

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
2nd December 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham, Councillor Etherington
Councillor Carr, Councillor Smith, Councillor Todd,
Councillor Elgie, Councillor Townsend
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Greensmith and Councillor Cogdon.
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by
Councillor Henfrey.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

**Members are reminded to update their Declaration of personal and prejudicial
interest register as and when required, as soon as is reasonably possible.**
No

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.
None received to Agenda at the meeting.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON
THE 4th NOVEMBER 2015**

Matters arising (for information only)

Item 4. The amendment for the £50 donation for the Older persons lunch was resolved
in consideration of Standing Orders.

Members clarified they were willing to consider sponsorship for group activities. Any
decision however would be at members' discretion within the Communication,
Marketing and Sponsorship Budget.

Item 5. Proposed Motion. Councillor Todd asked that he was minuted as suggesting the
Fowlers Pet Shop as another venue for the Council Office.

Item 8. Councillor Tinsley Declared an interest in the Machinery Garage at the Cricket
Club saying that he had got involved in helping with its demolition.

Item 15. The Civic Fund award to the North of England Brass Band Championship is
£50.00. This was approved.

The minutes of the 4th November 2015 as printed and circulated were then approved
and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey
Seconded Councillor Smith

5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The D.C.C Website has been offline and however there has been no representations
made by residents to the Council.

6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS

As Item 5.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said there had been a water leak at Park Top Allotments which had not been reported.

Springfield Allotments are still waiting for the top boundary road and although he understands the balance with the new planning application, he does not want to be waiting for the road.

Councillor Tinsley said this issue would be covered under reserve matters within the planning application. The Council needs to be clear about the final submission date. He will contact the Planning Consultants.

8. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Smith said a car had exploded on the gable end of Kensington Terrace. This is the second car. The police are involved and when they attended they were proactive and amazing. She asked can we as a council put pressure on the letting agents?

Councillor Tinsley said there is a landlord registration scheme but it is not statutory.

County Councillor Gunn said to report immediately as there is no PACT meeting in December. She mentioned that Mike Barton, Chief Constable, was at November PACT Meeting. Councillor Graham asked how do we find out when Mike Barton will be attending the meetings. County Councillor Gunn said he is deployed on an hourly basis. He had stayed until the end of the meeting and participated throughout.

Councillor Todd said the Royal British Legion will be holding a Christmas Raffle with some beautiful jewellery prizes.

WCA had also received a letter regarding the teaching assistants issue. Councillor Tinsley said that the council had also just received a letter at the start of this meeting but he would deal with this as County Councillor.

Councillor Henfrey reported that the green bin issue had been resolved.

Councillor Tinsley said the Market Hotel is to commence building work end of January. Councillor Carr asked who owns it to which Councillor Tinsley said Paul Sylvest. He will chase up the lease.

He reminded councillors about Parkside Academy Christmas Lunch which they have all been invited.

Remembrance Sunday was on the 8th November 2015. Despite the bad weather, many residents and representatives turned up to mark the occasion. He thanked everyone especially the Royal British Legion. Councillor Todd said he will provide some ready mix concrete for the plinth.

Christmas Pantomime which is sponsored by the council, DCC and Willington WMC will take place on Saturday 5th December 2015 at 3pm. Tickets are now available at the council office and the club. £1.50 for children and £2 for adults.

Christmas Lights will be put up on Sunday 6th December and the tree will be up on 8th December ready for the official switch on.

He said there are still some readings available in the Order of Service if Councillors would like to do one. Councillor Todd said he would read one. Helen Cogdon Town Clerk said Geoff Siddle had offered previously to do one if necessary.

The Civic Carol Service will take place on Friday 11th December 2015 at Willington Methodist Church starting at 6pm. This will be the last event we hold in this Church before they move to their newly built Church.

The Christmas tree lights will then be switched on at 7pm by Mason Campion. We have purchased 24 new motifs to replace the old tired looking ones and to extend the display.

Nature Reserve with Banks and OCA has confirmed the building can be built, insurance can be transferred.

There is still an issue regarding fixing the pond but this is being looked at.

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

County Councillor Gunn who was not present at the last meeting said it was good to see Helen Cogdon back.

Improvements to play area are in the pipeline and will be supported by Section 106 money.

PACT meetings are there for the community and it is important that people turn up as priorities are set by the people who attend. The meetings are held the last Thursday of each month at 6pm at WCA. There will be no meeting in December. Posters are up around the area with the dates.

Reaction to the proposed closure of DLI at Aykley Heads has been significant but the collection will remain available to the public.

Teaching Assistants consultation. No decisions have been made. Talking to officers and portfolio holders to ensure they have the best conditions of service.

Devolution will bring changes. There will be an elected Mayor.

30 million a year for 30 years shared over 7 Local Authorities. Durham is the only council to ask residents opinions in a public poll that will take place at the end of January.

Cllr Gunn discussed the recent Scrutiny Committee Children and Young People regarding the impact of Welfare Reform

Working Age Adults £560 per year would be lost by working adults.

They are hoping to keep children out of poverty.

Police and Crime Commissioner Poverty Action Plan is up for consultation.

Large number of young carers have been identified in the County. The Bridge for carers who support parents who are ill is an importance initiative. DCC funds the Bridge. This should be included on the agenda for school government bodies and AAP Partnership

Level of achievement Key Stage 2 7-11 years is above the national average. Also 3&4. Improved dramatically in stage 1.

10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION

Councillor Tinsley said the online banking system is back up and running after receiving a new token machine to access the latest figures. This month we will look at bank statements for October and November 2015.

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1st October 2015 was £25,450.11 with credits of £1,471.39 and minus debits of £8,035.14 leaving a balance of £18,886.36 on the 31st October 2015.

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1st November 2015 was £18,886.36 with credits of £5,643.76 and minus debits of £5,080.06 leaving a balance of £19,450.06 on the 30th November 2015.

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Henfrey

11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT

Councillor Tinsley said the budget for 2015/16 is £117,667. Spend to date £69,698.04 with a further £1581.68 committed. Leaving an available resource on budget of £46,387.28

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Henfrey

12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

Three civic fund applications have been received.

Butterwick House provides respite support and end of life care to families in the area since 1998. Their services are provided free of charge to families for as long as they need to, including pre and post bereavement support, sibling support, complementary therapies, specialist pain and symptom control and end of life care. Butterwick House is the only children's hospice between Newcastle and Wetherby offering this service to patients from new born to young adults. They are asking for a donation towards the running costs of this service.

Jonathon Willis, a student from St Johns Sixth Form College has asked for a donation towards a joint school project. In the summer of next year himself and fellow students will travel to a city in Peru called Iquitos where they will carry out charity work for The Peru Mission who helped disadvantaged Peruvian people. It will cost £1900 per student in order to travel and complete this mission.

Durham Cathedral would like a donation towards the running costs of the Cathedral. Following a 20 month programme of capital works, in spring 2016 they will be opening their new exhibition spaces, Open Treasure at Durham Cathedral. It will showcase the Cathedrals historic and captivating collections through a rolling programme of exhibitions which will also feature items from other national and international institutions. Open Treasure represents a commitment to retaining free entry to the Cathedral Church while trying to find new ways to meet the rising cost of maintaining the cathedrals buildings and open spaces. The donation would be used towards the welfare and upkeep of this icon of the North East.

As there is only £150 available in this section of the budget, it was agreed to award each of the three applicants £50 each and transfer £200 from the Community Fund budget for the rest of the financial year.

Proposed Councillor Todd
Seconded Councillor Carr

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillor Graham asked if there were any floor plans for the new offices at the Market. Councillor Tinsley said he has a hand drawn plan he can provide.

Councillor Todd said any project projects wanting to apply for the AAP must do so by December 14th 2015.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th January 2015 at 6.30 pm

PART B

1. Consideration of the 2015/2016 Precept Requirement

Councillor Tinsley said he had been in discussions with staff with regard to the 2016/17 Precept.

He tabled the draft budget proposal which requires a precept increase of £ 1.02 per annum (1.99%) for Band D properties. From £51.27 to £52.29 pa.

This allowed for an annual budget increase of £3.107.31 (3.12%) on the 2015/16 Budget. (Excluding other external funding achievements).

Following the former three year budget planning process which necessitated making difficult decisions, the Council is now in a secure financial position.

Despite a decrease in the LCTRS Grant the tax base increase arising from new build has resulted in in the opportunity to limit the annual Council Tax payable to the Town Council.

Councillor Tinsley asked Member consider the proposed precept request and approve this at the 13th January 2016 Council meeting for submission to D.C.C by 29th January 2016.

2. Correspondence

Councillor Tinsley said an email had been received from Ian Hirst Spectrum Trust, C.E.O in respect of the position of the Town Council with regard to the Miners Welfare Hall. No issues were raised that were not addressed in earlier correspondence.