

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
14th January 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Greensmith
Councillor Smith, Councillor Bennett, Councillor Graham
Councillor Todd
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk

Councillor Tinsley wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Carr, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Buckham, Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer and County Councillor Gunn. Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Cogdon.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests to speak had been received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

3rd DECEMBER 2014

The minutes of the 3rd December 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Cogdon

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

Matters arising (for information only)

Councillor Greensmith asked what was happening with The Miners Welfare Hall.

Councillor Graham said no one could define what it can be used for.

Councillor Greensmith asked if SLAM could be asked what the plans for the building were. She said she had safety concerns as the building was being allowed to deteriorate.

Councillor Todd agreed with Councillor Greensmith's comments.

Councillor Todd said he had been involved in the plans to refurbish the Dovedale Centre which had been featured in The Northern Echo with the Dovedale Ladies. He had been working with Pat Wanless from Dale and Valley Homes. He asked if the Town Council had received an invitation to the official opening. He asked the Clerk to contact Mrs Wanless to request an invitation.

Councillor Graham said the AAP were asking for bids and asked what had been done about this.

Councillor Tinsley said the Clerk had submitted an AAP bid for 15k to invest in the South Dene and two further funding applications to Neighbourhood Budget and the Royal Horticultural Society to fund the project.

The contents had been proposed by local residents.

The proposed project will be phase one of a plan to restore an important local amenity. The applications intend to reinstate the beck crossing that has been damaged by flooding and the circular walk. Partnership work is being undertaken to deliver community roadshows, a health awareness programme with residents, the Stop Fly Tipping campaign, a furniture recycling day, litter picking as part of the Big Spring Clean and planting. The Clerk said Parkside School Council will be involved and D.C.C Civic Pride.

The first screening of the AAP applications will be on the 22nd January 2015 with final decisions made in March 15.

Councillor Graham asked what is happening with Crook Community Partnership 500k award. Councillor Tinsley updated Councillor Graham on this.

Councillor Todd said during the removal of the former Hall Lane Community Centre, Willington Football Club (WFC) water metre had been damaged and rubbish left on site. He had complained to D.C.C but D.C.C would not take responsibility for this and it will cost WFC £500 to move the metre.

Councillor Tinsley advised that this issue was a contractor's liability and WFC would need to discuss this with them.

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said;

He expected an allotment income of £5260 for 2015/14

Springfield

Next year he proposed to clear the top road

Clear the hedge

Repair the fencing

Split plot 13 to form two plots

Oakenshaw

Has a damp patch

Park Top

PVC windows have been brought onto the site

He approved the contents of the letter he requested to be sent to Park Top tenants regarding fly tipping and tenancy conditions.

He will carry out site inspections with the Clerk prior to the posting of the rental invoices.

Consideration was given to the contents of the allotment garden offer letter and the deadline for payment. Rent is due on or before the first of April, followed by a fourteen day reminder.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Greensmith said;

Refuse Collectors were not collecting extra rubbish bags.

Councillor Cogdon said that they would pick up refuse in clear plastic bags where the contents could be seen.

Councillor Graham suggested cleaning up what Willington already has and said;

He wanted a path sweeper to clean the footpaths regularly.

The recycling bins behind the former Priceless Building should be repositioned so they cannot be seen.

He suggested removing the former Kensington Hall sign.

The seat on North Lane had not been replaced. He asked the Town Clerk if she could contact Councillor Buckham for an update.

Councillor Smith offered to speak to the business owners from the American Diner to safeguard their advertising board, as it is their property.

Councillor Tinsley said;

Thank you to everyone who had worked together to provide the Civic Service and the Christmas illuminations, they had been a great success and well received in the town. The numbers attending town council activities are growing and Pat Glass MP and other Mayors who have attended as guests have been impressed by how much we do.

Councillor Smith said visitors had joined us at the Christmas event from Crook.

Following the Business Forum meeting Councillor Tinsley is working to

develop the Town Square/ Market project. As part of the pre planning consultation process a meeting is being arranged with D.C.C Highways Department.

Councillor Graham said a market was a waste of time as they didn't work in other areas.

Councillor Greensmith said you had to try to do schemes that have a positive impact on the area, to move forward.

She thought a Town square or a public space to hold community events would be an asset and it would be used.

She offered to gauge public opinion on Facebook.

Councillor Graham said;

He wanted the Priceless Building roof tiles completed.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Gunn and Buckham were unable to attend as they were unwell. The Clerk confirmed that Ron Hogg Police and Crime Commissioner had confirmed that he can attend the next town council meeting an hour earlier at 6pm.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillor Tinsley said the official opening of the Oakenshaw Wind

Turbine was on Sunday 18th January 2015, 11am. Councillor Graham confirmed his attendance.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 7.00 pm

