

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
1st October 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham,
Councillor Todd, Councillor Bennett, Councillor Carr,
Councillor Buckham, Councillor Greensmith
Helen Cogdon Town Clerk,
Emma Mennouni Community Services Officer

Councillor Tinsley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Etherington and County Councillor Gunn. Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Carr.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Janet Sloomweg (Resident) said are we going to take proposals to improve South Dene forward.

She said the area had deteriorated further and we needed a plan before people will get involved, there had been no response to the request for people to join the group, in the Newsletter.

Councillor Tinsley said we have identified that the issues are littering, the circular walk and repairs to the culvert.

However we have to be realistic, safe and ensure that the appropriate agencies perform the services they are responsible for i.e. drainage and littering.

Councillor Tinsley asked Mrs Sloomweg if she was willing to draw up a draft plan for consideration at a public meeting.

Councillor Greensmith said she would be involved.

Councillor Buckham said he would carry out another site visit with Darren Hunt, D.C.C Neighbourhood Services.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

3RD SEPTEMBER 2014

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

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Buckham

Matters arising (for information only)

Councillor Graham thanked Councillor Buckham for organising to have the seat replaced on North Lane that he had asked to be repaired. Councillor Buckham said it needs to be sited back off the road and suggested Councillor Graham attends with him when it is replaced.

Councillor Henfrey said the new road markings on Hunwick Lane were in place. There was a red oblong but no SLOW word as yet. Councillor Buckham suggested this may be due to two different sub contractors.

Councillor Bennett said she was watering the new trees at St Thomas Close Community Garden and asked if they needed a fleece. Members thanked Councillor Bennett and agreed that the garden was sufficiently sheltered with the new fencing.

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said;

The hedge at Oakenshaw has still not been cut and he suggested we move onto the next men. All plots are 100% let.

There have been problems reported at Plot 35 with dead hens, he is reporting this to the RSPCA. The same person misused the skip by dumping a settee.

The Clerk is implementing the improvement process.

Following Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer's approach to the Probation Service to provide clearance work at Springfield, they have said they are unable to help. Councillor Graham said he had repaired the fencing at Springfield that the sheep were using to visit the allotments.

6. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Annual Rent Charging Policy

Determination of size, materials and location of garden sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels – Permitted Development Rights under Part 12 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

Review of Terms and Conditions for Letting

The Clerk tabled draft proposals for members consideration.

Resolved 1. to arrange a meeting to finalise tenancy regulations.

7. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Carr said he had carried out site visits with the Clerk and D.C.C Neighbourhood Services. Bulb planting and environmental improvement areas for the schools have been identified at St John's Gardens, Sunnybrow, Willington Traffic Lights and Parkside roundabout and

Willington Football Club boundary.

Following a household survey St Stephens Primary School and Parkside Academy pupils are making bulb plant pots to distribute to the elderly peoples bungalows.

Dates are being agreed.

Parkside Academy and Willington Football Club will provide project match funding. Project costs iro £4,100 the council will contribute £2,700 plus vat.

Resolved 1. Approval

Councillor Carr said the Spooky Story Book first draft is ready and we are trying to get photographs. It then needs artwork and finishing touches before publication. The stories are excellent.

Councillor Todd said he has been meeting with Sure Start who are holding an Autumn Fayre 29th October 2014, 1-3 pm and a Disco at Lydia Street 30th October 2014, 2-4pm.

Following discussion he feels that all the community groups want to do the same thing and he proposed establishing a Network Group to plan a Willington Carnival.

The Environment Group have acquired daffodil bulbs and are holding a bulb planting day on the 26th October 2014. Bulbs can be collected from the Action Centre. All welcome.

The three extra planters are to be placed and planted with winter plants at Sunnybrow. They are looking for volunteers to look after them.

The Environment Group AGM is on the 29th October 2014 at 5pm. They will be looking to elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Committee Officers.

Councillor Todd said there had been problems reported regarding speeding on Armstrong Drive and also school buses.

Councillor Buckham said he would write to the Parkside Business Manager.

Councillor Henfrey said he would speak to the Headmistress, but would need the bus registration number.

The fly tipping at Cochrane Terrace has been removed however the resident is now dumping more and benefitting from the service. The Street Warden is monitoring the situation.

Councillor Graham asked if Councillors could be given a copy of the newsletter before they are distributed. The Clerk said the Newsletter had been delivered from the printers and distributed within an hour of each other. The draft copy had been tabled at the last meeting and members were asked for their comments.

He said he would have to declare an interest as he was related to a distributor however there were a lot of residents complaining to him that they haven't received a copy of the Newsletter. Councillor Graham produced a list of addresses he had been collecting.

The Clerk said it was the same company that we have always used and that she would follow this up with the distributor.

Councillor Tinsley said he had received some positive feedback on the contents of the Newsletter. He thanked Councillor Etherington and staff for the considerable amount of work invested to produce it.

Councillor Tinsley said he had attended the Licensing and Installation service of Reverend David Spokes at St Stephens Church. He is to move into the Rectory.

Following completion of the work on the derelict land at St Thomas Close the Official Opening and Garden Party had been well attended. Residents have said they are happy with the end result.

Councillor Tinsley tabled a draft public notice proposing to hold an open meeting to gauge interest in starting a business forum. Provisionally 15th October 2014, 6pm.

This was agreed in principle, details to follow.

He said the town council will attempt to promote Halloween and build on last year's success. We have produced leaflets for the Town Council pumpkin carving competition to give to schools and businesses. Each business on the High Street will get a pumpkin to help decorate their shop front to promote Spooky Street for a second year.

Each school will be offered 30 pumpkins to carve. Spectrum will join in via their craft class on the 29th October 2014, 1-2.30pm.

There will be a Halloween Fancy Dress Competition on the Town Green on the

31st October 2014 at 5.30pm with Scary Games and everyone is asked to bring their pumpkins to create a pumpkin field.

Councillor Tinsley said the Three Towns Partnership are to stop the Participatory Budgeting events with the public vote to decide the allocation of funding. Following a change in priorities project applications will be decided through task and finish groups.

Councillor Buckham said this was to ensure funding was targeted at need rather than shout.

Following resident objections, traffic calming parking measures have been implemented in Cumberland Tce by the D.C.C Highways Department.

Diary Dates

The Annual Civic Service 5th October 2014 at 2.15pm. Staff have worked this year with St Stephens Primary School Choir who will play a big part in the service. Thanks are extended to Deborah Wilson, Business Support Manager for her involvement.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2014 at 2.30 pm, War Memorial starting with the tree planting ceremony. This occasion will also mark the World War 1 Centenary.

A date is being arranged with the primary schools to distribute the Lest we forget commemorative coins.

Civic Service 12th December 2014, Phoenix Christian Centre at 6pm, Christmas Lighting display 7pm with refreshments at the Masons Lodge. The Clerk said the street light motifs would come on at 3pm as this was impossible to sequence. However the tree lights would be lit at 7pm. Councillor Tinsley requested that Councillors made every effort to attend civic events.

8. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Buckham said he was dealing with vandalism complaints at Boyne Street and Russell Street. Evidence of drug paraphernalia has also been found.

He is looking to remedy a blocked footpath on the former Victoria Club site.

The D.C.C spending commitment is being finalised however this is still not clear at this stage. Savings have been mapped this is in contrast to a 2% increase in spend for London areas.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

None

10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th November 2014 at 7.00 pm

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Signed by the Chairman

5th November 2014