

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
2nd July 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham,
Councillor Bennett, Councillor Carr, Councillor Smith
Councillor Greensmith
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer (Minutes)

Councillor Tinsley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Todd, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Carr and County Councillor Olwyn Gunn.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Graham.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident's agenda items requested through the Clerk.

Councillor Tinsley welcomed Janet Sloomweg (Resident). Janet had asked to address the meeting to discuss the South Dene. Janet showed members and other residents a short video of the South Dene at 5.30am in a morning. Many birds could be heard and wildlife seen.

Janet asked if she could put a small article in the next GWTC newsletter about the South Dene to try and attract people to come together and form a sub group in order to do something about the area. She had provided a short document to Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer, at the beginning of the week to circulate to members in preparation for this meeting. The document included photographs and some brief history of the South Dene. She would like to see the area used and enjoyed once again.

Councillor Bennett mentioned about a walking group who may be interested in joining. She will let them know and pass on any details. Councillor Graham suggested that Janet goes to the Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group meetings and speak to members there also.

Resolved. To include an article in the next newsletter.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING 4TH JUNE 2014

The minutes of the 4th June 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

Matters arising (for information only)

Councillor Tinsley informed members that anti-social behaviour issues on the Town Green had been discussed at the PACT Meeting on 26th June 2014. This has been deemed as a priority and will be monitored.

The bin inside the new play park on the Town Green which was set alight by youths had been removed by Durham County Council and a new bin has been placed just outside the park.

Councillor Bennett asked if it would be useful if Councillor Tinsley could go into the schools to talk to children about the safety issues and concerns about the amount of damage that is recurring within the play area.

Councillor Tinsley asked that Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer to contact the local schools to see if they are holding any assemblies before they break up for the summer holidays, so that if possible he can go in and discuss safety and also about looking after the facilities.

Following on from the last meeting, Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer, had arranged to have the Pit Pony on the Town Green cleaned up and also the Sunshine statue at Hunwick Lane, Sunnybrow. This has not yet been completed so will chase it up.

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said that plot 47 at Oakenshaw is still vacant and unfortunately there is no waiting list. Plot 5 at Springfield is also still vacant and awaiting help from the Probation team to do the garden. They have confirmed that it will be sometime September or October before they can do the work. Plot 6 at Springfield has been relet to the next available person on the waiting list. We have informed the tenant that if we are able to offer any help with the garden we will.

A skip was hired for Springfield and it was full within 20 minutes.

We looked into getting the hedges cut at Oakenshaw and Springfield.

Durham County Council have been cutting bushes down in the area over the last week or so and we contacted the local contractor to carry out the work on the allotments. They informed us that they can't cut any hedges until the 1st August 2014, otherwise they can be given a £5,000 fine. We will contact the contractors nearer to the time to arrange for the work to be carried out.

Inspections will take place on Tuesday 15th July 2014. All councillors are

more than welcome to attend. If they wish to do so, can they let Emma Mennouni know.

Councillor Graham told members that having been round the allotment sites already there is such a high standard of gardens this year.

Emma Mennouni will display notices to inform allotment tenants of the inspection date and times. Also to email all the councillors the details.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Graham asked Councillor Smith about the problems that she reported at the last meeting. She informed members that some of the people had moved from the flats and despite a few situations, things had been a lot quieter.

Councillor Graham suggested that Councillor Smith speak to Margaret Metcalf as she is the Chairman of the PACT meetings and she can report any further issues to her. Councillor Smith was also advised to contact the police on 101 if necessary to make a report. The Police and Street Wardens can also contact the landowners about certain problems.

Councillor Tinsley said that he had a meeting with Oakenshaw Community Association on Tuesday 1st July 2014. They are interested in doing their own Neighbourhood Plan for their area. He is willing to work with the group in order to help them do their Plan.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

No County Councillors present to give report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Margaret Metcalf informed members that the Durham Miners Gala will take place on July 12th 2014. She said if anyone wishes to attend, to meet at Redhills at 8.30am and the banner will be carried behind Aycliffe & Brancepeth Brass Band.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd September 2014 at 7.00 pm

Signed by the Chairman

3rd September 2014