

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**  
**6<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Townsend, Councillor Elgie,  
Councillor Graham, Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer (minutes)

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**1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Carr, Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Todd and Helen Cogdon Town Clerk  
Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Henfrey and seconded by Councillor Townsend.

**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.**

None

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.**

None received.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2016**

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

**Matters arising (for information only)**

Item 8. Councillor Tinsley informed members the Town Council newsletter will be getting distributed to all residents of the area on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Item 8. Councillor Tinsley said the potholes to the rear of the High Street have been filled and the residents are happy.

**5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- **7 Burn Place, Willington – Retention of timber shed to front garden and retention of 1.25m high fence to front**

*For Information Only – Consultation End Date 30 March 2016*

No comments received.

- **62 Abbots Green, Willington – Single storey rear extension**

No comments received.

• **75 – 76 High Street, Willington – Change of use to A3 (café/restaurant)**

No comments received from the public. Councillor Smith asked about opening hours of the new business. Very minor details on the application. Councillor Tinsley said there will possibly be conditions on any current permissions that may be given. Another issue could be parking.

The County Durham Plan is back. Over the next year the same process will take place again. It could be 2 years before it is completed. Councillor Tinsley will keep members updated.

**6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

- 2 Snowden Terrace, Willington – Single storey extension to rear  
*Approved*
- The Market, 67 High Street, Willington – Change of use of former public house (A4) to Civic Offices (Sui Generis)  
*Approved*

**7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOTMENT REPORT**

Councillor Graham thanked Emma Mennouni for all the work she has put into the allotments over the last few weeks with sending out invoices, collecting rents and dealing with tenants.

We have collected in a fair amount of the rents for this season.

There are a few plots at Oakenshaw to relet. We will be offering these to the next people on the waiting list.

Tenants on plots 13, 43 and 44 have until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to vacate due to continuous cultivation issues.

We are still waiting for quotes regarding the refurbishment works to the road at Springfield Allotments. Once confirmation has been received for work we can progress. Councillor Tinsley thanked Councillor Graham for all the work he puts in to the allotments on behalf of the council.

**8. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

Councillor Elgie asked if there was any update regarding the trellis for the wall that was reported at the PACT meeting. Councillor Tinsley said he spoke to an officer at DCC regarding this. He suggested Councillor Elgie chase it up and if no further joy he will contact the necessary officer again.

Councillor Graham said the street cleaners had been up his street and cleaned it up. Could we try to apply for Quality Status as a priority for next year? Councillor Tinsley explained there may have been changes to this and we could look into it for next year.

Councillor Tinsley said the date to occupy the new office will be the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The bar has been shortened to provide a reception area. Building control and fire are happy. There are only minor things to update. We will be using our existing signage on the new office.

The plumbers are currently in. We have agreement from DCC to provide some furniture for the new office. Councillor Tinsley will go next Thursday to choose the furniture we require.

There will be a different door entry system in place in the new office to comply with a Lone Working Policy for Health and Safety reasons.  
There will be no public toilet facility. Staff toilet is at the back of the office.  
The Basement will be used for storage purposes.  
There is no direct access for the upstairs flats through our premises.  
The colour scheme will remain blue and white.

The Beacon Brazier is ready to go. Councillor Tinsley and County Councillor Gunn had been to visit Graham Hopper with regards to the beacon. It is low price and within the price range that was allocated. It is ready to install now. It will be placed next to the pit heap wooden seat.

Councillor Smith asked about Health & Safety. Councillor Tinsley explained we will comply with health and safety and insurance will be through our original insurance company.

This year marks 120 years since the Brancepeth Pit Disaster in 1896. It occurred at 10pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. The beacon brazier will be in place before this date so we will light the beacon in remembrance of all the people who died during this disaster. We will light the beacon each year on this date with a simple service taking place. This first event will take place at 8pm.

Councillor Tinsley will look for someone significant to light the beacon for this event. Possibly a former miner or a relative of someone who died in the disaster.

Councillor Tinsley will purchase wood and equipment needed to carry out this event. The Queen will also have her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 when we will relight the beacon for this also. This will take place at 8pm with a simple service and lighting the beacon at 8.30pm.

Councillor Graham said there is a lack of publicity. Councillor Tinsley said he is going to speak to the Northern Echo. Councillor Etherington suggested sending an article to the papers to be distributed and advertising on social media.

The RBL Bikers Branch will be doing a VC ride where they will visit all the VC winners in County Durham. This will take place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016. They will be calling at the monument at Low Willington between 11.30am and 1pm to do a salute.

Approximately 40-50 bikers will be there.

Councillor Tinsley will do a presentation of the VC winner George Burdon McKean. It will be a short presentation given at The Black Horse pub in Low Willington.

Refreshments will be provided.

Councillor Etherington offered to do posters for all three events.

Mr Jack Snowden's funeral will take place next Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at St Stephens Church at 1.15pm. The Town Council should be represented so Councillors Tinsley and Henfrey will attend.

## **9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

County Councillor Olwyn Gunn said DCC has not yet made a final decision regarding Devolution. There is also no final decision made on the Teaching Assistants.

County Councillors Olwyn Gunn and Fraser Tinsley will both be contributing funds from their Neighbourhood Budgets to upgrade the main fixed play are in Willington. It is hoped to be completed by the end of the year. This will also include better access for people with disabilities.

Durham County Council will have their full meeting next week.  
DCC have a better health programme.

Both County Councillors attend the PACT meetings each month to assist with residents' complaints. They will also be carrying out a speed survey on Hunwick Lane in the near future.

They will both be supporting an event that has been arranged by Mandy Pedalty to raise funds for terminally ill children. The event will be held at the new Open Door Methodist Church on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016. There will be police and fire officers there and fairground rides. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was £11,606.42 with credits of £5,000 and minus debits of £4,761.12 leaving a balance of £11,845.30 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

Proposed Councillor Etherington

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

#### **11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT**

The budget for 2015/16 had increased to £119,067 following successful grant applications. Spend to date £95,433.80 with a further £9,753.60 committed. Leaving an available resource on budget of £13,879.60

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Etherington

The budget for 2016/2017 is £102,600. There is no spend to date but committed costs of £1,348.48. Leaving an available resource on budget of £101,251.52.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Townsend

#### **12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

Willington Angling Club has provided us with their additional information.

Councillor Tinsley said this is a group we have supported in the past and many people in the area do benefit.

**Resolved1.** Application approved in principle subject to receiving additional information. To arrange a meeting with the club in order to clarify how they stock the river and if we can be of any assistance in increasing membership and supporting the organisation in any other way.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Elgie

Citizens Advice County Durham have asked for a donation of £400 which would be used to re-start their outreach in Willington Community Action. The money would be used to train and pay expenses for two volunteers who could take over running the service when the AAP funding which they have secured comes to an end.

**Resolved1.** To defer to the next meeting pending clarification of a number of issues.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Smith

A card was received from Willington Disabled Club for their £500 grant.

### 13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

An application has been received from County Durham School Benevolent Fund for funding to assist needy families in County Durham with the purchase of shoes and winter coats for children.

To be eligible to apply parents must be in receipt of benefits entitling children to receive free school meals. In eligible cases each child attending school receives up to £35.00 towards the cost of shoes and a winter coat.

GWTC sponsored this scheme last year.

**Resolved1.** To award £50 donation.

Proposed by Councillor Tinsley

Seconded by Councillor Graham

A letter of thanks has been received from Lydia Street Playgroup for their £50.00 donation.

### 14. TO AGREE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO REFURBISHMENT OF WILLINGTON GREEN PLAY PARK

Part of the play park was done about 3 years ago to accommodate toddlers. The other part of the park is dilapidated and in need on refurbishing.

This refurb will cost iro £45,000. There is an allocation of £21,469 from the s106 for this. County Councillors Fraser Tinsley and Olwyn Gunn will both contribute £6,000 from their Neighbourhood Budgets.

There is money in the Contingency Fund at DCC which can be allocated to a maximum of £3,000.

The shortfall for this project stands at £8,000. There is money available in Projects on the budget to contribute to this.

**Resolved1.** To contribute £8,000 towards the refurbishment of the play park.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Smith

### 15. CONFIRMATION OF 2016-17 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

There is an underspend on the 2015-2016 budget of £13,879.60. It is suggested to allocate £1,000 to the allotment earmarked funds. The remaining £12,879.60 to be added to the Project allocations to extend project work for the new financial year 2016-2017.

**Resolved 1.** To transfer £1,000 to allotment earmarked funds for future use.

**Resolved 2.** To transfer £12,879.60 to the 2016-2017 budget for Projects.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Graham.

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

None

### 17. PROVISIONAL DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 6.00 pm**

**Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 6.30 pm**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm