

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
3rd December 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Buckham, Councillor Etherington
Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Carr, Councillor Greensmith
Councillor Smith, Councillor Bennett, Councillor Graham
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 Todd.
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Buckham.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Cogdon declared an interest in section B of the agenda and will leave the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests to speak had been received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

5th NOVEMBER 2014

The minutes of the 5th November 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Smith

Matters arising (for information only)

None

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said he was pursuing a tenancy issues at Park Top. He asked If tenants had been sent a warning letter about fly tipping.

The Clerk said the tenant had been sent a Notice to Improve, to which there had been no response. She did not intend to be too prescriptive on the week before Christmas but would take further action in the New Year, if required.

She has posters from the D.C.C Operation Stop It on display in relation to fly tipping and this information will be included in a mail shot to Park Top tenants, as soon as time is available.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Carr said he has been approached by Sunnybrow residents who want the garages removed. He will be visiting the site.

Councillor Greensmith said she would like to see the Welfare Hall building used.

Councillor Smith said she was concerned about youths in the High Street who congregate at the bus stop kicking footballs. The Clerk said she recently had the bus shelter repaired as the Perspex was loose, due to abuse.

The Clerk said she has received a complaint that the same group were seen kicking the

football from the Sculpture area at passing cars. They are causing nightly disturbance around the High Street.

The Clerk said that a friend's house had been burgled on Wear Valley Estate whilst they were away from the property for an hour.

The meeting requested that the Pact Chairman raises the anti social behaviour issues at the next Pact meeting.

County Councillor Gunn suggested the council writes to Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner informing him of ongoing problems and perhaps invite him to a future meeting. This was AGREED.

Councillor Graham said the Armoury Fields play area sign had been knocked down and replaced on the right hand side of the road which is the wrong side of the road.

Councillor Cogdon said he has had good feedback regarding the bulb planting activities from residents at St John Gardens, Sunnyside they enjoyed seeing the children getting involved and they are looking forward to seeing the display in the spring. He said he was pleased with The Remembrance Day Service which was well attended.

Councillor Tinsley thanked council staff for organising the Remembrance Day event saying that it was good to see residents benefitting from the town council's sponsorship. The Poppy Appeal has raised 7.5k so far, which is excellent.

He also thanked staff for organising support and sponsorship for Paul Smith in his challenge to run across 102 War Memorials from Hartlepool Gun Battery to Durham Cathedral, through Willington. The funds will go to The Royal British Legion and Help For Heroes.

The WW1 Heritage Coins have been distributed to all the primary schools during assembly. He thanked Councillor Cogdon and residents for the design work. St Thomas School combined the distribution of coins with the blessing and official opening of their new Reflection Garden in memory of Richard Holliday.

Councillor Tinsley said as previously reported there had not been a great turnout for the Business Forum but a good discussion had occurred with those who attended. He will be looking to gain support for the views expressed via further forum events.

The AAP are looking for projects that meet the 2014/15 priorities under Employment and Job Prospects, Children and Young People, Health and Wellbeing. 125K + 10K is available to apply for. The deadline for applications is the 12th January 2015.

He said he would be inviting the Environment Group to join with the council in working towards improvements in the South Dene.

Councillor Tinsley said he is considering planning activities in relation to The Battle of Waterloo bicentenary on the 19 -20 June 2015.

He thanked Councillor Ken Henfrey for representing the area by his attendance at Civic events and functions.

The Christmas in Willington Lights have been well received, we have extended the lighting display again this year and introduced new motifs. The Civic Carol Service is on the 12th December 2014, 6pm, Phoenix Christian Centre. Followed by switching on the Christmas Tree lights with Pat Glass, MP. We will have four dressed trees this year. He asked Councillors to make every effort to attend as one of their civic duties. The Clerk thanked Councillor Buckham for his sponsorship towards the new trees.

Councillor Tinsley wished fellow Councillors, Emma and Helen and all present a Merry Christmas.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Gunn said;
Congratulations on the Christmas Lights they are very good.

The Dovedale Community Centre is to officially open in January 15 with a special event. Sunnybrow Primary School are going to be involved.

The former Hall Lane Community Centre site is under discussion with Dale and Valley Homes and County Councillors.

Netpark the technology centre in Sedgefield has celebrated its tenth anniversary. Funding is being sought to extend and develop the site.

D.C.C are establishing a Landlord Accreditation Scheme. This will be voluntary and achieve a quality mark. It will start with a pilot scheme.

The Dale and Valley Homes Stock Transfer has gone through. Now called a Community Benefit Society.

County Durham have received several environmental awards.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

None

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.00 pm

The Meeting Closed.