

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Buckham, Councillor Cogdon,
Councillor Smith, Councillor Todd, Councillor Graham,
Councillor Bennett, Councillor Greensmith,
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 Etherington, Councillor Carr, Councillor Henfrey and County Councillor Gunn.

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

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr John Spencer, Oakenshaw Community Association, said

The wind turbine was erected today. An opening launch ceremony is planned.

Quotes are being gathered for new Noticeboards in Oakenshaw.

OCA have bought laptop and printer so money has been spent they will forward receipts in order to accept our offer to transfer funds from the Nature Reserve project.

The allotment track also needs attention; there is a section that becomes extremely boggy in bad weather. People have suggested scraping off the surface as there is supposed to be a hard track under the grass and mud. Road plannings have also been suggested.

OCA have managed to get improved road markings through the village - slow signs - following a speed check in the village that showed around 9% of drivers exceed 36mph. There is also to be speed enforcement action in the village in coming months. "Children at Play" signs ordered for village and road signs to be improved at Stockley Lane Junction.

The flooding work is now almost complete.

Village Neighbourhood Plan subcommittee is working hard and will feed initial ideas back to the OCA Committee in due course.

Also The Community Orchard subcommittee is in operation.

There is a Committee meeting on Monday so they will see what members think about another funding application. Residents have asked for 15 flower planters through village which will cost around £1200, this may be one option to develop.

Bulb planting is to be carried out throughout village next week by Groundwork.

The bus shelter is a D.C.C responsibility but the cost to repair is £3,000. Basically they agree to replace it as it is now getting towards being dangerous - jagged rusted panels - but they say it will not be a priority unless OCA contributes towards cost. We have agreed to allocate £500 towards it. Mr Spencer asked if the Town Council could consider match funding another £500.

Councillor Cogdon said this should be progressed through the Sustainable Transport Department.

Councillor Buckham said clarification is required as to what is meant by dangerous. He said he would look at it alongside the other one at Colliery Road.

Councillor Tinsley thanked Mr Spencer for his report saying that there was a lot of positive things being developed in Oakenshaw. It is great to have such an active Community Association working hard on behalf of its members.

Councillor Graham said the Golf Club Wind Turbine was built today.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

1st OCTOBER 2014

The minutes of the 1st October 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Todd

Seconded Councillor Greensmith

Matters arising (for information only)

None

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said he was sad to report that Eddie Taylor of Park Top Allotments has passed away. Councillor Graham has lost a good friend. Mr Taylor has no remaining family in Willington.

Councillor Graham said since Todhills HWRC closed there has been an increase in fly tipping. He asked that all tenants are sent a letter to stop fly tipping.

The Clerk said she will organise a mail shot with advice.

Councillor Graham said he has spoken to the tenant on plot no 1 and despite promises the garden remains untidy. He suggested a termination of tenancy.

The Clerk said we are under no obligation to renew the tenancy next year. She agreed to issue a Notice to Improve following an Inspection.

Plot no 35 Oakenshaw has improved. The Clerk confirmed that the family had responded to correspondence and had discussions about what needs to be done.

There are two untidy plots at Oakenshaw.

The Hedge has been cut at Oakenshaw, however it needs trimming around the electric pole. He asked the Clerk to write to the Electric Board.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Graham said residents wreaths that had been taken from the Cemetery too soon had been reimbursed the cost for them.

Councillor Todd said he had a letter from the Greater Willington Environmental Improvement Group which he had forgotten to bring. There was a poor attendance at the AGM so the group agreed that they would like to meet with the Town Council to discuss the council taking on the services of the group. They have a schedule of what is planned, there is no maintenance on the planters and the group are to replace the winter plants. They will continue as volunteer planters but no longer want to do the paperwork involved. To continue the group needs a new set of people.

The Clerk asked how the AGM had been advertised as she hadn't seen an Agenda displayed. Councillor Todd said he thought it had been in the Northern Echo.

Councillor Tinsley said he would be concerned about how to apply for money.

Councillor Todd proposed to hold a meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Cogdon.

Councillor Todd said it is National Road Safety week partnership working
wc

17th November 2014.

He said Wellington Community Action are hosting an Art Exhibition of drawings by children incarcerated in the Terezin ghetto 1943-44.

He asked the Town Council to help promote the event.

Councillor Bennett asked what is section 12 of the Allotment Act. Councillor Tinsley gave her the definition.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Buckham said following a recent PACT meeting he was working with beat officers regarding speeding on the A690. Also measures to address anti social behaviour at Boyne Street and Railway Terrace.

He has visited South Dene with Janet Sloomweg, Resident, and Dave Gillette, D.C.C Neighbourhood Services. The fly tipping has been tidied up and a salt bin in the hedge is to be moved.

He has been examining three options to improve drainage.

1. Remove grid

2. Modify Grid and infill stream bed. This has significant labour costs.

3. Ignore culvert and go with new stream bed.

At the other end the culvert is not fit for purpose due to loose cover.

However the drainage department has agreed to fund this work.

Councillor Greensmith said "can we not approach Bishop Auckland College to do the bricklaying?".

Councillor Buckham said he was undertaking research to see if it could be designated as ancient woodland he has gone back to 1739 on the maps.

Janet Sloomweg is to put together a display on the woodland to take around community venues and schools to encourage interest.

Councillor Buckham said he had attended a Play Area meeting. They D.C.C Play strategy is still not agreed but it looks like there will be a limited amount of play equipment in each town.

The Town green old play area was paid for through Wellington Community Partnership SRB 5&6.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillor Tinsley said D.C.C are attempting to remove the outline

planning permission for the supermarket on the green. He is attending the planning inspectors meeting at Chester le Street to ensure it is reallocated.

He is dealing with fly tipping complaints to the rear of Russell's Yard.

Remembrance Sunday is on the 9th November 2014, 2.45pm, starting with the Planting of the Commemorative Planetree, delivered today. The Commemorative coins have arrived and he will be presenting them to the Primary Schools on 11th and 14th November 2014. He thanked Councillor Cogdon for his research and design work to produce the coins.

The next AAP meeting is 27th November 2014, 6- 8 pm

The Methodist Church are holding a WW1 Memory Day 8th December 10-3pm

Parkside Award evening 11th December 2014 at 6.30pm

The Clerk said following a request from Daphne Scar for funds to buy daffodil bulbs for St Stephens Church. Councillor Cogdon has approached his contacts and arranged to have eight boxes of primroses sent to St Stephens Church and six boxes sent to the Phoenix Centre to brighten up the Church yards. They have now been planted.

The first bulb planting event was held on 1st November 2014 with Parkside Academy and St Stephens Primary School. Planting pots were then delivered to the surrounding residents who were most appreciative. We have planned a big wavy design the length of St Johns Gardens to plant on

6th December 2014 with Sunnybrow Primary School.

Our Lady and St Thomas and Willington Primary Schools are to join us on the

7th December 2014 to plant the grassed area at the traffic lights.

Councillor Tinsley proposed to arrange a business forum meeting. The date is to be confirmed.

GWTC Civic Carol Service is to be held at the Phoenix Christian Centre, Watling Terrace on Friday 12th December 2014, 6.00pm. Following the service the switching on of the Christmas tree lights will take place on the Town Green at 7.00pm. Everyone is then invited to join us for refreshments at the Masonic Hall.

Councillor Todd offered his apologies for the next meeting.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd December 2014 at 7.00 pm

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Signed by the Chairman

3rd December 2014