

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
4th February 2015

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Carr, Councillor Etherington
Councillor Graham, Councillor Smith, Councillor Todd
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer (minutes)

Councillor Henfrey chaired the meeting in Councillor Tinsley's absence. He informed those in attendance of housekeeping rules and fire exits.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Buckham, Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Tinsley and Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Etherington and seconded by Councillor Todd.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No requests to speak had been received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

14TH JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the 14th January 2015 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Todd

Seconded Councillor Carr

Matters arising (for information only)

Councillor Smith said that she had tried to speak to someone from the American Diner regarding their sign but every time she had gone to see them, it was always closed. She said she will continue trying to contact them. Councillor Todd said he will also try.

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said that due to the time of the year there was not a lot to report. He had received a phone call to notify him that there was a leak on Oakenshaw Allotments. Councillor Graham has spoken to the local contractor who is going to locate and sort out the leak. While doing so he

will also look at the damp patch on the allotment path that was reported at the last meeting.

Councillor Graham informed members that the invoices for the allotments will be sent to all tenants in the middle of March. He said Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer had finalised the invoice to include the payment due date.

Councillor Graham then asked if Bert Smith would be collecting the rents from Springfield tenants this year or not as he has been unwell. Emma said she will contact Mr Smith and find out.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Carr said that he had contacted DCC to repair the paddock gates near Willington Cricket Club. He said DCC had been out to assess the situation and then repaired the gates.

Councillor Graham said the seat on North Lane had been replaced. He explained he phoned the office to inform the clerk the morning after the last meeting.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Gunn said she didn't have a lot to report this time. She explained the budget for this coming financial year will soon be set. £25million cuts in the County and this will be the fifth year of cuts. DCC are trying to protect the services they offer as much as they can, especially the Adult Services with elderly and vulnerable people.

County Councillor Gunn explained that the combined authorities are working with other authorities and organisations in the North East to find different ways of working and maintaining the services.

There will be more of an update in the March meeting.

The consultation on Childrens Centres in the County has shown that Willington is not down for Closure but the North East is coming off badly.

The budget will go up for cabinet on 11th February 2015 and to DCC full council on 25th February 2015.

Regarding local issues, Councillor Gunn said there have been parking problems at the Cenotaph, Low Willington. People have received warnings from Civil Enforcement. As an experiment DCC will remove the yellow lines in front of the monument to see if people park on the curb. The Dovedale Centre will have an official opening this month. Councillor Gunn will suggest the councillors receive an invite.

The residents of the houses and bungalows near where the old Community Centre was on Hall Lane Estate have all received letters regarding the land and what they would like to see happen on that land. The majority of responses have indicated a parking area. Dale & Valley

Homes will work with Groundwork to come up with a design.
A few community groups and organisations have received funding bids from the AAP. The South Dene Project has received some funding and WCA have received some funding towards their project.
DCC County Councillors have had a briefing on Flood Resilience for Durham communities. County Councillor Gunn left information to be made available for members to read.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

None

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 4th March 2015 at 7.00 pm

PAGE * MERGEFORMAT 3 | Page

Signed by the Chairman

4th March 2015