

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
10th October 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D Hales, Councillor Smith
Councillor Berry, Councillor Elgie, Councillor C Hales
Councillor Savage, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Jackson,
Councillor McArdle, Councillor Tinsley
Emma McCann (DTC) (Minutes)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Olwyn Gunn.
Proposed Councillor Savage
Seconded Councillor Elgie

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 declared.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident agenda items requested through the Clerk.
None received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th September 2024, as written, and circulated, were agreed as a true record.
Councillor D Hales signed the minutes.
Proposed Councillor Jackson
Seconded Councillor C Hales

MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Planning Applications

- DM/24/02145/FPA - The Grange And Learning Centre, Willington - Erection of single storey therapy pod (Use Class C2)
<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SHR63UGDIV700>
 - DM/24/02482/FPA - 169 New Row, Page Bank - Construction of a new triple garage, driveway and 1.8m high closed board fence
<https://publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SJJZWUGDJD900&activeTab=summary>
- For Information Only – Standard Consultation Expiry Date: Friday 4 October 2024

Previous Planning Application Decisions

• DM/24/01391/NMA – 8 Prospect Place, Sunnybrow - Non-material amendment pursuant to planning permission DM/22/01284/FPA. Changing pitched roof over single storey garage to a flat roof, removal of two of the roof lanterns, changing folding door set to window in new extension, blocking up existing window, minor internal layout changes Refused – 11 September 2024

Previous Planning Applications Waiting Decisions

- DM/23/02084/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 7 (drainage) and 9 (pedestrian, cycle and bus infrastructure) pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT (as amended by DM/23/02103/NMA) in relation to Phase 1
- DM/23/02085/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 3 (internal highway network), 4 (materials), 5 (surface treatments) and 6 (landscaping scheme) pursuant to DM/21/04140/RM
- DM/24/00171/RM - Land To The East Of Ash Drive, Durham Road, Willington - Reserved matters application (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) within parts of Phases 1 and 2 for the erection of up to 112 No. dwellings with associated landscaping and engineering works pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT
- DM/24/01313/FPA - The Bungalow 26 Cumberland Terrace Willington Crook DL15 0PB - Retention of static caravan, 4 No. metal containers and metal column for CCTV
- DM/24/02147/DRC - Lowfield Farm Access Road From A690 Durham Road Willington - Discharge of Conditions 15 (contaminated land), 17 (archaeology) and 19 (travel plan) pursuant to planning permission DM/18/03443/OUT
- DM/24/02150/FPA - 21 Prospect Terrace Willington – First floor and two storey front and side extension including single storey rear extension
- DM/24/02067/FPA - St Aidens House High Street Willington - Change of use of existing building (Use Class E(g)) to a dwellinghouse with ancillary workspace including external alterations

6. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION (SEPTEMBER 2024)

The DTC reported,

The Council began in September with a starting balance of £86,696.87.

There was expenditure of £21,273.16 and credits of £500, leaving an end balance of £65,923.71.

The credit of £500 was a successful funding application to Believe Housing to pay towards the North East Play Bus at the Family Fun Day on Saturday 28th September 2024.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor Savage

7. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET REPORT AND APPROVE FINANCIAL DECISIONS (SEPTEMBER 2023)

The DTC reminded members that the original budget for 2024-2025 is £123,642.59. This is made up of Precept, LCTRS and Allotment Rent Income.

There is a Spend to Date as of the 30th September 2024 of £56,208.83. This leaves an Available Resource on Budget of £67,433.76.

We have received other successful funding bids which have been included under the main budget. These are itemised.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor McArdle

The DTC has been working on the VAT reclaim and it is due to be submitted. The estimated income back will be in the region of £20,500. It is suggested to use this allocation to cover the remaining costs of the Family Fun Day 2024 and to offset against any overspent budget headings.

Proposed Councillor Berry
Seconded Councillor Jackson

An email was previously circulated regarding the two deciduous trees on the corner of the town green which are lit with lights and spheres each year for Christmas.

We have been informed by DCC Street Lighting Team that we need some repair works to the trees. The works will include using black cabling so that it is more discreet, rather than the white and blue cabling that was used previously, new connector boxes and securing the Christmas lights as they keep getting pulled by the kids and left hanging down. The cost implication is in the region of £2,500+VAT. We have already been quoted for the installation of everything related to Christmas Lighting (£10,473.68 +VAT).

We have no column testing to do this year. Our Budget for Christmas is £15,000.

Proposed Councillor Savage
Seconded Councillor Smith

Regarding the CCTV camera that was removed from the old William Hill shop, the owner and tenant have agreed for us to install the camera back on the building. Their supplier is EDF and the unit rate is 28.8p per kwh. They will invoice the town council for the CCTV part of the bill. I will check with the company if they do this quarterly or annually.

Proposed Councillor Smith
Seconded Councillor Henfrey

The services for Remembrance are being organised. The cost of the Road Closure will be £520 plus VAT. The wreaths have been ordered direct to the Town Council as there is currently no Poppy Organiser for our Parish. Correspondence will be circulated tomorrow to local businesses and community groups to notify them of the events.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey
Seconded Councillor C Hales

The flag poles at the George Burdon McKean site are due their annual service. To maintain their warranty, a service is required. This is at a cost of £520 +VAT for all three poles.

Proposed Councillor Smith
Seconded Councillor Hales

8. RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Savage and volunteers had tried to dig up the crocus on the corner of the town green but it proved a difficult task. The children from Our Lady & St Thomas Catholic Primary School had helped plant them originally and would have liked to replant elsewhere. Councillor Savage informed members that a letter had been sent to businesses to see if they would be willing to donate plants.

An email was being sent to Parkside to see if the students would be interested in making bird boxes for the local community.

There are currently 6 planters within the parish, two of which were recently replaced. They were refreshed with plants today.

Greater Willington Parish has been awarded a Silver Gilt for the second year running. Also received an award for winning the Small Town category.

Councillor Henfrey asked for an update on the issue that has occurred in the office relating to the smell etc. All councillors were informed that Pest Control had been out and assessed the offices but findings were inconclusive. They suggested we have the floor opened up for access which was carried out.

While the joiner was removing part of the floor, it was evident there was a joist that needed replacing. This will be done prior to the floor being fully reinstated. The front of the building and the cellar had received some works.

There is quite a bit of rubbish stored in the yard at the rear of the building. We require a skip to remove this. The cellar hatch is starting to rot and is leaking. It has been advised that this is replaced with a metal cover.

Councillor Berry asked whether the cuts in budgets will affect the bus that travels to Oakenshaw. Councillor Tinsley informed the meeting that he isn't aware of any planned cuts or disruptions to the services. Councillor Berry said she would email Councillor Tinsley with the concerns, and he will forward them on.

Councillor C Hales informed members of situations at Park Top Allotments. The main issue being how dangerous the site is due to the steep decline to the bottom part of the site. Councillor Berry has been in contact with DCC to see what guidance and advice they can provide. A proposed meeting with a DCC officer has been discussed for the end of October. Councillor C Hales said we are looking at revising the allotment awards for next year.

Councillor D Hales thanked members for their help towards the fun day. It was a really great day, and we have received lots of positive feedback, especially that the majority of the activities were free.

Councillor D Hales applied for funding through the UKSPF Infrastructure Fund and has been successful. We are now able to begin the work on the damp proofing, new downstairs kitchen and a stairlift. The amount to be received is £17,000.

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Tinsley informed members the new budget is being consulted on at the moment. Both County Councillors have large caseworks, dealing with issues in the area, particularly ASB.

Work is continuing relating to the explosion that occurred in June 2024. The letters relating to the rat situation were distributed following the last meeting. Some letters have come in and been forwarded on to DCC Pest Control. Councillor Smith asked Councillor Tinsley what is happening regarding a clean up of the street where the explosion was. Councillor Tinsley reported that this matter would be brought up with the Officers addressing the matter as part of ongoing liaison with them. This was actioned with the Civil Contingencies Team.

10. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

No new applications received.

Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group have passed their thanks to the Council for their grant of £499.82.

11. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The office will be closed all next week. We will reopen at 9am on Monday 21st October 2024.

Councillor Savage asked Councillor Tinsley if it would be possible to demolish the toilet on the grassed corner area of the High Street. He replied that DCC would need to check if the toilet was used and they may need to have a consultation to see if it could be demolished.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th November 2024 at 6pm.