

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
5th February 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Greensmith
Councillor Carr, Councillor Henfrey,
Councillor Bennett,
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer

Councillor Tinsley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
He outlined housekeeping rules and asked that everyone present turns off mobile phones and electronic equipment during the conduct of council business.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received by Councillor Buckham, Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Todd, Councillor Greensmith and County Councillor Gunn

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

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident's agenda items requested through the Clerk.

None received

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

8th JANUARY 2014

The minutes of the meeting on the 8th January 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Carr

Matters arising (for information only)

The Clerk said the Armoury Fields garages are to be inspected by Susan Porter, Planning Enforcement Officer.

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

In the absence of Councillor Graham this report was deferred.

The Clerk said development work is ongoing with Springfield Allotment Association and she anticipates a strong committee. We are in the process of deciding with Mr Headley what is the best approach to use to cut back the hedge and tidy the allotment boundary next to the farm.

The Clerk had met Mr Michael Briggs at Rosedale to look at a gully. She has advised him to provide written details before making any changes. Rosedale and Victoria Allotment Association have said they would be happy for the Council to join with them at the Annual Show at the Working Men's Club however they would like the request in writing so that it can be considered formally by the committee.

6. TO CONSIDER THE RESOURCE REPORT

Councillor Henfrey said that Expenditure and Cheque Reconciliation as presented by the Clerk is considered to be a true record.

Total spend to date £74,634.18

Committed costs £623.24

Available resource on budget £26,826.58

Recommend 1. Approval of the report

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts records the current account balance as £7551.06

Recommend 1. This is a true record

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

Following the Clerks meeting with Maureen Aspey, Natural High.

A letter has been received from Natural High's Youth Committee for a Civic Fund award.

The grant will be used to buy 10 guitar books at £4.99 each.

Members recommend approval of £50.00

Recommend1. £50

Proposed Councillor Cogdon

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

Greater Durham Citizens Advice Bureau have sent a letter of thanks for the councils £500 match funding contribution for the provision of advice sessions that will be held in the Resource Centre.

7. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Bennett said there is a gentleman from Willington who would like to replace his Army medals; he has sixteen years of service. She has telephoned Mr David Bell and is waiting for a response.

Councillor Cogdon suggested that S.A.F.F.A would be able to help and advise him.

Councillor Henfrey said Parkside Academy are hiring a minibus to take students swimming.

The former Parkside Community Association has now dissolved. Its assets are also dissolved. Letting management of community sports facilities has transferred to Mr Ian Hirst, SLAM.

Councillor Carr said that work was ongoing with the Spooky Story Book and that the next meeting was to be held on 10th February 2014 at 1pm.

Councillor Tinsley said he had met with The Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Ron Hogg and had been in discussions regarding D.C.C Licensing issues.

Mr Hogg said that Durham Constabulary are under pressure regarding neighbourhood policing following savings across the County budget. The impact of amalgamation of police areas and spending was under consideration.

8. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In the absence of Councillor Gunn and Councillor Buckham who were both unwell this report was deferred.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

The Clerk said that staff were receiving favourable comments and thanks from residents who have had neighbourhood problems resolved after using the new council office.

Quotes are being gained for the new office Noticeboard.

Progress has been made with the former Cold Storage area at Cambridge Avenue.

Land ownership and maintenance issues are under investigation at the St Thomas Garden. The project involves four D.C.C departments. GWTC have been advised to have a licence approved by asset management before work can start with external contractors. This will cost of £250.00.

The Environment Group and the council are looking at what is the best way forward to site the live Christmas Tree. The Clerk will be meeting Graham Sewell and Farrer Johnson. The council welcomes this arrangement for the Town.

Staff are starting to collate the next G.W.T.C Newsletter.

Work on the new Allotment Newsletter has begun.

The Black Path Walk Leaflet is being finalised.

The Clerk and the Town Mayor will meet to talk about the contents of the next Annual report ready for the Annual General Meeting.

10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th March 2014 at 7.00pm

Signed by the Chairman

5th March 2014