

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Resource Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Councillor Etherington opened the Resource Committee meeting.  
He informed those in attendance of housekeeping rules regarding the use of the washroom and fire exits.  
He then welcomed Mr Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner to the meeting.

**OPEN FORUM WITH RON HOGG, POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Mr Hogg thanked the Town Council for the invitation.  
He gave information on the challenges that the force faces. Also explained that the Police and Crime Plan Consultation is now in draft which is what he is using to address the meeting.  
There has been a 10% increase in crime due to theft and stealing mainly shop lifting where the most common items stolen is food and things needed in order to live. 37% of crimes is people stealing food.  
Drug offences are police generated crimes. There has been an increase of reported drug offences.  
Crime recording has improved and gone from 90% and now pushed to 95%.  
Detecting crime is now 40% over the County. There have been a lot of out of court disposals which is a scheme that targets offenders who continually commit offences. These individuals are offered support to avoid reoffending. If they do reoffend, they will be caught and convicted. There has been reduction of up to 65% in reoffending.  
Child sex issues are on the rise and the force are increasing their focus on this. The Rotherham case has become one of the biggest child protection issues of time. Constabulary are working hard with the private sector to gain information and knowledge to address this issue.  
Cybercrime which is the use of computers and electronic equipment through the internet. It isn't just one crime but can link to many separate crimes.  
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is reducing. Down by 23% but in subsequent years only 4.5%. Reducing ASB remains a priority.  
One in four women will suffer domestic abuse at some point. 30% of cases are alcohol related. Domestic abuse doesn't just affect women. Men are also victims as well as same sex relationships.

Hate crime occurs when a person becomes a victim of crime because of who they are which could be race, gender, religion etc.

People with mental health issues need to be supported more. 20% of police time is spent dealing with incidents relating to mental health.

There are 43 forces in England and Wales. Durham Constabulary is ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the country. In a recent assessment HMIC rated Durham Constabulary as Outstanding at investigating crimes, reducing anti-social behaviour and good at reducing crime overall.

Victim satisfaction is high. 89% of victims are satisfied with the services provided.

76% of the population state they are confident in the police force. This is up by 3% compared to the previous year.

Precept increase will be of 1.98% which will equate to approximately 4p per week for Band A houses and 6p for Band D properties.

The new Police HQ building at Aykley Heads. Constabulary moved in during summer 2014. Old building cost 1.8m to run each year. New HQ is estimated to save over 750k per year on running costs.

Local priorities are;

To tackle harm caused by alcohol and drugs

To tackle anti-social behaviour

To improve public confidence

Reduce domestic abuse of all forms

To improve engagement with communities across the area

To reduce hate crime

To work with partners to improve services provided to those with poor mental health

To reduce reoffending

To improve road safety

To make the policing service visible and accessible.

Councillor Etherington thanked Mr Hogg for his interesting report.

An open discussion then took place where councillors and residents asked Mr Hogg questions and raised any concerns they had.

Councillor Carr asked if there was anything in place for 14 year olds and above who abuse their parents. Mr Hogg explained that he wants to look at domestic abuse in all forms. They are training officers to view the signs differently. They go out with body cameras to record such incidents.

Councillor Smith spoke of the murder at Cumberland Terrace. The criminal was out of the area but living in Willington at Cornerstones. She has concerns as a resident that we do not know when outsiders are coming in. Mr Hogg informed members Cornerstones is a great project that gives youngsters a productive lifestyle. They help to make wooden items amongst other things. He said Cornerstones would welcome people to come and see what they do. He

reassured members that any high risk clients would be appropriately managed by Cornerstones.

Councillor Smith said Cornerstones project is good but by paying taxes we should be protected within local communities.

Mr Hogg reassured that the police force are working hard for their increase in precept and therefore tackling more crime and incidents. Any incidents should be reported to 101 but if there is unsatisfactory response then residents can contact his office.

He thanked the Council for the invitation and then left the meeting.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Buckham, Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Greensmith and Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk. Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Etherington and seconded by Councillor Todd.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

### **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015**

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Smith

### **Matters Arising (for information only)**

### **APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE AND CHEQUE RECONCILIATION**

Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer said;

Expenditure for January 2015 was £10,465.50

The balance on the current account at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 is £17,824.12

**Resolved 1.** Approval of the report.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

### **APPROVAL OF BUDGET REPORT**

Budget 2014/2015 is £103,575

Total spend to date £69,833.87

Committed costs are £790.87

Available resource on budget £32,950.26

**Resolved 1.** This is a true record

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Smith

## **CONSIDERATION OF COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

No new applications received.

### **8. CONSIDERATION OF 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 £35 towards a winter coat. GWTC sponsored this scheme last year.

**Recommend 1.** To award a £50 donation.

Proposed by Councillor Todd

Seconded by Councillor Smith

Real Choice College sent an email of thanks for the £50 Civic Fund donation. The money will be used to support the College in the work that they do and the support they provide to the 18-24 year olds who have complex care needs.

Neighbourhood Watch Colliery Road sent a letter of thanks for their £50 Civic Fund donation. The money was used to help fund the Christmas Party at the Duke of Wellington for the members of the Bingo Social Events. Photographs were included. Members of the group send their best wishes.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

None

### **10. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 6.00pm

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

Signed by the Chairman .....  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2015