

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

---

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Townsend, Councillor Elgie,  
Councillor Graham, Councillor Smith, Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Todd  
Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Carr  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer (minutes)  
County Councillor Gunn

---

**1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Helen Cogdon Town Clerk  
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by  
Councillor Carr

**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.**  
Councillor Cogdon declared an interest in items 10 & 11.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.**  
None received.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016**

The minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.  
Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Greensmith

**Matters arising (for information only)**

None

**5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- **EVT Contractors, Dunelm Cottage, Park Street, Willington – Erection of new building for storage of contracting equipment and operation of wood chip fuelled CHP generators**  
*For Information Only – Consultation End Date 12 May 2016*  
No comments received.
  
- **11 Carville Estate, Willington – Detached dwelling and alterations to existing bungalow (Resubmission)**  
*For Information Only – Consultation End Date 3 May 2016*  
No comments received.

- **Willington Methodist Church, Lydia Street, Willington – Conversion of Church and village hall now disused to residential dwelling**

*For Information Only – Consultation End Date 11 May 2016*

No comments received

- **Land and Buildings to the East of Stockley Lodge, Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw – Prior approval of proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1no. dwelling house (use class C3)**

No comments received

- **14 Rosemead Avenue, Willington – Demolition of existing rear extension. New 2 storey extension and loft conversion**

No comments received

## **6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

- 75-76 High Street, Willington – Change of use to A3 (café / restaurant)

*Prior approval is not required*

Councillor Tinsley had been in contact with the planning officer regarding the issues of noise and traffic. He was informed these will be taken into account.

- Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth – Discharge conditions 3, 4 and 5 of listed building consent DM/15/013140/LB

*Approved*

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOTMENT REPORT**

The majority of the rents have been collected. There are still two plots to relet at Oakenshaw and two to relet at Springfield. Plot 13 at Springfield may be split into two to make smaller more manageable plots.

We have been let down a bit with the waiting list. There are people on the list but when we contact them, they are not responding to the allotment offers that are given.

## **8. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

Councillor Todd said a new 'cookie law' had come into force previously and wants us to check that we have implemented this. Emma Mennouni said she will speak to Councillor Etherington and have the website checked and updated.

Councillor Todd has been approached by residents from Park Terrace regarding a problem with rats. He had contacted DCC Pest Control who came out to check the site and they have determined there are no sightings of rats which therefore means there would be no further checks or any treatment.

Councillor Tinsley mentioned the same problem occurs at Springfield Allotments. This case could be due to the fire that was at Hedley's Farm. He suggested putting an advert in the next Allotment Newsletter and also the next Town Council Newsletter to highlight this problem and to offer advice to residents.

Councillor Todd said he had received another complaint regarding 62 High Street. The residential dwelling has been vacant for a number of years. The slates are starting to fall from the roof which is dangerous for passers-by. There are no contact details for

the owner of the property so therefore he can't report the problem directly. He asked both County Councillors if they can look into who they would need to contact.

Councillor Townsend said at the Paybridge heading towards Newfield, there are usually ponds on the right hand side. The ponds are no longer there. It has been noted that the water from the pond has been gone in two days. The farmer has been trying to get rid of the water for a long time.

There is also some works going on in the same location by the Environment Agency on rerouting the river. County Councillor Gunn said DCC could look into what is going on. Councillor Tinsley said the footpath under the Jubilee Bridge is also damaged and quite dangerous. DCC are checking this.

Councillor Tinsley said the Town Council are looking at holding an official Open Day of the new office. He was thinking 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and would like Ron Hogg to open the office. He has approached Ron Hogg and is just awaiting a response. The Open Day will consist of an opening at 4pm but the main event and official opening at 6pm where refreshments will be served. He will update members of this at the next council meeting.

Councillor Carr said the paddock gates near Abbotts Green were repaired last year but the kids are playing there again and the gates have become damaged again. He asked County Councillors if they could be repaired again and also if there could be No Ball Games notices erected.

Councillor Smith has received complaints from residents regarding a group of youths who are meeting at the old Kensington Hall site as a possible drugs location. Councillor Todd said the Police are aware of this issue. She also reported that cars are skidding round the streets and is very dangerous as children are playing and people are walking in the area.

Councillor Tinsley said all incidents should be reported to the PACT meetings and to keep reporting to make issues like these a priority.

Councillor Tinsley said the two beacon events were a great success. The lighting of the beacon for the Brancepeth Pit disaster had in attendance of over 50 people. The event for the Queen's Birthday had in excess of 30 people. The feedback for both events was good despite low publicity.

He informed members that DCC had donated quite a lot of furniture to us for the new office.

The VC event which was organised by the RBL Bikers was a success.

He had also attended the funeral of Jack Snowden, Willington Footballer and winner of Amateur FA Cup.

The playground works should be starting around September 2016.

## **9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

County Councillor Gunn said the Town Council had made an extraordinarily wise decision to move their offices to The Market. It has been a pleasure to work with the Council and to be in attendance at the meetings. She said the Town Council should be proud of what they have achieved and what they have done for the benefits of its residents.

Regarding the Teaching Assistants consultation, a decision has now been made following an extraordinary meeting with was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to take external legal advice..

DCC have made the decision to move forward with Devolution subject to four conditions.

**10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 was £11,845.30 with credits of £102,113.77 and minus debits of £104,070.53 leaving a balance of £9,888.54 on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey  
Seconded Councillor Tinsley

**11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT**

The budget for 2016/2017 has increased to £115,479.60 following approval at the last meeting to transfer surplus from 2015/16 budget to projects. Spend to date is £5,638.93 and committed costs of £701.61 leaving an available resource on budget of £109,139.06.

Proposed Councillor Cogdon  
Seconded Councillor Smith

**12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

Councillor Tinsley had met with the Willington Angling Club who has now provided us with their additional information. Their cheque can now be released.

**13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS**

Dale and Valley Homes Area Customer Panel have sent a letter asking for a donation towards a Street Party for the Queen's Birthday which will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016 between 1pm and 4pm..

Councillor Elgie declared an interest as she is a member. Councillor Tinsley declared an interest as a director of Dale and Valley Homes

**Resolved 1.** To approve £50

Proposed Councillor Henfrey  
Seconded Councillor Carr

**14. APPROVAL OF SPRINGFIELD ALLOTMENT PROJECT**

The council progressed with the project for the improvements and reinstatement of the road at Springfield Allotments.

**Resolved 1.** To confirmed the previous approval in principle for the work. This followed receipt of invoice for the sum of £4102

Proposed Councillor Cogdon  
Seconded Councillor Smith

**15. APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR PROJECT(S)**

None considered

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)**

Councillor Greensmith thanked all members for her card which she received from the council following her surgery.

Councillor Graham said following on from the reports made to DCC regarding the sinks on the High Street and Cumberland Terrace, the issue still hasn't been resolved. He asked if this can be looked into.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at 6.30pm**

Meeting closed at 8.25