

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
14th September 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Berry, Councillor Elgie
Councillor Hales, Councillor Read,
Councillor Smith, Councillor Spirit, Councillor Tinsley
Helen Cogdon, Town Clerk (TC) (minutes)
Emma McCann, Deputy Town Clerk (DTC)

Councillor Henfrey, the Town Mayor, welcomed everyone to the Town Council meeting. The Town Mayor with Councillor Berry and Councillor Hales presented the Annual Allotment awards to Darren Little and Nicola Bentley, Colin Marshall and John Beard.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillor Jordan which were accepted. County Councillor Gunn has informed the Clerk that she will arrive for the County Councillors Report as she is attending an earlier meeting at The Open Door Church.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in matters appearing on the agenda and the nature of their interest.

Members are reminded to update their Declaration of personal and prejudicial interest register as and when required, and as soon as is reasonably possible.

All Councillors declared an interest in the Town Council's planning application. Councillor Spirit declared a non registrable personal interest in a family planning application.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mill Street Resident Issues.

A resident from Mill Street (MR) talked about the problems Mill Street residents have been experiencing for over the last year and a half.

These include;

Fly tipping, noise, drugs and violence. Windows put out and violent behaviour.

Two people have been assaulted and the police were contacted. However the pcsos had no knowledge of it.

Threats to residents continue.

Councillor Smith said she understands the concerns as she has experienced similar issues. We need to decide how to address these issues together as a community.

The Clerk suggested monitoring with cameras.

Councillor Tinsley said these problems have existed for a number of years with people engaged in criminal activity. It is concerning that the pcsos were not aware.

He suggested contacting the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Neighbourhood Inspector to come here and discuss the operational decisions required to put resources into the area.

Resident (GS) said the back street of Burn Place and Mill Street has constant dog foul and fly tipping. This is now a no go area. It took him eight months to get the bins emptied. The whole area needs a deep clean.
The anti social behaviour is focussed on the twenty year old residents.

The Clerk suggested approaching D.C.C Find it and Fix it

The residents said privately rented housing is the problem. Landlords can have notices served on them. Landlords need to vet tenants. The D.C.C Licensing system needs reviewing.

Resolved 1. that the Clerk invites Joy Allen , Police and Crime Commissioner, to Willington and then coordinates a multi-agency meeting.
This was AGREED.

Low Willington Resident Issues.

A resident from Queensway Low Willington (SP) said they had issues with The Burger Box, at The Black Horse Public House.

Namely;

The opening hours. Monday closed.

Tuesday to Friday 8.00 am – 2.00pm, 5.00pm – 10.00pm.

Saturday & Sunday 8.00am to 10.00pm

The unpleasant smell experienced in residents gardens and homes.

Worried that planning permission may be applied for and it becomes a permanent fixture.

Vehicles parking on the a690 on yellow lines, across bus stops and residents driveways to use van. So that residents struggle to manoeuvre out of Kingsmead and Queensway. The white lines need extending in Kingsmead.

Councillor Henfrey asked if (AP) was representing all the residents in Queensway and Kingsmead. (AS) replied yes as residents are elderly.

The pub beer garden did not require permission and permitted development rights could mean D.C.C notification only.

Councillor Read said a statutory inspection is required if notification given to D.C.C.

The residents did also contact D.C.C Planning Enforcement to complain.

The complaint to D.C.C Highways has now been closed.

Resolved

1.that there was a relaxation in planning permission throughout the Covid pandemic. To monitor planning development and respond as required.

2.to contact D.C.C Highway Engineers regarding obstruction and breaches of the Road Traffic Act.

County Councillor Olwyn Gunn joined the meeting 6.55 pm.

Councillor Smith said that the Clerk had warned that the Council are not going to complete the Agenda. She asked if they would like to retire and complete business the following Tuesday at 6pm.

This was seconded by Councillor Berry.

Councillor Tinsley asked if County Councillor Gunn could give the County Councillors report.

This was AGREED.

County Councillor Gunn said she was sorry that she was late. She had been with The Disabled Group looking at Issues of rent, transport and wheelchair access.

With Regard to D.C.C work.

There is to be a Citizens Advice Meeting tomorrow.

The County is also looking to address Waste Management Improvements.

School Budgets are still in deficit. This is causing schools budget management problems.

D.C.C Full Council will be meeting a week on Wednesday. County Councillor Tinsley will be taking a motion.

Members are looking at the Medium term financial plan. This will include.

The impact of the Covid pandemic on the budget.

The fair funding review with European funding now lost to the regions.

The 2021/22 is still difficult to determine and decisions need to be taken on how to use reserves for 2023/24. There are serious budget issues.

The County Councillors have used £19,500 of their Neighbourhood funding to invest in worthy AAP led call for projects.

There will be a 20 mph limit at Sunny brow school.

The Town and Villages Fund is being explained to the AAPs and individual members.

The Levelling Up Fund must involve an MP. The 1st Bid is for a by pass at Toft Hill and Bishop Auckland.

The Masterplan focus group are to meet in two weeks.

Councillor Gunn asked that people are encouraged to volunteer at The Open Door Church.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.

Meeting closed to reconvene as an Extra Ordinary Meeting on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 6 pm.