri 03 Feb 2023
<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RMMPS2GDI0600&activeTab=summary>
 - DM/22/03708/NMA - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive, Willington - Non-material amendment to condition 16 (archaeology) pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT

For Information Only: Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Tue 10 Jan 2023
<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=RMW4TIGDI3000>
 - DM/22/03750/FPA - St Stephens Church Of England Primary School Hall Lane Estate Willington - Demolition of existing dilapidated 2 classroom demountable and rebuild of a

brick standalone traditional built 2 Classroom building. Built in brickwork and grey timber cladding. Roof grey single ply membrane.

For Information Only - Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Tue 24 Jan 2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=RN4ZLNZGD0JO00>

- DM/22/03563/FPA - 11 Carville Estate, Willington - Detached dwelling and alterations to existing bungalow (Resubmission)

Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Mon 13 Feb 2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RM64QKGD0A000&activeTab=summary>

- DM/22/03639/FPA - 154 School Row, Oakenshaw - Replacement of existing wooden garage with breezeblock with stone coloured render replacement.

For Information Only - Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Mon 06 Feb 2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=RMKK4SGDHZA00>

- 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

Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Wed 15 Feb 2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=RMTTCPGD0JA00>

- DM/23/00276/PNA - Land South East Of Whitworth Lane - Erection of 1 No. agricultural building for general agricultural storage (machinery, feed, bedding etc)

Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Fri 24 Feb 2023

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=dates&keyVal=RPFYADGDIOK00>

- 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

<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RPHT15GDIPL00>

Previous Planning Application Decisions

No previous planning applications have been decided 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).

For Information Only - Standard Consultation Expiry Date - Fri 19 Aug 2022

- DM/22/02571/FPA – 2 Country View, Oakenshaw – Conversion of stables to 1No. holiday let

Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Thursday 13 October 2022

- 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)

Councillor Smith said workers have been seen excavating in the field opposite Brownley & Townsend.

6. TO RECEIVE THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Hales circulated the following report;

Springfield

Allotments, 6,7,8/9 and 10 Rubbish, wood in piles old containers and little evidence of serious cultivation, lots of weeds 8/9 fence has blown down exposed and neglected. 11 appears to have a fenced off area which is used as a depository for rubbish. 30/31 appear to be neglected and overrun with weeds integrity of some structures questionable, 26 there is little evidence of cultivation or preparation for new season. 27, accumulation of rubbish noted.

There was a loose bird noted on plot 29, but could have come from elsewhere not certain it was a cockerel. Did not hear a cockerel.

There are a majority of well -tended allotments with hens carefully secured as per regulations. Good evidence of over winter cultivation and preparation for new growing season. Congratulations to the respective tenants

Oakenshaw

Majority of allotments reflect preparations for the coming growing season and pre-cultivation is obvious. Plot 44 remains a fundamentally ornamental cottage garden, 42 evidence of potential cultivation but uncertain as to 50%. Keep an eye on. 30 appears to have had little done since last season, overgrown. 22 a loose hen has obviously escaped from a coop, where a small number of hens are being kept and unable to get back in. I suspect. Plot 18 is predominately grass and lawn. Need to maintain a vigilance here. Plot 17 ducks and hens in together, though I am sure this is allowed, they were certainly contained. Plot 16 needs addressing over the next inspections. Plots that are applying for planning permission have objected to the Councils guidance. This work is being continued.

Park Top

Did not have the time to visit Park Top. Some allotments still need some clearance especially of rubble waste. Fencing has been replaced on January 30th and two plots to be created. Park Top has historic issues but there are keen tenants who are to be congratulated for their continuing hard work on a site which has some intractable problems.

A general point would be to acknowledge the systematic lack of numbers which does make it difficult to identify specific allotments. Is there an opportunity here to review the numbers and make sure all can be seen/replaced where necessary? Cost?

Proposed Councillor Berry
Seconded Councillor Smith
The report was approved.

7. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

i) Project Updates.

The Clerk said;

Newsletter

The Newsletter has been returned from the printers and will be delivered in March or sooner if possible.

Warm Spaces

The County Durham Community Foundation Warm Space funding application submitted by the Clerk was successful. The adoption of the Warm Spaces Charter has been advertised in the newsletter, website and in the office.

Take up has been quieter than expected however people are benefitting from signposting services provided in the office.

CDCF have offered the Council the opportunity to apply for an additional £500 Top Up grant.

Website

Information has been sent to ID Creative to update the website. Members have been asked to pass on their comments. The Deputy Town Clerk will be meeting with Mark Etherington to discuss improvements and changes.

This was agreed.

ii) Environmental Improvements

Tree Planting

The three new Silver Birch trees have been ordered. The maintenance fee has been waived as DCC has agreed to take possession of the trees. Tree planting will be very soon once date agreed.

Planters.

Two new planters have been delivered by Cornerstone to North Lane. D.C.C have kindly agreed to top up the compost. To save money and ensure all year-round colour they will be planted with evergreens, grasses and ivy. So that less winter and summer bedding plants will be needed.

It is hoped to assign volunteers to planters who will help water and feed the plants throughout the year.

Flower Beds

The Winter Flame bed has been designed. The plants have been selected from New Row Nursery, Tow Law. DCC Clean and Green have fully supported the plan.

Again, volunteers wanted to keep it the newly planted bed healthy.

Hanging Baskets

The Licence and Attachment requests have been submitted to DCC Highways. The advice given is that If the structural testing is within scope and date, the right to occupy is only required.

To liaise with the Home and Away project baskets so that they all come from the same supplier (Thinford Nursery) to provide a bigger impact.

Waiting for a response to the enquiry made to Roch on structural testing.

Northumbria In Bloom

Members are aware from information already circulated following the Its Your Neighbourhood Award, we were invited to enter the main Northumbria in Bloom Competition.

There are a number of categories and which ones to enter are yet to be decided. We will receive help from an NIB officer and access to two funding streams.

The entry form has been submitted £125.00.

Bin It to Win It

Recently been sent information about Bin It to Win It litterlotto local which members may be interested in. It aims to reduce litter through behavioural change.

It encourages people to download the app, take a picture as you bin litter and enter the Jackpot £1000 weekly draw. They are inviting Councils to work with them on a litterlotto local campaign.

They can also include a range of information on recycling, litter free zones, bin collection etc.

The Clerk would have to look into find out if I need a licence from the Gambling Commission.

If you would like to consider running a Greater Willington Lottery, 19 Councils run their own lotteries currently.

- A council can run a lottery to raise funds to cover anything for which you (as a local authority) have the power to incur expenditure. For example, local community projects, arts centres or parks and leisure facilities.

Councillor McArdle said litterlotto would probably want a commission.

Agreed that there was the opportunity to set up something similar if members wish to proceed.

The report was approved.

8. TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

The Clerk circulated a summary document and adoption of the Civility and Respect pledge was agreed.

8.1 CIVILITY AND RESPECT TRAINING DAY

The Clerk asked members if they would like to attend training on the 9th March 2023, Oak leaf Sports Centre, Newton Aycliffe.

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

County Councillor Gunn said;

The levelling up bid for Willington wasn't successful. The five bids were all rejected. Over 2million spent on putting bids in.

Councillor Tinsley said they had moved the goal posts.

THE County Councillors have met with the AAP to access the Town and Villages Fund. They hope to introduce better signage at the bypass, gateway treatment, traffic calming Rockingham Road, multi-use games area on the Town Green.

Consultation on Devolution is to start. Durham came in too late to discussions to achieve a Durham Only Bid. It is intended that there is an elected mayor for the North East Region.

More consultation to follow on the Home To School Transport Scheme. This has a huge spend of £24.3 million.

DCC Cabinet recommended a 5% Council Tax rise.

She has been working with the Clerk on the Heritage 100 Walk. It is hoped to develop a Willington walk story next year.

Father David is retiring in June. It will be nice to arrange a thank you for him.

Councillor Tinsley said;
DCC Council Tax is now £60.00 for Band A.

The coalition is to cancel free parking after 2pm.

Rob George has been engaged with Willington Primary School, Tree Planting at The Pulverite.

Improvements are being made to the Coop car park.

Information will be made available on the new divisional boundaries. There will not be a North West Durham constituency.

Councillor Gunn said housing complaints are on the increase. 30% of children in the North East live in poverty. This is causing an increased caseload for County Councillors.

10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION (December 2022 and January 2023)

The Clerk said;

The Council entered into December with a starting balance of £45,836.63.

There was expenditure of £8,044.11 and £1,577 received leaving an end balance of £39,369.52.

The Council entered into January with a starting balance of £39,369.52.

There was expenditure of £8,285.30 and £746.00 received leaving an end balance of £31,830.22.

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor Elgie

12. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT (January 2023)

The Clerk said there has been expenditure £108,424.46 leaving an available resource on budget of £11,714.54.

Councillor Tinsley asked what the £7,007,72 overspend in office services was for. The Clerk said these were the Transcendit costs, Solicitors fees, unanticipated repairs and testing a general increase in all normal costs in that part of the budget that was not known.

The 2023/24 Precept and LCTRS request of £116,499 was submitted on the 4th January 2023 in advance of the submission date.

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor Jackson

14. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

None Received.

The DTC said Dovedale Centre have extended their thanks for their Community Fund Award.

15. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

King Charles Coronation 6th May 2023

The Big Lunch 7th May 2023

Councillor Henfrey asked about the defibrillator at the Spar. Councillor Gunn said the Spar had been sent the information and one was to be installed inside The Open Door Church.

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

14th March 2023 at 6pm