

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**  
**4<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham, Councillor Etherington  
Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Smith, Councillor Todd  
Councillor Elgie, Councillor Cogdon  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer  
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk

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**1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Carr and Councillor Townsend.  
Also County Councillor Gunn.  
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by  
Councillor Henfrey.

**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 12 and 13  
Councillor Todd said he would declare an interest later on the Agenda.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.**  
Councillor Tinsley thanked returning residents for their attendance.  
Rachel Connor, the new journalist from the Northern Echo was welcomed to the meeting.  
Mrs Marjorie Embling (Resident) said she would like to thank Councillor Tinsley and Pat Glass M.P for their efficient response to her correspondence and concerns on the management of the Local Hunt.  
Councillor Tinsley said he had spoken with Pat Glass M.P and Terry Collins, D.C.C and a letter will be sent to the Hunt requesting that they do not enter D.C.C land.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Item 13** The proposer for the Parkside Older Persons Lunch was amended from Councillor Henfrey to Councillor Tinsley. This was seconded by Councillor Elgie.  
The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 as printed and circulated were then approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Elgie

**Matters arising (for information only)**

Councillor Graham asked for clarification as to why sponsorship for Parkside Awards Evening was minuted under the Civic Fund Item.  
The Clerk said a letter requesting sponsorship had been received in her absence. The approval is in effect match funding for a local project and would use that budget head.

## 5. Proposed Motion – Councillor Fraser Tinsley

**It is proposed to relocate Greater Willington Town Council Office to the former Market Hotel Public House, High Street, Willington.**

**This is to provide larger improved refurbished accommodation for the Town Council and an additional Community Facility for the Town.**

Councillor Tinsley tabled a Briefing Note outlining the benefits for the Town Council and the Community and the financial implications of the proposed relocation.

Councillor Todd Declared an interest in this matter. He said he works for Willington Community Action, next door to the Market Hotel.

Councillor Tinsley invited members to express their views.

Councillor Cogdon proposed a vote on the motion. This was seconded by Councillor Henfrey.

The vote on the motion was taken by show of hands.

For : Councillors Tinsley, Henfrey, Cogdon, Greensmith, Graham, Etherington, Smith, Elgie

Against: Councillor Todd

The motion was carried eight votes to one.

## 6. HALLOWEEN COMPETITIONS

Emma Mennouni presented members with the email entries for the pumpkin carving competitions. The winners were;

### 8 years and under

1<sup>st</sup> Oscar & Ewan McDonough

2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Fox

3<sup>rd</sup> Eleanor Mudd

### 9 -15 years

1<sup>st</sup> Joshua Caton

2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Stothard

3<sup>rd</sup> Alesha Colley

### Business Entries

1<sup>st</sup> Discount Motor Spares

2<sup>nd</sup> Britton & Robson Chemist

3<sup>rd</sup> The Cutting Company

Councillor Tinsley thanked everyone who had helped run the evening event and all who had taken part to promote Willington.

### Halloween Party Pumpkins

1<sup>st</sup> Lois Devonport

2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Brunskill

3<sup>rd</sup> Maddie Wymer

### HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

1<sup>st</sup> Abbie Waller

2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Brunskill

3<sup>rd</sup> Daisy Mulholland

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

**27 Denewood Close, Willington – Retention of wrought iron fence 1m high – No objection**

**The Cottage, 8 Stockley Lane, Brancepeth – Indoor riding arena –** This is just outside our area. There have been no approaches from members of the public to the Council.

**Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth – Conversion of game larder to garage, 2no. roof lights to northern elevation, chimney stack –** This is a listed building and the first applications have been considered previously. To accept the views of the Heritage Officer.

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

**Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington – Erection of machinery garage and scoreboard**

Approved

**3 Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw – Erection of single storey and two storey extension**

Approved

**1 Stockley Lane, Oakenshaw – Proposed dwelling (Resubmission)**

Approved. Has been to Committee.

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

Councillor Graham said the Allotments have a healthy Waiting List. Nothing has been done with the boundary path at Springfield. He asked for feedback on the West Road Planning Application for 70 houses. Councillor Tinsley said outline permission was granted. The Town Council will be notified when Developers submission and application is available.

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

Councillor Smith said the anti social behaviour issues at the back of High Street and surrounding Kensington Terrace have settled down. She has been in discussions with the Letting Agent and hopes that this conversation will make them think about the day to day management of tenancies in owner occupied areas.

Councillor Todd asked about the future development of the South Dene project and the new hedge planting. He said that the Environment group would like to be involved. The Clerk said that D.C.C will be planting the hedge in November. Janet Sloomweg is aware of this and has a copy of the A.A.P Bid Document. This document contains the outputs and milestones that inform the delivery of the project. An Action Plan will be developed and any input with the Environment group will be welcomed.

Councillor Elgie said the Scarlet Band bus was parking at Wareham Way. Councillor Cogdon said he thought that as long as they are not causing an obstruction they would not be parking illegally and he suggested taking advice from D.C.C Highways Officers.

Councillor Henfrey said the Layfield family have put in a new road joining the top farm off North Road to Milk Up Bank Farm. It is fenced but will allow public access.

Councillor Henfrey said a resident at George Terrace has filled a green bin and left it outside the home of another resident. He has reported this to D.C.C who are investigating with a view to taking further action.

Councillor Greensmith read out a letter from Beamish Museum regarding their proposals to build a Welfare Hall and Bowling Green at Beamish. Councillor Todd asked if there had been anything back from Ian Hirst, Spectrum about future plans for Willington Welfare Hall following the public meeting.

Councillor Tinsley said Remembrance Sunday will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015. It will start at 2.45pm with the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at the Planetree. This will be followed by the wreath laying at the War Memorial and then the procession to St Stephens Church Service. Our grateful thanks are extended to Reverend David Spokes, Francis Hall and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal who have supported the Town Council this year.

Work is ongoing in partnership with Oakenshaw Community Association on the Nature Reserve. The Steering Group has met with to discuss insurance, improvements needed to the pond, Banks offer to top up the Endowment Fund and permission to agree permitted development of a new community building.

There is no date as yet for the Sunnybrow Planning Application.

Councillor Tinsley said he felt the move to the new premises would establish the positive difference we are trying to provide in the town. The premises would link with the Centenary Square project that he is developing. He will be looking to incorporate heritage work into town centre improvements.

He said as the Market Hotel has been empty for a number of years and the Council would be bringing a derelict building in the centre of the Town back to use without removing an operational retail property.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 3pm Christmas Pantomime, Aladdin, Willington Working mens Club. The tickets will be on sale from the W.M.C and G.W.T.C Office on a first come first served basis.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 6pm The Christmas Service at the Methodist Chapel. It had been hoped to hold the service in the new building but it will be poignant to hold the Town's Christmas Service there for its last Christmas. The Street Motifs will come on automatically at 3pm. The Christmas Tree lights would be switched on 7pm. Councillor Greensmith suggested approaching Mason Campion's parents to ask if he would like to switch on the lights. This was AGREED.

**11. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

Councillor Tinsley said work is ongoing with the County Durham Plan. There are issues to address for Willington re the building of houses.

The Northern Devolution is approved. There will be a public postal vote in the new year to vote for the North East Mayor. The vote will be guiding not binding.

To progress High Street parking consultation. Lamp post notices about new waiting times will be seen in the Town soon.

The impact of the Government Spending Review on D.C.C has meant that the County has saved 153 million since 2012 and need to find another million. The Council Tax receipt is 174 million whereas D.C.C budget is 860 million.

The national living wage has replaced the minimum wage the cost to D.C.C is 13 million.

Increasingly because of D.C.C budget cuts the Parish Councils are being asked to plug the gaps.

The Durham Light Infantry museum is undergoing a review. It has been in receipt of a D.C.C 350k subsidy.

The building needs work and is no longer big enough. The safety of artefacts is being examined.

**12. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION**

Councillor Tinsley said despite the requirement on the Council to report quarterly G.W.T.C usually present a monthly report.

This item was then deferred due to online banking issues. Manual office records are available for Councillors to inspect if required.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Etherington

**13. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT**

The Clerk said as we are aware of committed funds copies of the budget report for 2015/16 are available.

This item was then deferred until the online banking could be accessed.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Smith

**14. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

None received

**15. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS**

A letter has been received from the North of England Brass Band Championship who held the contest at the Gala Theatre, Durham this year. Owing to its success they have requested a donation towards the 2016 running costs to continue this event in Durham.

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

Councillor Greensmith said she has a copy of the floor plan for Bishop Auckland Hospital.

**17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 at 6.30 pm**