

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Cogdon,
Councillor Carr, Councillor Greensmith
Councillor Bennett, Councillor Graham, Councillor Todd
County Councillor Olwyn Gunn
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer
Helen Cogdon Town Clerk,

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Smith, Buckham and Etherington
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and
seconded by Councillor Cogdon.

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
ON THE**

4th FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the 4th February 2015 as printed and circulated were
approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

Matters arising (for information only)

None

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said;

He has completed the winter inspections and advised on the rent to be
charged.

The invoices will be sent with the Newsletter.

There are two vacancies at Oakenshaw.

McClurge's are going to cut the hedge at Springfield they will leave the rubbish on site.

The Clerk said to deter tenants from leaving their plot in an untidy state when they quit. She proposed to introduce a £50 deposit scheme, starting in April 2015. A phased payment plan can be agreed with low income families.

This income can then be used to cover the costs the council incurs when having to improve a garden prior to letting or returned to the tenant.

Resolved 1. To introduce a deposit scheme

Proposed Councillor Graham

Seconded Councillor Todd

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Greensmith said she would give her report regarding Bishop Auckland Hospital Breast Cancer Care at the end of the meeting. (This is attached as Appendix)

Councillor Tinsley thanked Councillor Greensmith and County Councillor Gunn for the work they had done together in this regard.

Councillor Bennett said she would not complete the travel survey sent by Durham County Council as she thought it was intrusive.

Councillor Todd said he had a meeting with Philip Todd who is a sales representative for South Durham Enterprise Agency, about training.

Councillor Tinsley asked if the Internet provision from the Action Centre is operational.

Councillor Todd said it would be reconnected tomorrow.

Councillor Tinsley said a big thankyou to D.C.C who held the launch for Digital Broadband at the Action Centre. He encouraged people to sign up to it.

Councillor Gunn said it was good to see that D.C.C had worked in partnership with B.T.

Councillor Tinsley said he was still working on the development of a civic square/ market in Willington. He thanked Councillor Greensmith who had asked for feedback on Facebook and received an almost unanimous response in favour of the proposal, with only one negative response based on the effect it may have on business. Local businesses are in support of the idea.

Highways Department don't object to the introduction of a One Way Highway Regulation Order and marked parking bays.

It may be appropriate to use the land as the site for the George Mc Clean paving stone. Councillor Tinsley will consult as widely as possible with regard to how the new civic space should be used.

There is potential to make it into a bigger project by developing a Heritage element within the scheme. He will be meeting with Gerald Darby D.C.C Asset Management.

Staff are working on the Council and Allotment newsletters.

Willington Cricket Club are holding a Family Fun Day with Hogg Roast Sandwiches and a Prize Draw on the 28th March 2015 at 6pm.

GWEIG look after the 12 planters around the town they need support to keep the group going. They are currently looking for a new Chairperson.

Councillor Bennett said students from King James School are working on Rosedale Allotments as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Councillor Henfrey said he has been approached by residents regarding the sign on the Poundshop gable end. He said that anyone was entitled to complain about this to D.C.C Enforcement Officer.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Gunn reported on the County Durham Plan. She commented that

Simon Henig had said 'Managing economic decline is not an option for us.'

A number of successful business people across the region including Sir John Hall were behind the plan and had been involved in its development.

The Budget is still challenging and the government grant reductions are not evenly distributed, spending power in some areas of the country is going up.

D.C.C have a sensible and prudent budget under the circumstance, trying to retain essential services.

There has been a 1.99% increase in Council Tax this is below the 2% referendum level. This intends to raise 1.5million.

Councillor Gunn and Buckham have funded a portable CCTV camera. It will be used around the Willington and Hunwick Division.

Councillor Gunn said she had attended the Breast Cancer Care Meetings with Councillor Greensmith and she said that things would not have progressed so far if it hadn't been for Councillor Greensmith. She urged everyone to read Councillor Greensmith report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillor Greensmith said Mr Amir Bhatti, Edmund Lovell, Jane Sedgwick, Councillor Gunn and Kay Wigham met to discuss the reasons for moving the Mammogram Department from Bishop Auckland to Darlington Hospital.

The report of Councillor Greensmith’s findings are attached as Appendix. In summary patients going to Darlington Hospital have access to better equipment and the waiting time for diagnosis is reduced. New treatment plans are being used including the injection of a radioactive capsule. She still has concerns about travel for patients and is trying to encourage a patient transport system similar to the one that transports Radiotherapy patients to James Cook Hospital.

The Trust have agreed to invite Councillor Greensmith to future meeting so that she can have an input into future breast cancer related decisions. She said that Bishop Hospital is not to be closed. They are to develop the Eye Clinic and Bowel Clinic further. She said she had nothing to do with the Petition that was started by another Councillor.

Councillor Gunn said D.C.C Overview and Scrutiny has asked that the Darlington and Durham NHS Trust produce a leaflet about Bishop Auckland Hospital services.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st April 2015 at 7.00 pm