

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Carr, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Graham  
Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Smith, Councillor Todd  
Councillor Townsend, Councillor Elgie  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer  
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk  
County Councillor Olwyn Gunn

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**1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Henfrey and Councillor Etherington.  
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 and 11

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.**

Rachel Connor, new journalist for the Northern Echo was welcomed to the meeting.

Jeff and Clare Robinson had forwarded a letter that the Clerk circulated to members.  
Jeff and Clare are helping residents with the objection for 150 houses in Sunnybrow.  
The views were noted that access continues to be an issue with residents and the  
refusal of the South Church planning application may have set a precedent.

Access issue at Sunnybrow from Hunwick Lane to Collier House. Addressed at  
meeting Dovedale. Comments were received that this should have resulted in a new  
planning application.

Councillor Tinsley said Jeff is correct in what he is saying. His statements are fact. We  
don't have a problem with submissions. We will reinforce what we have previously said.  
Check process.

Councillor Elgie said that there are already issues with traffic.

Councillor Smith asked if we have received feedback on the County Durham Plan.  
Councillor Tinsley said the Inspector said the plan is unsound. DCC are currently  
challenging this decision under judicial review.

Councillor Todd said he understood the Wear Valley plan is the legal one.

Councillor Tinsley said all old planning documents should accord with the National  
Planning Policy Framework.

Councillor Cogdon said he would like to look at the SHLAA.

The development is going to Strategic Committee with the amended application.

Councillor Graham tabled a newsletter that he had received from residents in Sunnybrow regarding the application.

The West Road 70 houses development was considered at the last South West Durham area committee.

Nicky Ather (Resident) looked at the document and said that there was confusion over size of area 4.6 to 3.6. The view was expressed that it should have been considered at Strategic Committee as over 4 hectares.

Strategic Planning Committee have now agreed outline permission at 6 votes to 3.

#### **4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2015**

The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Smith

**Matters arising (for information only)**

#### **5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 1 Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw – Proposed dwelling (resubmission) – For information only – Consultation End Date 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015
- Land to the South East of Unit 8 Harvey Court, Low Willington – Motor vehicle repair/MOT testing station and workshop (resubmission of planning approval DM/14/03291/FPA – For information only – Consultation End Date 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015
- 28 Abbots Green, Willington – Two storey and single storey extensions to rear including doors to gable elevation – For information only - Consultation End Date 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015
- Land Opposite 14-17 Brockwell Court, Low Willington – Erection of industrial unit – For information only – Application approved
- The Grange & Learning Centre, Willington – Dormer window to rear elevation – For information only – Application approved
- 3 Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw – Erection of a single storey and two storey extension to the rear, new 2.4m high stone wall to front and alterations to vehicle access – For information only – Application approved
- 14 Trinity Gardens, Willington – Two storey rear extension – For information only – Application Approved
- 4 Wood View, Oakenshaw – Single storey rear extension which would project beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4m, for which the maximum height would be 3m and for which the height of the eaves would be 2.1m – For information only – Prior Notification Not Required

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

- Site of Former Health Centre, Chapel Street, Willington – 12 no. terraced dwellings and associated works – Approved
- Malden Lodge, 3 Prospect Place, Sunnybrow – T1, T3 and T6 Sycamore and T4 Ash – reduce overhanging branches on pub side, T2Sycamore – Fell, T5 Sycamore – Fell – Approved
- 5 Wood View, Oakenshaw – Replace existing conservatory with orangery – Approved

- 3 Acorn Drive, Oakenshaw – Discharge of planning conditions 3 and 6 from planning permission CMA/3/51 - Approved

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

Councillor Graham during the allotment inspections a high standard was achieved. One or two gardens are not as we like them. There is a healthy waiting list for each site. Regarding the proposed new Springfield Allotment Road it is estimated to cost around 5k. Councillor Tinsley advised that we gained details of the boundary proposals following approval of the West Road planning approval.

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

Councillor Elgie said wall at the back of Sunnybrow Community Centre that joins onto the bungalows is in need of attention she has brought it to the attention of Tracey PCSO at the PACT meeting.

Probation services have painted fence at Sunnybrow and strimmed grass. Trying to strim the line.

Councillor Graham said the Environment group had been working in North Dene. He asked if we could replace the notices to stop bikes and horses entering the Dene. He would like to stop people shooting in the Dene.

Quads are being ridden up the back of the Catholic Church he would like Kissing Gates erected.

Milk has been stolen. PC Mike Westman has visited all houses in street.

On the road from The burn to back of West End Terrace there is an overgrown bush. Thank you to Olwyn Gunn for work on drain.

Councillor Smith said Anti-social behaviour work is ongoing in the Kensington Tce area. She is monitoring the situation.

A car exploded in the street recently.

The Estate agent letting the property is to visit.

County councillor Gunn said it is all about teamwork and thank you to residents who have worked with Councillors.

PACT meetings are important.

Councillor Greensmith said The Cancer Charity has relocated from Willington to Crook this is not costing anything. The Shop is popular but still need support from Willington.

However the Support group went well.

The Fat Brewers is sponsoring the new Centre and offering free gas and electricity.

Mammograms are no longer available at Bishop Auckland Hospital all going to Darlington.

The back of the original office continues to be a fly tipping hotspot. Need a camera to monitor.

The Miners Welfare Hall is a mess she does not want to see it pulled down. She is worried about children being able to gain access to the building.

Councillor Todd said he visited with a surveyor 5 years ago. It was structurally unsound.

We need a cause for the building.

Councillor Greensmith has noticed the condition of the roundabout. Paint is grubby.

Councillor Graham said environment group paid 4k to design the roundabout. It's shocking.

Councillor Cogdon said the Local Motion team are working in Willington they have started the Personal Travel Planning door knocking surveys. They will be using the office for comfort breaks and on a Saturday.

He has recently inspected the original Willington Circular Walk and noticed blocked stiles. He has informed Rights of Way who have a duty to keep them open. He is intending to do more walks as a volunteer.

Councillor Tinsley said he has been working with Ian Hirst to organise National Fitness Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Activities are planned in Schools, The Action Centre, Spectrum, on the Green and in the Council office.

Oakenshaw Nature Reserve

Working with John Spencer who said; lease to be drafted. Not made a final decision yet.

Leaking pond to be put right.

Looking at in Insurance

A number of things to explore

The Path to the ponds needs upgrading OCA are asking the council to match fund at 2k.

The Town Council and Oakenshaw Community Association would share the costs. Waiting for permission from Banks to carry out the works. This was Approved.

Mural – Delay most painter and decorators employed in schools during summer term.

The contractor is doing work at cost. Then investing the money to set up a local Tai Kwon Do group.

Remembrance Sunday meeting with Matthew Todd. Invites to go out. 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015  
RBL are organising the wreath order.

Met new PC Andy Boyd. Former CID Officer.

South Dene Opening 9.30am 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Janet Sloomweg said she was pleased refurbishment work is done. Now need the management plan.

She visited Little Dene in Newcastle and got some good ideas.

She would like a timber fence with barbed wire then the hedge to be planted later and also stainless steel gates and boulders.

The Clerk reminded members the D.C.C had agreed to provide the hedge.

County Councillor Gunn said hedging at the Green, Hunwick can be quick growing

Councillor Graham said what was happening with the Chapel of Rest.

Councillor Tinsley said we had attempted to secure the building for storage however it is to be put up for public auction. We are now looking for another garage.

Councillor Graham said should we not move to WCA centre.

The Clerk said we had carried out a comprehensive Facilities Option Appraisal recently and agreed to move here, out of that building. The staff are more effective and efficient being able to manage their own office as they are able to work together and need a confidential and reasonable working environment.

Councillor Tinsley said we should have a Town Council Office; increasingly we are being able to support the MPs Constituency staff who have been able to meet residents and Councillors in confidence in the Town Council Office.

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

County Councillor Gunn said;

There is a site visit to the Play Area on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015. We will be looking to invest s106 money into phase 3.

There is an official opening for the South Dene on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015 many thanks to everyone who helped. There will be a press release from the County Council.

The Joiners Arms Fayre was a great success and the County Councillors took the Chyrelle Addams buckets for fundraising

At the last PACT Meeting councillors agreed they are going to be more visible for people to come and visit.

Councillor Gunn attended planning committee.

Councillor Tinsley said the financial plan for DCC over the next 3 years is grim. It is cumulative over the years but it is difficult to cut 40% off a budget.

## **10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk said;

There has been some complications with the online banking system and we have also not received the paper copy of the bank statement so therefore we have not been able to ratify accounts up till the end of August 2015. Although our office financial records are available for members to inspect

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 was £9,044.27 with credits of £18,492.84 and minus debits of £5,328.18 leaving a balance of £22,208.93 on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Smith

## **11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT**

The Clerk said the budget for 2015/16 was increased to £117,667 due to the grant income for the South Dene Restoration Project. Spend to date £24,299.20 with a further £25,217.28 committed. Leaving an available resource on budget of £68,150.52

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Smith

**12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

A Community Fund application for £500 was received from SLAM CDT for the Fitness Day. They are to bring together local organisations who are prepared to work together for the good of the town. They will have activities throughout the day from 6am to 10pm. They hope to have sessions outdoors at 3 locations, in 5 primary schools and some local community venues. The sessions will be free to encourage people to come along.

This was **APPROVED**.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Cogdon

**13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS**

None received.

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

None.

**21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 6.30 pm**