

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
3rd February 2016

IN ATTENDANCE

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

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Henfrey and seconded by Councillor Carr

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 received

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.

None received

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 13th JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the 13th January 2016 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Townsend

Matters arising (for information only)

Item 8. Councillor Graham had met with the Forestry Officer from DCC who has said he understands what is required and will have the North Dene footpath repaired. This will be the second time it will be fixed.

Item 8. Councillor Etherington asked if anything had been done about a Lone Working Policy. Councillor Tinsley informed members that it is something we will look at ready for moving into the new premises and will be formally approved at the AGM in May.

5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- **Stonechester, North Lane, Willington – Retention of newly created door opening with farmhouse**

For Information Only – Consultation End Date: 2 February 2016.

No comments were received from the public

- **Courtyard Cottage, Stonechester, North Lane, Willington – Retention of habitable accommodation within stables and static caravan for residential purposes**

No comments were received from the public. No objections.

6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS

- The Cottage, 8 Stockley Lane, Brancepeth
Approved
- Castle View, 4 Stockley House Farm, Oakenshaw – Single storey rear extension
Approved
- 17 Burn Place, Willington – Retention of shed to front
Approved
- 6 New Row, Oakenshaw – Conservatory to front
Approved

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Nothing to report due to the time of the year.

8. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Smith said there are still problems with anti-social behaviour around Kensington Terrace/High Street. Young people have rented the flats and been fighting in the street between 12 midnight and 4am. The Police were called out various times. The last time they came was in an unmarked car and an arrest was made.

Also issues of many cars not being taxed. Pass this matter on to the police to contact residents as conscious of local schools and children. One car was taken by the police recently due to doing dangerous stunts in the street.

Fly tipping to the rear of the High Street has been reported on several occasions. This has now been removed.

Some of the bins have not been emptied for around one month. This has been reported also.

It was advised to keep reporting these issues and pass them on to the PACT meetings for priorities.

Councillor Graham said the bins are not getting emptied due to them not being sorted. If the correct waste is not disposed in the right bins, the bin men won't take it.

The sinks at the bottom of Cumberland Terrace are getting full again. Emma Mennouni has reported this to DCC. Also, some sinks on North Lane has a white cross on. This means the driver can't remove the cap to empty the sinks due to resurfacing of the roads. It has been a while since these sinks have been emptied because of this reason. This issue has also been reported to DCC.

Councillor Graham asked if we have informed the landlord of the office that we will be vacating the premises due to securing lease on larger office space. Councillor Tinsley said we have not contacted him yet as we do not have a date for moving yet but we will contact him to let him know our intentions.

Councillor Smith said that due to work commitments she was unable to attend the viewing of the new office but is keen to take a look round. Councillor Tinsley said he has keys so can go at a time that's convenient to other councillors who hasn't been to view it yet.

Councillor Carr asked who to contact regarding overgrown hedges. Councillor Tinsley said it depends on where the hedges are. If it is on public footpaths, contact DCC who will trim them. If private land, then the resident would need to be contacted. There is a law of when you can cut hedges so this would need to be explored first.

Councillor Tinsley said it will be the Queens 90th Birthday on April 21st 2016. As a Town Council we have the opportunity to get involved with such an event. If we agree to take part, a beacon will be used in this celebration. Once this event is over, we will be able to use it for other major events as well as local events too. Councillor Tinsley explained that we do have money in the budget for projects and believes this would be worthwhile doing and being part of. Councillor Tinsley tabled some photos and quotes from one company and asked members for their opinion. Following the discussion, it was suggested to contact Graeme Hopper and the local engineering company to see if they can meet our requirement and get further costings. Once these were received, proceed as necessary as all councillors agreed.

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Henfrey

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

County Councillor Gunn said Ron Hogg had come to Willington and been to the Library and the Town Council office. He also attended the last AAP meeting. There has been a £20.4million decrease in policing since 2010. Durham Constabulary has been voted the best in the country. Anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased. There used to be 1510 Police Officers but now there are 1200. They are losing half a million pounds this year. There has been a proposed 1.99% increase for policing on this year's council tax.

Regarding devolution, all the papers have gone out to residents asking for their opinion. She asks that people use this opportunity as it is important because it will change the face of local government.

The consultation on Teaching Assistants is still currently ongoing. Nothing to report at this stage.

DCC Community Parent pilot programme implemented in parts of the County.

Some schools in Willington involved in DCC emotional resilience projects.

Regarding local issues, The CCTV project which GWTC is leading on is something that needs updating in Willington. An overall good project which myself and Councillor Tinsley are contributing to from our County Councillors funds.

More people are attending the PACT meetings but we still need to encourage residents to come along and report what's happening in their Neighbourhoods. They are the constant eyes and ears in our community.

10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1st January 2016 was £9,934.34 with credits of £1,000 and minus debits of £5,033.58 leaving a balance of £5,900.76 on the 31st January 2016. Councillor Tinsley explained the £1,000 credit was funding that was received from the Police and Crime Commissioner towards the installation of new CCTV in Willington.

Proposed Councillor Carr
Seconded Councillor Henfrey

11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT

The budget for 2015/16 is £118,917. Spend to date £86,228.34 with a further £518.59 committed. Leaving an available resource on budget of £32,200.07

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Tinsley

Councillor Tinsley said that the budget allocation for Capital and Professional Services is coming to head. This is due to getting the photocopier lease after the budget was agreed. He asked councillors for approval to move some money from Contingency in order to fulfil the budget heading until the end of March. It was agreed to move £1,500.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Etherington

12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

A Community Fund application for £500 was received from Willington & District Angling Club for restocking the River Wear Local to Willington with trout and to secure the lease for the water. Total cost of the project is £2100.

Resolved1. This was deferred to the next meeting in order to obtain further information as follows;

Constitution

Accounts

Number of members

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

CHI TaeKwonDo which is a new group that will be operating from the new Willington Open door Methodist Church has requested funding towards hall hire and equipment. They need 12 Kick Paddles, 64 Floor Mats, 12 Body Protection sets. They will be hiring the hall on a Monday and Friday evening with the first 2 lessons free. Classes started on Monday 1st February where 35 children attended.

Councillor Henfrey declared an interest.

Resolved1. Approved in principle subject to receiving the groups constitution.

Proposed Councillor Etherington

Seconded Councillor Smith

A letter of thanks has been received from Willington Open Door Methodist Church for their grant of £500 which was given to help with installation of a video and audio system that would be available in the community room for training and conference purposes.

13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

Willington District Angling Club have requested a donation to assist in purchasing native trees which can be planted along the river bank to replace trees that have been lost following recent severe floods following storm Desmond. The replacement of these trees is essential to prevent loss of river bank and at the same time provide a much needed boost to the wildlife habitat.

Resolved1. To approve £50.00 donation

Proposed Councillor Smith

Seconded Councillor Etherington

The Children's Foundation are a leading children's charity in the North East of England funding research and practical interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in the region. Last year the charity directly helped, involved or affected the lives of almost 30,000 children in the North East. They have given funding to Willington Community Action to help promote the Health and Wellbeing of children where approximately 25 children from the area benefitted. They also provided funding to SLAM for the Sports fitness programme which was held in September 2015. This benefitted approximately 250 children. They are currently embarking on 'because minding matters appeal' where they working across the region to tackle mental health and wellbeing issues which children face. They will be working with all schools and hoping to raise money to promote the work that they do. They are asking for a donation to support this.

Resolved1. To approve £50.00 donation
Proposed Councillor Smith
Secoded Councillor Carr

Lydia Street Playgroup have requested a donation towards an opening event of the new Toddler Playgroup based at The Methodist Church. The event will take place on Wednesday 24th February 2016 and will continue every Wednesday during term time.

Resolved1. To approve £50.00 donation
Proposed Councillor Carr
Secoded Councillor Etherington

A letter of thanks has been received from Butterwick House for their £50.00 donation.

Councillor Tinsley said under Standing Orders, Section 5a.xvii a motion can be moved without written notice to authorise payment of monies up to £500.

Following this he said a request for sponsorship had been received from Parkside Academy. They have been working with Willington Primary School, Sunnybrow Primary School and St Stephens School and doing a song writing competition. 80 children have taken part in the competition and will be competing for the winning title on Monday 7th March 2016. The sponsorship is requested to be able to provide every child with a certificate and a printed CD of the songs provided. This will cost around £1.50 per child therefore they have asked for £130 to be able to produce a few extra copies. GWTC logo will be on all material.

Councillor Henfrey declared an interest as he is a school governor of Parkside Academy.

Resolved1. To approve sponsorship of £130
Proposed Councillor Tinsley
Secoded Councillor Smith

14. TO AGREE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RENEWAL OF CCTV IN WILLINGTON

The renewal of the CCTV cameras in Willington will be in the same locations as previously, being at Willington Community Action, the Co-operative Food Store, William Hill and the Rose of India.

As discussed at the last meeting, the funding application was submitted to the AAP which will be discussed at their meeting next Thursday. The overall total project amount is £27,700. The Police & Crime Commissioner has put £1k into this and

County Councillor Tinsley and County Councillor Gunn will be putting £1,500 each into this project.

The shortfall for the project is £3,700. There is money available in Projects on the budget to contribute to this.

Resolved1. To contribute £3,700 towards the renewal of new CCTV cameras.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley

Seconded Councillor Carr

Also discussed at the last meeting were the on-going maintenance costs which are £1,477.33 per annum.

Resolved2. To pay the ongoing maintenance costs of £1,477.33 per annum.

Proposed Councillor Henfrey

Seconded Councillor Smith

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

None

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 6.30 pm

Meeting closed at 7.45pm